

Title: Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief – Investment Zone
 Lead Officer: Paul Town paul.town@warwickdc.gov.uk 01926 456073
 Portfolio Holder: Councillor Chilvers
 Wards of the District directly affected: N/A

Approvals required	Date	Name
Portfolio Holder	07/01/25	Cllr Chilvers
Finance	07/01/25	Andrew Rollins
Legal Services		
Chief Executive	07/01/25	Chris Elliott
Director of Climate Change	07/01/25	Dave Barber
Head of Service(s)	07/01/25	Andrew Rollins
Section 151 Officer	07/01/25	Andrew Rollins
Monitoring Officer	07/01/25	Graham Leach
Leadership Co-ordination Group	20/1/2025	
Final decision by this Committee or rec to another Cttee / Council?	Yes	
Contrary to Policy / Budget framework?	No	
Does this report contain exempt info/Confidential? If so, which paragraph(s)?	No	
Does this report relate to a key decision (referred to in the Cabinet Forward Plan)?	No	
Accessibility Checked?	Yes	

Summary

This report brings forward the proposed Warwick District Council policy for Business Rates Investment Zone Discretionary Rate Relief. The relief is a government led scheme covering the 8 Investment Zones across England, one of which is the West Midlands Mayoral Combined Authority which includes the Coventry Airport, Segro Park and Whitley South sites which all fall within the boundaries of Warwick District Council. The scheme is to allow new businesses in these zones to benefit from up to 100% Business Rates exemption for up to 5 years, with the local share of the relief being fully reimbursed to Local Authorities by the Government.

Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet approves the policy that's attached (appendix 1) for Warwick District Council's, 'Business Rates Investment Zone Discretionary Rate Relief'.

1 Reasons for the Recommendation

- 1.1 This government led Business Rates relief scheme will help to attract new businesses to the Investment Zone and Warwick District without any negative financial impact on the Council.
- 1.2 To realise the full positive financial potential of the Investment Zone, Warwick District Council must have a policy in line with the Government's scheme to award full Business Rates relief to the eligible businesses.
- 1.3 The policy has been written in conjunction with the Government guidelines.

2 Alternative Options

- 2.1 There is no alternative option available as the Council needs to have a scheme in place to provide the relief required as part of the Government led initiative which the Council has signed up to.

3 Legal Implications

- 3.1 There are no legal implications in this scheme.

4 Financial Services

- 4.1 There are no direct costs to the Council in launching this scheme, the required amendments to the Business Rates system will be undertaken by the team and the system will allow us to award the relief and report on these cases for the required Government NNDR1 and NNDR3 submissions.
- 4.2 The implementation of the scheme will not see any financial loss to Warwick District Council, as Government will fully reimburse the Council for their local share.

5 Corporate Strategy

- 5.1 Warwick District Council has adopted a Corporate Strategy which sets three strategic aims for the organisation. The report does not directly contribute to the delivery of the Low cost, low carbon energy across the district and creating vibrant, safe and healthy communities of the future themes.
- 5.2 The implementation of this policy will encourage new businesses to move within the Investment Zone, which as well as increasing the Business Rates baseline for Warwick District Council will bring jobs and new industries to our local area,

this is line with the Delivering valued, sustainable services theme of the strategy.

6 Environmental/Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no direct environmental or climate change implications arising as part of this report.

7 Analysis of the effects on Equality

7.1 An Equality Impact Initial Screening document has been completed and raised no issues that need to be considered.

8 Data Protection

8.1 The Revenues team already hold this data as there is nothing additional required to what is already captured for the administration of Business Rates.

9 Health and Wellbeing

9.1 There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising as part of this report.

10 Risk Assessment

10.1 If the policy is not approved, then the risk will be that no new businesses will want to move into the designated Investment Zone, and this will have a negative effect on the retained Business Rates for the Council.

Background papers:

Business Rates Discretionary Rates Relief Investment Zone Initial Equality Impact Screening Assessment

Supporting documents:

Appendix 1 – Business Rates Discretionary Rates Relief – Investment Zone Policy

Appendix 2 - Investment Zone Business Rates Relief – Local Authority Guide

Appendix 3 – Investment Zone map WDC