



**REPORT of  
INTERIM CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

---

**to  
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
9 NOVEMBER 2023**

**RURAL SETTLEMENT LIST 2024 / 25**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To propose a Rural Settlement List for the financial year 2024 / 25, to determine and award Rural Rate Relief to eligible businesses.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

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 refresh this policy annually.
- 3.4 No changes are proposed.

**4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Members are asked to approve the Rural Settlement List for 2024 / 25 set out in **APPENDIX A**.

**5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2023 - 2027**

**5.1 Helping the economy to thrive**

- 5.1.1 The granting of Rural Rate Relief to eligible businesses within the Rural Settlements enhances the work of the Council and ties in with Corporate objectives.

## 5.2 Smarter finances

5.2.1 Without a valid Rural Settlement List the cost of any Rural Rate Relief granted could fall on the Council.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – The publication of the Rural Settlement List will enable the Council to award mandatory relief from 1 April 2024.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – Failure to approve a Rural Settlement List could impact the Councils ability to award relief.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.

Background Papers: None.

Enquiries to: Michelle La Marre, Head of Service – Revenue and Benefits.