

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting9th February 2012

1. Title of Item/Report

Enterprise Zone Business Rates Discount Scheme

2. Record of the Decision

Members considered a report relating to the Enterprise Business Rates Discount Scheme.

It was explained that the Localism Act 2011 contained clauses that gave billing authorities powers to grant local business rate discounts.

The Council would be responsible for fully funding any discount granted under the powers, however, in certain defined Enterprise Zone sites the Government would reimburse the cost of providing up to 100% discount for 5 years, up to state aid de minimis levels (£55k) for businesses that entered the sites by 31 March 2015.

Members noted that a sectoral focus on the sites provided criteria to be met by incoming occupiers seeking to benefit from financial incentives. The target sectors were Advanced engineering/advanced manufacturing, Chemicals, Digital, Renewables.

The powers were expected to come into force on 1 April 2012, allowing discounts to begin from that date. The Council would have to design and set its discount scheme in accordance with Government regulations and guidance, not yet published.

The discount scheme would be a key element in the promotional package to attract new business to the Enterprise Zone and it was important that the scheme was finalised and approved as soon as the regulations and guidance were received.

In view of this Cabinet was asked to recommend to Council that approval for the detailed discount scheme design be delegated to the Corporate Director Resources in consultation with Cabinet Member for Corporate Management & Finance and Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Transport.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:

1. the proposed arrangements for the Enterprise Zone business rate discount scheme be noted.

2. the detailed design of the scheme, and its accompanying administrative processes, be delegated to the Corporate Director Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Management & Finance and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Transport.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To inform Members about the proposed arrangements for awarding business rate discounts to businesses that locate on certain Enterprise Zone sites and to allow the finer detail of the scheme to be quickly defined, following publication of the relevant regulations and guidance.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Not applicable

Proper Officer
13 February 2012