



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES**

to
COUNCIL
17 DECEMBER 2020

RURAL SETTLEMENT LIST

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To propose a Rural Settlement List for the financial year 2020 / 21, to determine and award Rural Rate Relief to eligible businesses.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Rural Settlement List attached as **APPENDIX A** be approved.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Section 42 of the Local Government Act 1988, as amended by the Local Government Finance and Ratings Act 1997, places an obligation on local authorities to publish a Rural Settlement List each financial year for the purpose of determining the eligibility for Mandatory Rural Rate Relief for businesses in the District.
- 3.2 Rural rate relief can be claimed by eligible businesses (e.g. where it is the only post office or pub in a rural settlement), provided the population of the rural settlement is below 3,000 residents.
- 3.3 It is necessary to formally refresh this policy annually.
- 3.4 There have been no significant developments in the District no changes are proposed to the previously published Rural Settlement List for 2019 / 20.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Members are asked to approve the Rural Settlement list for 2020 / 21 set out in **APPENDIX A**.

5. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES

- 5.1 The granting of Rural Rate Relief to applicants within the Rural Settlements enhances the work of the Council and ties in with Corporate Objectives.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Publication of the Rural Settlement List enables relief to be granted to eligible rural businesses.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – Failure to publish the Rural Settlement List by 31 December 2020 would prevent the Authority from legally awarding any Mandatory Rural Rate Relief for 2020 / 21.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Without a valid Rural Settlement List the cost of any Rural Relief Granted could fall on this Council. The Rural Settlement List is also an enabler for part of the Council’s Discretionary Rate Relief policy.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.
- (vii) **Impact on Strengthening Communities** – None.

Background Papers: None.

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