



## Notice of key decision to be made under General Exception provisions

The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

**Date of notice:** 30 January 2014  
**To:** Councillor Peter O'Neill  
Chair of Scrutiny Board  
**From:** Sue Martin  
Head of Revenues & Benefits

An intention to make the following key decision, which is to be considered by the Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 11 February 2014, was not publicised in advance as required by the Regulations.

**Report title:** Discretionary Rate Relief – Amendments to Local Scheme  
**Classification:** PUBLIC

The reason(s) for the omission from the forward plan of key decisions and the reason(s) why this decision cannot be delayed until the requisite 28 days have elapsed are:

The report seeks approval to award new categories of rate relief for empty commercial and certain retail premises which the Government wishes billing authorities to grant using discretionary powers.

Draft Government guidance relating to relief for the retail sector was not issued until 24 January and publication was not expected beforehand. Consequently it was not possible to publish the decision in advance. As of 30 January 2013 the guidance is still in draft form and a date has not been announced for final publication.

There are financial implications should the council award relief that is not in circumstances specified by Government. It was therefore necessary to at least have sight of draft guidance before being able to determine when the decision would be required.

*This notice must be provided to the Chair of the Scrutiny Board and to the appropriate democratic support officer at least five clear working days in advance of the relevant Executive meeting.*

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Unless the decision is taken without waiting 28 days the Council will be unable to award the new reliefs against 2014/15 bills which start to be produced in early March.

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