



Policy, Finance and Development Committee	Tuesday, 24 March 2026	Matter for Decision
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Report Title: **Business Rates Discretionary Policy (2026)**

Report Author(s): **Joy Burton (Revenues & Benefits Manager)**
Colleen Warren (Chief Finance Officer / S151 Officer)

Purpose of Report:	The purpose of this report is to seek a decision on a new Business Rates Discretionary Policy effective 1 April 2026.
Report Summary:	Oadby and Wigston Borough Council wants to attract new businesses to the Borough. To support this the authority will offer a discretionary business rate relief where applicable.
Recommendation(s):	That the content of the report is considered and Appendix 1 be approved.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	Colleen Warren (Chief Finance Officer / S151 Officer) (0116) 257 2759 colleen.warren@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Joy Burton (Revenues & Benefits Manager) (0116) 257 2681 joy.burton@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Strategic Objectives:	Our Council (SO1) Our Communities (SO2) Our Economy (SO3)
Vision and Values:	"Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision) Customer & Community Focused (V1) Resourceful & Resilient (V4) Collaborative & Creative (V3)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	The implications are as set out at paragraph 3.1 of this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Decreasing Financial Resources / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	

Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Interim Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	None.
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discretionary Business Rates Relief Policy (2026) 2. Discretionary Business Rate Relief Application

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request a decision to implement a new Discretionary Business Rates policy from the 1 April 2026.

2. Background

- 2.1 Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 allows Local Authorities to implement their own Business Rates Discretionary Relief schemes.
- 2.2 The objective of this new scheme is to attract new businesses to the Borough where criteria is met. The award is up to 50% discretionary relief for the first two years of trading.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The exact financial implications are unknowable at present, as they are dependent on the rateable value of the premises used by the businesses which match the criteria for the scheme. However, if the scheme succeeds in attracting new business to the Borough, even with the discount, it can only represent a benefit to the Council and the local economy.