**Discretionary Relief Scheme (Revaluation Support)**

In the Spring Budget the Government announced the establishment of a £300m discretionary fund over four years from 2017-18 to support those businesses that face the highest increases in their business rates bills as a result of the 2017 revaluation.

The intention is that every billing authority in England will be provided with a share of the £300m to support their local businesses. Billing authorities will be expected to use their share of the funding to develop their own discretionary relief schemes to deliver targeted support to the most hard-pressed ratepayers. The £300m will cover the four years from 2017/18.

**What happens next?**

The funding is limited and the Council have had to decide on a scheme on which to base the allocation of the funding.

Tameside Council took the decision to consult with local business and taxpayers with regard to the design of the discretionary relief scheme to be introduced. The consultation commenced on 18 July 2017 and finished on 15 August 2017. The outcome of the consultation was considered and a relief scheme developed. The scheme received approval from Executive Cabinet on 30 August 2017.

Ratepayers who may qualify for the relief have been identified and are being contacted directly and supplied with an application form for completion.

Applications from ratepayers who meet the following criteria are invited.

* An increase by more than 12.5% compared to 16/17 bill before reliefs
* A rateable value less than £200k
* Less than 3 premises in UK
* No pub relief in payment
* No small business rates relief in payment
* Occupied property, with an occupation start date no later than 1 March 2017

The following factors will also be taken into account in the determination of eligibility for discretionary relief:

* The Council will not grant relief where the business is deemed to have a detrimental impact on neighbours and communities.
* The individual merits of each application taking account whether the business supports the Council’s wider objectives.

All successful applications will result in a lower amount of Business Rates liability for the current financial year from 1 April 2017.

Please find attached application form for completion and return.

[NON DOMESTIC DISCRETIONARY RELIEF (REVALUATION SUPPORT)](http://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/Business-Rates/NONDOMESTICDISCRETIONARYRELIEFFORM.pdf)

**Further information**

The full discretionary relief report can be viewed by visiting <http://tameside.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s22181/ITEM%206%20-%20Business%20Rates%20FINAL.pdf>

Further information regarding the new scheme can be found by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/42017-spring-budget-update>