



## Portfolio Holder Report

The portfolio holder will make a decision on this item after seven days have elapsed (including the date of publication).

Report of:	Portfolio Holder	Date of publication
Clare James, Head of Finance (s.151 Officer)	Cllr Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder	22 September 2016

### Hillhouse International Business Park Enterprise Zone – Business Rates Relief Policy

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval to adopt the Fylde Coast Enterprise Zone Business Rate Relief Policy in respect of the site at the Hillhouse International Business Park, Thornton-Cleveleys.

#### 2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Attract investment to Wyre and support businesses to survive, grow and prosper.

#### 3. Recommendation/s

- 3.1 That approval is given to adopt the Fylde Coast Enterprise Zone Business Rate Relief Policy.

#### 4. Background

- 4.1 On 15 June 2016 Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Wyre Borough Council and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for the Hillhouse International Business Park Enterprise Zone (EZ).
- 4.2 The MoU indicated that a separate business rate relief policy for the Enterprise Zones in the Fylde Coast EZ would be required. Together, the three local authorities involved; Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre have drafted a policy that can be applied consistently across the related sites.

## 5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1 The policy attached at Appendix 1 has been developed in discussion with local partners and sets out exactly what business incentives are being offered and confirms the arrangements that will be in place for the operation and development of the new EZ.

## 6. Delegated functions

- 6.1 The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive function delegated to the Resources Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the council's constitution): "To consider National Non-domestic Rating and Council Tax matters."

<b>Financial and legal implications</b>	
Finance	EZs will continue to benefit from 100% growth of business rates retention for 25 years with 100% protection from any future reset or redistribution. Wyre's baseline funding will therefore not be disadvantaged.
Legal	Power to grant Discretionary Rate Relief is contained in S47 Local Government Finance Act 1988 (as amended by S69 Localism Act 2011). When considering applications for EZ Business Rate Relief, the Council must ensure that the state aid de-minimis amount (currently 200,000 euros over a rolling 3 year period) is not exceeded. For each application, checks will need to be put in place to ensure that no other aid has been granted.

### **Other risks/implications: checklist**

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
asset management	x
climate change	x
data protection	x

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<b>List of background papers:</b>		
name of document	date	where available for inspection

**List of appendices**

Appendix A – Enterprise Zone Relief Policy

arm/ph/re/cr/16/0009cj1