**Supporting Small Businesses Relief**

In the Spring Budget the Government announced that a scheme of relief would be made available to those ratepayers facing large increases as a result of the loss of Small Business or Rural Rate Relief.

The transitional relief scheme does not provide support in respect of changes in reliefs. Therefore, those ratepayers who are losing some or all of their Small Business or Rural Rate Relief may be facing very large percentage increases in bills from 1 April 2017.

The Supporting Small Businesses Relief will help those ratepayers who as a result of the change in their rateable value at the revaluation are losing some or all of their small business or rural rate relief and, as a result, are facing large increases in their bills. To support these ratepayers, the Supporting Small Businesses Relief will ensure that the increase per year in the bills of these ratepayers is limited to the greater of:

* a cash value of £600 per year (£50 per month). This cash minimum increase ensures that those ratepayers currently paying nothing or very small amounts are brought into paying something, or
* the matching cap on increases for small properties in the transitional relief scheme.

**What happens next?**

The Revenues Service has identified businesses which may receive Small Business Support Relief as a result of the spring budget announcements.

The Councils software supplier will be providing the Council with the facility to award the relief to qualifying ratepayers by the end of October.

The Council will contact businesses direct who may be eligible to receive the support outlined above. Those qualifying for a relief will have the appropriate relief applied to their Business Rates account as soon as is practicable and where appropriate a new Business Rates bill will be issued. Payment should be made in accordance with the current Business Rates bill issued until advised otherwise.

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