



North Devon Council

Report Date: Monday, 4 December 2023

Topic: Rural Settlement List

Report by: Julie Dark, Revenues and Benefits Manager

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 2024.

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. Part 1 Schedule 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 Section 42A of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

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 (EIA) Summary form available on Insite and email to the Corporate and Community Services Team at equality@northdevon.gov.uk.

No potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Equality Act 2010

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1. Please undertake an Environmental Assessment and complete the checklist (EAC) form available on Insite. If there are no environmental implications arising from your proposals please state that there are none. If after completion of the assessment there are environmental implications please provide a brief summary. If you require any further information please contact the Sustainability and Climate Change Officer. Email completed EACs to donna.sibley@torridge.gov.uk

There are no environmental implications as a result of proposals in this report.

8. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

8.1. What impact, positive or negative, does the subject of this report have on:

- 8.1.1. The commercialisation agenda:
- 8.1.2. Improving customer focus and/or
- 8.1.3. Regeneration or economic development

9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

9.1. The decision in respect of the recommendations in this report can be made pursuant to Article 4.4 of the Constitution

10. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

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

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: (The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report).



12. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

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