

# DECISION NOTICE

Notice is given that the following decision has been taken under the Provisions set out in the Council's Constitution

**Decision maker:** Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities

**Date:** 16 October 2017

**Decision in the matter of:** Business Rate Revaluation Relief Scheme

**Decision:** That approval be given to the Council's Discretionary Business Rates Relief Scheme.

**Background:** A revaluation of all non-domestic properties and new rateable values has taken effect from 1 April 2017. This affects the amount of business rates many businesses across Cheshire East have to pay. Cheshire East businesses will be paying less overall but there are a number of individual businesses that have seen a significant increase.

The Government announced that a number of support schemes would be made available to mitigate the impact on businesses from the revaluation, including a discretionary fund of £300 million to support businesses that faced the most significant increase in their business rates following the revaluation. The Government has asked Councils to use their discretionary powers to award this relief, although making it clear that the additional funding should support smaller businesses. The scheme will run for 4 years from 1 April 2017.

Cheshire East Council will receive £1.3 million over the 4 years of the scheme to award to local businesses.

It is proposed to provide relief to businesses with a rateable value up to and including £100,000. In 2017/18, the scheme will provide relief for 70% of the increase in rates due to the revaluation. The majority of awards will be granted automatically. The scheme will provide support to 1,200 Cheshire East businesses in 2017-18, ranging from £50 to £3800 in year 1. On average, businesses will be awarded £600. The Council will review the % awarded for each new financial year to take account of the funding available from central government and any other national or local factors.

In most cases relief will be awarded automatically, without the need for application. For those ratepayers who are required to make an application due to state aid implications, applications must be received within the financial year.

A Billing Authority is required to consult with major preceptors and the Fire and Rescue Service has been consulted. Additional engagement has taken place with local Chambers of Trade and the Skills & Growth Company prior to a Portfolio Holder decision.

<b>Background Documents:</b>	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer.
<b>Approved:</b>	Signed ..... Councillor Paul Bates (Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities)
<b>Date:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
<b>Advising Officer:</b>	Signed ..... Paul Manning (Revenues Manager)

# DECISION NOTICE

Notice is given that the following decision has been taken under the Provisions set out in the Council's Constitution

**Decision maker:** Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities

**Date:** 16 October 2017

**Decision in the matter of:** Public Space Protection Order - Dog Fouling

**Decision:** That approval be given to the implementation of a Public Space Protection Order from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017.

**Background:** The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) covering the whole of Cheshire East Borough Council would allow a consistent and manageable approach going forward to tackle irresponsible and anti social dog ownership and promote the safe and enjoyable use of our open spaces.

Under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the Council can make a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to control certain activities in a specified area if those activities are likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of people in that area. This can include many forms of anti social behaviour, including problems often associated with dogs, for example, dog fouling.

The current situation within Cheshire East to enforce against such issues is based upon legislation that has been repealed or amended since 1996 and in more recent enactments there was a requirement for the Council to introduce orders to cover specific areas. This has led to a complicated system, which following a recent review by Legal Services and Community Enforcement, has led to the agreement to introduce a PSPO. A number of other Local Authorities have already adopted this approach or are currently within the processes to do so.

There are also a number of byelaws within some of our parks and open spaces requesting that dogs are either kept on lead or under control, but most are not enforceable and have led to persistent issues in these areas when a small minority do not act responsibly

when exercising their dogs.

The PSPO will allow a consistent and manageable approach going forward. It will also ensure the message can be linked with our upcoming 'Dog Watch' campaigns and continue to be linked in with the 'Keep Cheshire East Clean – No Rubbish Excuses' campaign around Engagement, Education and Enforcement.

**Background Documents:** The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer.

**Approved:**

Signed .....  
Councillor Paul Bates (Cabinet Member for Finance and  
Communities)

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**Advising Officer:** Signed .....  
Guy Kilminster (Corporate Manager Health Improvement)