

Proposed local business rate reduction scheme

In order to further support our town centre and retail businesses for 2020/21 it is proposed that a new local discretionary Non Domestic Rate (NDR) Relief be provided of up to a maximum of £300 per qualifying business. Based on current information, it is estimated that 485 businesses would benefit from this support.

The Council already has a number of packages in place to support our valued Town Centres and Retail Business and this proposed new discretionary NDR relief provides businesses with additional help in paying their NDR for 2020/21.

This will be in addition to other support already available including the Welsh Governments High Street and Retail Rates Relief Scheme (HSRR). The same qualifying criteria as the HSRR will be applied.

Consultation results

- The online survey was live for 8 weeks between December 2 2019 and January 27 2020
- 26 people responded to the consultation online
- 96.2% of respondents agreed that the Council should continue to support town centres and retail businesses within Rhondda Cynon Taf
- 84.6% of respondents agreed that providing additional support towards the payment of Non Domestic (Business) Rates through a local discretionary relief is a positive way of helping sustain Town Centres and Retail Businesses
- 76.9% of respondents agreed with The Council's proposal to use the same qualifying criteria for this local scheme as that used for the Welsh Government High Street and Retail Rate Relief Scheme

- 62.5% of respondents agreed that £300 per qualifying business is an appropriate discretionary relief

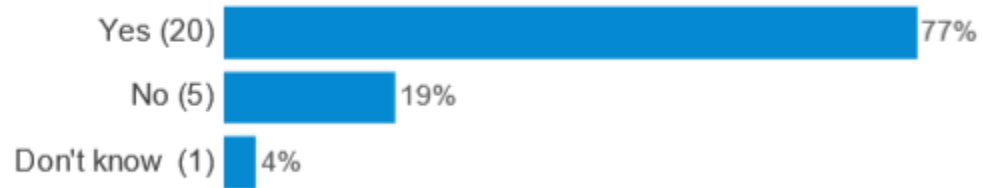
Do you agree that the Council should continue to support our Town Centres and Retail Businesses within Rhondda Cynon Taf ?



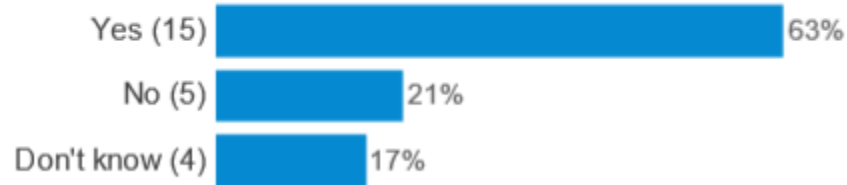
Do you agree that providing additional support towards the payment of Non Domestic (Business) Rates through a local discretionary relief is a positive way of helping sustain our Town Centres and Retail Businesses?



Do you agree that the above qualifying criteria is appropriate?



Do you think that £300 per qualifying business is appropriate, taking into account the council's other service pressures and investment priorities?



Views on how the Council might further or alternatively support our town centres and retail businesses

This should be done ASAP

you could offer free rent for a trial time to see if business could get established also I have been shocked at the high rates you charge at the craft centre/model house Llantrisant. please consider reducing rate, i as a tax payer would rather see these unit & others like in in use rather than empty & deteriorating !!!! it will aid regeneration of our towns.

Reduce car parking fees or introduce free parking after 10am - if even for only 3 or 4 hours

See below.

In what way discretionary ? Businesses should pay towards upkeep of the local community.

Changes to planning regulations are needed to stop national chains 'hoovering-up' small businesses. I am lucky enough to live in Treorchy (which is doing well) but if ever a weatherspoons, Tesco or Starbucks move in we'll end up like Tonypany (and no-one wants that).

Consider zero rate for new businesses for 2-3years.

Through more careful planning decisions, trying to ensure there is a more varied and versatile type of shop/business..

Organise and communicate communal opening hours in return for the discounts. Shops opening hours change daily and reduce trade. On a Saturday many shops close early, others are open until two and others are open until four or five. Would just like predictability.

Charge owners of empty retail / commercial land and properties empty building fees 100% same as the proposed residential charges.

Properties used for domestic and non domestic purposes should be exempt from business rates to encourage start ups.

Any help to businesses in general is great. More support is needed for martial art businesses, we give such great value to health and fitness members of the public and its not being heard enough.

local small independent businesses should have 100% relief. There is already tremendous pressure on independent shops on the high street and the business rates bill could make these businesses close and then that has a detrimental effect on our high street. Shops such as cross-nation travel

agents like Tui/Greggs/Banks etc should pay rates as they make huge profits nationwide unlike small shops who only trade in the community. They are ones who need help not businesse of their profit. Make the criteria profit based not size of property

Additional comments:

Whilst in principle I agree with assistance for small business, I do wonder if the money is needed more elsewhere e.g. social care. I admit that our town centres are dying off, but I'm not certain that financial assistance for business rates for small business is what will save it. Town centres are dying because people don't use them, we're all guilty of flooding to retail parks or shopping online, before heading to the town centre to shop. This is what kills off small businesses, so I'm not entirely certain financial relief of £300 will make any difference. To be clear, this is the fault of us as consumers, not the local authority.

I am generally supportive of the proposals but I think petrol stations and take-aways should be excluded; both are bad for the environment and take-aways can contribute to the obesity epididemic.

No rates for first twelve months of a new business.

Fees needed for empty properties to pay for the relief for properties in use. The empty and damaged properties need to be charged 100% in addition to the normal council/business rate to be in line with new proposed changes for residential charges.

We run a Local business on aberaman ind. est. Would that apply to us? All small business could do with more support.