



# Portfolio Holder Decisions

## Resouces Portfolio

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## Portfolio Holder Report

The portfolio holder will make a decision on this item after seven days have elapsed (including the date of publication).

Report of:	Portfolio Holder	Date of publication
Mark Billington, Service Director People and Places	Cllr Alan Vincent, Leader and Resources Portfolio Holder	29 September 2017

### Adoption of the Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood Statue

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the installation and annual maintenance of a statue of Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood in Euston Park, Fleetwood.

#### 2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Support a community-led arts project which will enhance Euston Park and public engagement with local heritage.

#### 3. Recommendation/s

- 3.1 That the council adopt the statue of Sir. Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood and undertake annual maintenance.

#### 4. Background

- 4.1 Originally, Fleetwood existed as coastal dunes with no significant settlement until the 1830s when Sir. Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood conceived a new, planned town. In recognition of his efforts to establish Fleetwood as a new town on the Fylde coast it is proposed that a bronze statue of him be installed in Euston Park.

- 4.2 A Committee made up of members of Fleetwood Civic Society, Fleetwood Rotary and Fleetwood Museum Trust are overseeing the commission and installation of the statue which is programmed for May 2018. All costs for the planning, creation and installation of the statue will be met by the Committee who have commissioned the Lancaster-based sculptor Alan Ward to create the statue. The total cost of the project is expected to be £36,375. The Committee received planning permission Ref: 17/00414/FUL 5 July 2017 to erect the statue in the park. Officers have supported the

Committee in agreeing the location of the statue, advising on funding and applying for planning permission.

- 4.3** The council has been approached by the Committee for permission for the erection of a statue of Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood in Euston Park. The Committee have also sought an agreement for the council to undertake annual maintenance associated with cleaning.

## **5. Key issues and proposals**

- 5.1** An Agreement between the council and the Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood Statue Committee will stipulate the terms for carrying out and completing the installation as well as obligations to undertake annual maintenance.
- 5.2** The council's obligation will be limited to annual maintenance and the cost for this will be absorbed within existing revenue parks and open spaces budgets. It is anticipated that the durability of the materials will mean that the statue will remain in perpetuity. Should substantial repair or replacement be required the cost will be met through fundraising and not from council reserves. Subject to any necessary safety restrictions, access to the gardens will be maintained during the installation and maintenance of the statue.
- 5.3** A formal agreement will be drawn up outlining the responsibilities of each party (the council and the Committee). The agreement will address installation, maintenance, transfer of titles (the Committee members will transfer ownership of the statue to the council), project supervision, insurance and other issues as necessary.

## **6. Delegated functions**

- 6.1** The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive function delegated to the Resources Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the council's constitution): "To consider the Council's strategic direction in relation to asset management including the management, repair, maintenance and use of the Council's land and buildings."

<b>Financial and legal implications</b>	
Finance	There are no additional costs associated with this report, as any maintenance will be contained within existing budgets.
Legal	As set out in the report, a formal agreement will be drawn up outlining the responsibilities of each party which will address installation, maintenance, transfer of titles, project supervision, insurance and other issues as necessary.

### **Other risks/implications: checklist**

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
asset management	✓
climate change	x
data protection	x

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<b>List of background papers:</b>		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None		

### **List of appendices**

None

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## Portfolio Holder Report

The portfolio holder will make a decision on this item after seven days have elapsed (including the date of publication).

Report of:	Portfolio Holder	Date of publication
Mark Billington, Service Director People and Place	Cllr Alan Vincent, Leader and Resources Portfolio Holder	29 September 2017

<b>Localised Discretionary Business Rate Relief Scheme for the period from 2017/18 to 2020/21</b>
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### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval to adopt the proposed Localised Discretionary Business Rate Relief scheme for the financial years 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21.

### 2. Outcomes

- 2.1 To provide financial support for local businesses affected adversely by the April 2017 business rates revaluation.

### 3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That approval is given to adopt the proposed Localised Discretionary Business Rate Relief scheme for the period from 2017/18 to 2020/21.

### 4. Background

- 4.1 At the Spring Budget in March 2017 the Chancellor announced that he would make £300 million available over four years to local authorities to support those local businesses that faced the steepest increases as a result of the revaluation.
- 4.2 The allocation of the funding nationally is £175 million in 2017/18, £75 million in 2018/19, £35 million in 2019/20 and £5 million in 2020/21.
- 4.3 Wyre Council has been allocated a maximum of £164,266 in 2017/18, £79,786 in 2018/19, £32,853 in 2019/20 and £4,693 in 2020/21.
- 4.4 The council is required to devise and implement its own scheme to determine allocation of the funding to eligible businesses, within broad guidance provided by the Department for Communities and Local

Government (DCLG). For details of the guidance issued by DCLG please refer to the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/42017-spring-budget-update>

## 5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1 The policy attached at Appendix A has been developed giving consideration to the Government's stated objective of helping small local businesses detrimentally affected by the April 2017 business rate revaluation. It takes into account the Supporting Small Businesses Relief Scheme and the Business Rate Relief Scheme for Pubs, which were also announced by the Chancellor at the Spring Budget 2017.
- 5.2 A letter from the Minister for Local Government, Marcus Jones MP, dated 21 July 2017 made it clear that councils are not permitted to "slip" any element of the grant awarded for use in future financial years in order to smooth the impact of any relief granted. Each year's allocation must be spent in the year it relates to.

## 6. Delegated functions

- 6.1 The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive function delegated to the Resources Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the council's constitution): "To consider National Non-domestic Rating and Council Tax matters"

<b>Financial and legal implications</b>	
Finance	Central government have provided a Section 31 grant to allow local authorities to determine those businesses most adversely affected by the April 2017 business rates revaluation and issue them with a relief to mitigate the financial hardship caused. There is no impact on the council's budget as the relief will be capped at the maximum grant paid out by central government in each financial year.
Legal	The Council can deliver the scheme through the discretionary relief powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, as amended.

### **Other risks/implications: checklist**

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.



<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
community safety	<b>x</b>
equality and diversity	<b>x</b>
sustainability	<b>x</b>
health and safety	<b>x</b>

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
asset management	<b>x</b>
climate change	<b>x</b>
data protection	<b>✓</b>

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<b>List of background papers:</b>		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None		

### **List of appendices**

Appendix A - Local Discretionary Business Rate Relief Scheme

arm/ph/re/cr/17/0009pm2

# **Local Discretionary Business Rate Relief Scheme for the Period from 2017/18 to 2020/21**

## **1. Introduction**

**1.1** In the March 2017 budget the Government announced a £300 million fund over four years to support those businesses that face the steepest increases in their business rates as a result of the 2017 business rate revaluation. The fund is split into yearly allocations:

2017/18 - £175 million  
2018/19 - £85 million  
2019/20 - £35 million  
2020/21 - £5 million

**1.2** The funding allocated to each LA has been determined by calculating the total increase in bills (excluding transitional and other reliefs) for every property in the country (England) where:

- The rateable value of the property is less than £200k
- The increase in the 2017/18 bill is more than 12.5%

**1.3** Wyre Council has been allocated a maximum of £164,266 in 2017/18, £79,786 in 2018/19, £32,853 in 2019/20 and £4,693 in 2020/21.

**1.4** The Government expects LA's to target relief to those local businesses or areas facing the most significant increases in bills

**1.5** This document sets out the Council's proposals for a local discretionary business rate relief scheme for the financial years 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 taking into account the Governments expectations.

**1.6** The proposed scheme also takes into account the Supporting Small Businesses and Pub Relief schemes, which were also announced in the 2017 Spring Budget.

## **2. The Revaluation 2017 Local Discretionary Business Rate Relief Scheme**

**2.1** The Revaluation 2017 Local Discretionary Business Rate Relief Scheme will apply for the years 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 only. Under the scheme relief will only be provided where an eligible ratepayer's bill has increased as a result of the 2017 revaluation. Increases for any other reason will not qualify for this relief.

**2.2** Where an eligible ratepayer's 2017/18 rates bill is reduced for any reason, the amount of their relief will be reduced or removed accordingly.

**2.3** Where an eligible ratepayer's 2016/17 rates bill is increased for any reason, the amount of their relief will be reduced or removed accordingly.

- 2.4** Eligible ratepayers who may benefit from the Scheme will be in occupation of a property with a rateable value of less than £200,000.
- 2.5** Local discretionary business rate relief is calculated after any or all Transitional Relief/surcharge, exemptions and reliefs have been applied.
- 2.6** Eligible ratepayers, whose bills have increased as a result of the revaluation, will receive up to 100% relief in 2017/18.
- 2.7** Subject to any further changes to the scheme, relief granted in 2018/19 and 2019/20 will be proportionate to the original grant allocation in 2017/18 taking into account the reducing awards i.e. approximately 50% and 20% respectively of the monetary value of the 2017/18 award. The award will not be automatic but subject to a review of any change in circumstances. As the amount of grant awarded in 2020/21 is £4,693 which is less than 3% of the original 2017/18 value of £164,266, a determination will be made nearer the time as to the most effective use of this sum.
- 3. Exclusions - For properties where any of the following apply, the ratepayer will not be eligible for Revaluation 2017 local discretionary business rate relief:**
- 3.1** Ratepayers occupying properties after 1 April 2017.
- 3.2** Properties which were not on the rating list at 1 April 2017. (Relief will not apply where properties are entered into the list retrospectively.)
- 3.3** Properties which are unoccupied.
- 3.4** Financial services (e.g. banks, building societies, cash points, betting shops, pawn brokers, payday lenders), other services (e.g. estate agents, letting agents, employment agencies), medical services (e.g. vets, dentists, doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors, pharmacies), and professional services (e.g. solicitors, accountants, insurance agents, financial advisors, tutors).
- 3.5** Organisations excluded from being granted Discretionary Rate Relief e.g. major preceptors.
- 3.6** Businesses in breach of any council licensing or planning conditions in respect of their premises or land.
- 3.7** Where the award of relief would not comply with EU law on State Aid i.e. that businesses have not received any other State Aid that exceeds in total €200,000, including any other rates relief (other than exemptions, transitional or mandatory reliefs) other than this relief, under the De Minimis Regulations EC 1407/2013. Businesses will be expected to declare their status if they have been in receipt of State Aid and have exceeded the allowable amount.

Further information on State Aid law can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/state-aid>.

**4. Award of relief**

**4.1** Awards of relief will be made automatically to eligible ratepayers, subject to an annual review of circumstances.

**5. Review**

**5.1** This scheme will be reviewed each year.

arm/ph/re/cr/17/0009pm2 Appendix



## Portfolio Holder Report

The portfolio holder will make a decision on this item after seven days have elapsed (including the date of publication).

Report of:	Portfolio Holder	Date of publication
Marianne Hesketh, Service Director Performance and Innovation	Cllr Alan Vincent, Leader and Resources Portfolio Holder	29 September 2017

### Creation of a Digital Hub at Fleetwood Market

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval to create a Digital Hub at Fleetwood Market and to include the scheme in the Council's 2017/18 Capital Budget.

#### 2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Continuing our programme of work to maximise the use of our assets.

#### 3. Recommendation/s

- 3.1 That approval is given to create a Digital Hub at the cost of £8,500.
- 3.2 That the scheme is added to the Council's 2017/18 Capital Budget.

#### 4. Background

- 4.1 The council currently has an agreement with the Lancashire West Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) for the provision of welfare advice services in the Borough. This agreement works well and the CAB provides a vital service for some of our most vulnerable residents. Through our regular liaison meetings, it has become apparent that there are pockets of our population that lack the necessary digital skills to undertake basic tasks such as setting up an email account, being able to undertake job searches or being able to apply for benefits online. The CAB are keen to help our residents develop these basic digital skills and want to offer this training and support in Wyre. An opportunity was identified to develop a Digital Hub at Fleetwood Market which is ideally placed to meet local demand for bridging this skills gap.

## 5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** It is proposed to refurbish two unused retail units (163-164) at Fleetwood Market to create an area for a Digital Hub and to provide two private meeting areas, one for use by CAB staff and one that can be utilised by council staff. The CAB would oversee the day-to-day running of the Digital Hub and would provide all the IT equipment and staffing.
- 5.2** Following a successful tender exercise Garry Carr Building Services Ltd has been appointed to carry out the works at a cost of £7,650 (excl. VAT).
- 5.3** A contingency sum of £850 (11% of the contract sum) has been added to the project bringing the total cost to £8,500.

## 6. Delegated functions

- 6.1** The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive function delegated to the Resources Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the council's constitution): "To consider the management, repair, maintenance and use of the Council's land and buildings"

<b>Financial and legal implications</b>	
Finance	The cost of creating the Digital Hub totalling £8,500 (including contingency) is being funded through the capital investment reserve following a top-up to the reserve from general savings at the end of March 2017. The scheme will be added to the Capital Programme accordingly.
Legal	The tender process is compliant with the Council's Contract Financial Procedure Rules. A contract will be entered into with the successful contractor.

### **Other risks/implications: checklist**

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<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
community safety	<b>x</b>
equality and diversity	<b>x</b>
sustainability	<b>x</b>
health and safety	<b>x</b>

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
asset management	<b>✓</b>
climate change	<b>x</b>
data protection	<b>x</b>

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<b>List of background papers:</b>		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None		

**List of appendices**

None

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