

APPENDIX 2

Hampshire County Council Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority Police and Crime Commissioner

Joint response to consultation on the design of the discretionary business rates relief scheme

Thank you for inviting comments on the design of your discretionary business rates relief scheme. This is a joint consultation response from all of the major preceptors in the billing authority's area.

Comments from Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

The impact of the 2017 business rates revaluation has varied for different ratepayers in Hampshire. Bills for some ratepayers have fallen but they have risen for others. We welcome having a discretionary support scheme for ratepayers affected by revaluation increases, as they may benefit from additional help to manage the transition. The amount of support provided each year needs to be kept within the available funding from the Government. It would be appropriate to focus support on small and medium sized ratepayers with large revaluation increases, as these are the groups most likely to benefit from assistance.

Comments from the Police and Crime Commissioner

The police will be not be financially affected by this scheme as the police do not receive funding from business rates. However, measures to help communities in the area served by the Police and Crime Commissioner are welcome, such as supporting local ratepayers who have seen an increase in bills as a result of the 2017 revaluation.