

## NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

Report To/Date: Strategy and Resources 7 February 2022

Topic: Rural Settlement List

Report by: Head of Customer Focus

### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The report seeks to designate, for the purposes of Rural Rate Relief, the rural settlements listed in the appendix to this report for the financial year commencing 1 April 2022.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. That Members approve, for the purposes of Rural Rate Relief, of the rural settlements listed in the appendix to this report.

### 3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. To be eligible for Rural Rate Relief the business must be located in a qualifying rural settlement, which has a population of no more than 3,000 and falls wholly or partly in an area designated for the purpose of the Rural Rate Relief Scheme. The Authority is required to compile a list for the purpose of this scheme.

### 4. REPORT

4.1. Schedule 1 of Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act 1997 made provision for the allowance of mandatory and/or discretionary relief from Non-Domestic Rates for certain properties situated within designated rural areas.

4.2. Rural Settlements are settlements with a population of less than 3,000 within the boundaries of a rural area as set out under the provision of the Housing Act 1996.

4.3. The Rural Rate Relief Scheme helps qualifying small general stores, post offices, food shops, public houses and petrol stations. It is intended to safeguard rural communities and preserve the future of village life by



supporting the service they provide to local people. To qualify for relief, properties must be situated within a designated rural settlement area of less than 3,000 people.

4.4. The Authority is required to compile a list of rural settlement areas for the purposes of the scheme.

4.5. The appendix to this report lists the qualifying Rural Settlements with a population of fewer than 3,000. This list has remained unchanged for many years.

## 5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1. There are no additional human resource implications.

## 6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1. (Please detail if there are/are not any equalities implications anticipated as a result of this report. If so, please complete the Equality Impact Assessment Summary form available on Insite and email to the Corporate and Community Services Team at [equality@northdevon.gov.uk](mailto:equality@northdevon.gov.uk)).

## 7. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

7.1. Article of Part 3 Annexe 1(1)(d) - Delegated

7.2. Delegated power

## 8. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

8.1. This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

## 9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1. The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report.

## 10. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

10.1. The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers: Julie Dark Revenues and Benefits Manager



Reference: Rural Settlement list 2022-23