

Autumn Statement 2018

Further to the reliefs announced in earlier years to support businesses facing significant increased in bills due to the revaluation in April 2017, further rate relief has been announced.

The reliefs announced are intended to recognise the change in consumer behaviour which presents a significant challenge to retailers and to help the high street evolve. These are:-

- A one third discount for retail property with a rateable value below £51,000 for two years commencing 1st April 2019
- An intention to legislate to grant 100% relief from business rates for all standalone public toilets
- Extension of the £1500 business rate discount for local newspaper office space in 2019/20

Retail Relief

Guidance has been issued and software companies are working on software to enable this relief of 1/3rd retail rate relief to be awarded. This relief will be calculated after all other reliefs.

The policy has been approved by members and is shown at

www.harlow.gov.uk/businessrateretailrelief

Where possible the relief will be awarded automatically without the need for an application form and this will be based on where ratepayers previously received the retail relief under the scheme which ran in 2014/15 & 2015/16. A letter will be sent to those ratepayers which will advise on their obligations under State Aid regulations.

Where it is not possible to automatically award the relief applications will be issued to other 'likely' candidates however the application form will also be available on our website with the guidance for any other ratepayers to consider and submit if they feel they may qualify.

Other Revaluation relief update

1. Supporting Small Businesses – limiting the annual increase to the greater of £600.00 or the real terms transitional relief cap is continuing for those still eligible in 2019/20
2. Local Discretionary Revaluation Support Scheme – this has been reviewed for 2019-20 in line with the reduced Central Government funding and the new policy agreed. See www.harlow.gov.uk/discretionaryrevaluationsupportscheme . Where applicable this has been awarded for the annual bills for 2019-20
3. Pub relief – this relief has not been extended to 2019-20