

Anglia Revenues Partnership

Report of Operational Board to the JOINT COMMITTEE – 3rd December 2009

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National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR) Deferral of Rates Scheme

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise members with progress on this project & seek approval to distribute the payment for the necessary changes to the three partners.

2. Recommendations

- It is recommended that the Committee:
- 2.1 Note the contents of the report
 - 2.2 Approves the payments necessary from the partner authorities to Breckland Council.

Note: In preparing this report, due regard has been had to equality of opportunity, human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental and risk management considerations as appropriate. Relevant officers have been consulted in relation to any legal, financial or human resources implications and comments received are reflected in the report.

3. Information, Issues and Options

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 In March 2009 the Government stated its intention to bring in a deferral of rates scheme in respect of 2009/10 at the end of July 2009.
- 3.1.2 The Government (CLG) provided an initial grant, paid to each Local Authority in order to implement the changes. This was to cover software, staffing, publicity & stationery costs. CLG also stated that a further grant would be payable at the time of live implementation.

3.2 Issues

- The legislation for the deferral scheme was passed on 6th July 2009. As part of this scheme all Businesses were sent another letter, guidance notes & an invite to participate in this scheme.
- 3.2.2 CLG issued further guidance to Local Authorities, in terms of content of the covering letter to all businesses, guidance notes etc.
 - 3.2.3 The timescales for this implementation were extremely tight. CLG stated that letters, guidance & application forms must be issued to all businesses at the end of July / beginning of August. Then the Business Ratepayers must be served a new bill by September / October 2009. This was successfully achieved by the Partnership.
 - 3.2.4 CLG also released a further tranche of funding to each Local Authority to pay for software changes, stationery, postage, staff time etc. The costings for this project are shown in Appendix A to this report.
 - 3.2.5 The Partnership has again managed to drive through procurement savings with our software supplier and has brought this project in under budget. As such the amounts due are shown in Appendix A to this report, these amounts will be invoiced by Breckland Council. It is suggested that the balance of funding is retained by each

partner authority to allocate to its own priorities.

3.3 Options

3.3.1 To note the report, approve the payment to Breckland Council & re-allocate the balance to each authority's funds.

3.3.2

3.4 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

3.4.1 To provide an update on the project, pay Breckland Council & re-allocate the remaining balances based on the reasoning in 3.2.4 & 3.2.5 above.

3.4.2

4. **Risk and Financial Implications**

4.1 Risk

4.1.1 None

4.2 Financial

4.2.1 Proforma B attached

5. **Legal Implications**

5.1 None

6. **Other Implications**

None.

7. **Alignment to Council Priorities**

7.1 To be legally compliant

8. **Ward/Community Affected**

8.1 All within partner authorities

Background Papers

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Key Decision Status (Executive Decisions only):

Appendices attached to this report:

NNDR Deferral Funding Update Report Appendix A

Proforma B