

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RECORD OF OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION

Item	Outcome
Date Of Decision	24 April 2020
Decision Maker	Michael Hudson in consultation with the CMR and Leader
Brief Description Of Decision	Rental support for tenants who fall within the business category of education, leisure and day centres.
Reason(s) For Decision	<p>Due to the Government's restrictions, there are tenants who are supporting the Council's key priorities but won't be able to keep their business and services open, for example educational facilities. They could therefore be struggling to pay rent due on property leased/licenced from the Council where they are reliant on opening and receiving service users. This is consistent with private sector practices and government guidance.</p> <p>Letters are going out with due rental invoices advising them of the Council's support and to contact the Council to discuss their position and arrange a suitable rent freeze (currently max 3 months) to provide them the support needed so they can open their business/doors on the release of the restrictions.</p> <p>The categories were restricted for the general policy to provide a rent freeze because it was viewed that other tenancies would not be affected the same through the restrictions e.g. Agricultural tenancies. However, all tenants are encouraged to discuss any financial concerns regarding paying their rent and these will be reviewed against a business ability to continue trade/receiving income to pay their rent in the current circumstances.</p>
Alternative Options Considered And Rejected	<p>Considered looking at a case by case basis but wanted to provide consistency across those business within identified categories to demonstrate Council support.</p> <p>No rent freeze - was considered but not thought to be appropriate as noted above following exceptional circumstances there is a need to consider the long term impact on the tenancy viability.</p>
Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/ any	N/A – none identified

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dispensation granted	