



Subject:	Consultation on Non-domestic and Domestic rating measures to support budget sustainability by raising additional revenue.
Date:	19 th January 2024
Reporting Officer:	Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance
Contact Officer:	Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance

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 or Summary of main Issues	
1.1	The purpose of this report is to ask the Committee to approve the draft response to the Consultation on Non-domestic and Domestic rating measures to support budget sustainability by raising additional revenue.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) consider the draft consultation response which has been submitted as a draft response in-line with the closing date for consultation; and (ii) approve its formal submission, subject to any comments or amendments provided at Committee.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>In September 2023 the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland wrote to Permanent Secretaries of Northern Ireland Departments directing that they launch public consultations on measures to support budget sustainability by raising additional revenue.</p>
3.2	<p>On the 11th of October the Department of Finance published a document setting out the financial context for the revenue raising consultations. This was followed on the 7th of November 2023 with the launch of a 14-week consultation on the revenue raising potential associated with the removal of rating measures. The consultation is seeking views from those who may be directly affected and from the wider body of ratepayers. There are seven proposals for changes to rating measures identified by the Secretary of State:</p> <p>Domestic sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum Capital Value cap. • Early Payment Discount, • Landlords Allowance, <p>Non-domestic sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial Derating, • Non-domestic Vacant Rate relief, • Freight Transport relief, • Halls of Residence exemption. <p>The closing date for this consultation is the 13th of February 2024.</p>
3.4	<p>In addition, the Department is seeking views on four questions relating to the overall fiscal position.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there other revenue raising measures that should be considered? • Are there any services/ programmes that should be stopped or reduced to divert funding to more critical services? • Are there public services that could be delivered in a different way? • Are there public services that could be delivered by others (e.g. local government, voluntary and community sector or private sector) or are there are other areas in which greater collaboration could deliver better outcomes?

3.5	The consultation response has been by David Magor, IRRV, on behalf of the council based on City Council responses in the past, various committee minutes and comments from members at LPS briefings.
3.6	Appendix 1 presents the Councils proposed response to the consultation, incorporating the Notice of Motion approved at SP&R on 15 th December 2023 as the response to question one, removal of the £400k cap.
3.7	Appendix 2 and 3 are the consultation documents produced by the Department of Finance.
3.8	<p>Financial & Resource Implications</p> <p>None</p>
3.9	<p>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>To be determined by the Department of Finance.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Draft Consultation Response</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Revenue Raising Consultation – Domestic Sector</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Revenue Raising Consultation – Non-Domestic Sector</p>