



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Rates Break Sandy Row Business Community
Date:	24th January, 2025
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to the Rates Break Sandy Row Business Community, which the Standards and Business Committee considered at its meeting on 7th January.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are asked to note that in accordance with Standing Order 13(i) that Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report.
2.2	At this time Members are normally only asked to note that the Notice of Motion has been received and that, if agreed, a subsequent report will be brought to Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the Notice of Motion and the potential costs implications. However, the Council has already agreed to consider potential for rates relief as set out in paragraph 3.3. Therefore the Committee is asked to note that this work is ongoing and agree to close the notice of motion.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 7th January, considered the following motion which had been received for submission to the Council on 9th January:</p> <p><u>Rates Break Sandy Row Business Community</u></p> <p>“That this Council recognises the difficulties that small businesses in Sandy Row are facing since the closure of the Boyne Bridge and the crisis that some find themselves in due to loss of trade. Agrees to look into a rates break to try and help them through the testing time of the Boyne Bridge closure and recognises that some will not survive without this Councils intervention.”</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Tracy Kelly</p> <p>Seconder: Councillor Sarah Bunting</p>
3.2	The motion calls upon the Council to look into a rates break for Sandy Row businesses - the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for finance matters and the setting of the rate and in the first instance the motion has been referred to this Committee.
3.3	As pointed out above, at this time Members are normally only asked to note that the Notice of Motion has been received and that, if agreed, a subsequent report will be brought to Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the Notice of Motion and the potential costs

	<p>implications. However, it should be noted that the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, at its meeting on 4 December, already considered a motion on Retail Business in Sandy Row (an extract of the minute is appended to the report). In agreeing that a report to be submitted to a future meeting, that Committee also requested that the potential for rates relief for the businesses be investigated as part of that report. This decision was ratified by the Council on 9th January. It should be noted also that, as the Council does not the power to grant rates exemptions, the report to come back to Committee will look at the possible options available to LPS</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.4 None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with the Notice of Motion. Details of any financial and resource implications will be reported at a subsequent meeting.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>3.5 This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Extract of minute of City Growth and Regeneration of 4 December.