

Appendix C: Schedule of stakeholder engagement events

Islington has hosted various Revaluation Relief scheme workshops and events during the development of the scheme's objectives, principles and qualifying criteria.

Engagement was sought and involved representatives of the business community, such as the Islington Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses, the Angel Business Improvement District as well as individual local business owners.

Date	Forum	Representatives	Objective
28 April 2017	Business Rates Discretionary Relief Scheme – open invitation	<p>Cllr Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic Development</p> <p>Ian Adams, Service Director</p> <p>Christine Lovett, Angel Business Improvement District;</p> <p>Nicholas Sharpe, Business Owner;</p> <p>Matthew, AfterNoah, Business Owner</p> <p>Andrew Spigarolo, Head of Revenues</p> <p>Conor Cusack, Team Leader, Economic Development</p>	To share, discuss and obtain views concerning the proposed Revaluation Relief
9 May 2017	Islington Business Board	<p>Cllr Watts (Leader)</p> <p>Cllr Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic Development</p> <p>Various business leaders in Islington</p> <p>Various senior council officers</p>	To share, discuss and obtain views concerning the proposed Revaluation Relief
4 July 2017	Business Rates Revaluation Relief consultation with the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)	<p>Cllr Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic Development</p> <p>David Johnson, (FSB Central London Branch Chair</p> <p>Matthew Jaffa, FSB Senior Development Manager, Greater London</p> <p>Andrew Spigarolo, Head of Revenues</p> <p>Conor Cusack, Team Leader, Economic Development</p>	To share, discuss and obtain views concerning the proposed Revaluation Relief and in particular the principles the FSB wanted to include

20 July 2017	Business Rates Revaluation Relief consultation - general	Cllr Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic Development Ian Adams, Service Director Matthew Jaffa, FSB Senior Development Manager, Greater London Mark, Angel Business Improvement District John Patrick, Finsbury Park Traders Peter Moonihey, Business Owner Andrew Spigarolo, Head of Revenues Conor Cusack, Team Leader, Economic Development	To share, discuss and obtain views concerning the proposed Revaluation Relief having developed more detail.
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Appendix D: Federation of Small Business letter dated 20th April

Sent to:

Cllr Richard Watts
London Borough of Islington
Town Hall
Upper Street
N1 2UD

Replies to:

FSB Greater London
2 Catherine Place
Westminster
London
SW1E 6HF

20 April 2017

Dear Cllr Watts

Re: Business rates discretionary fund, please help small businesses

As you know, there are a number of small businesses in our area who have seen large rises in their business rates bill. We are acutely aware that it is not local authorities which normally decide the level of business rates, and we always strive to make that clear to our members.

However, following significant FSB campaigning, central Government has decided to make a discretionary fund available to you to help small businesses hardest hit by the rates revaluation. Accordingly, we are writing to ask that you agree to FSB's 'Small Business Principles'. These are designed to ensure this money is used effectively in helping the small businesses in our area who do so much for local jobs and our local community live.

In the coming weeks, councils in every area will be tasked with designing their own schemes to distribute the new discretionary funds. It is imperative that business groups and businesses are consulted during this process. The five Small Business Principles are:

1. Commit to focusing this money on micro and small businesses, particularly those hardest hit by the revaluation
2. Commit to ensuring that funds are distributed as soon as possible and automatically refund any firm that overpays their business rates
3. Commit to a communications campaign to make sure that all affected firms know how they can benefit from the discretionary funds you provide, and proactively approach businesses most in need
4. Commit to making any application process for funds as simple and straightforward as possible, so it is inclusive for the smallest firms in our area, and attaches no conditions aside from the size of a firm and how that firm is disadvantaged by the revaluation
5. Commit to passing a motion of the council, making clear it is the council's view that business rates present significant hardship to small and micro businesses in particular, and that the council is acting to alleviate that hardship

If you would like to meet to discuss this, please contact me via Denise Beedell on denise.beedell@fsb.org.uk. I hope you will agree that this is a fantastic opportunity for us to work together to secure the best possible environment for small businesses in our area, and the jobs and growth they provide.

Yours sincerely

David Johnson, *FSB Central London Branch Chair*

CC:

Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn, MP for Islington North

Rt Hon Emily Thornberry, MP for Islington South & Finsbury

Appendix E:

A description of national Transitional Relief as it applies from April 2017

National Transitional Relief:

Transitional relief caps the yearly increase in the bill depending on the RV as shown in the table below.

Property Size	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
<£28K RV	5%	7.5%	10%	15%	15%
<£100K RV	12.5%	17.5%	20%	25%	25%
>£100K RV	42%	32%	49%	16%	6%

Example of how Transitional relief (TR) works:

16/17 bill was £15,000 and after revaluation 17/18 bill would be £28,000.

TR is applied to reduce the yearly increase of the bill until it reaches £28,000

- 17/18 bill is £15,000 x 12.5% TR = £16,875
- 18/19 bill is £16,875 x 17.5% TR = £19,828
- 19/20 bill is £19,828 x 20% TR = £23,794
- 20/21 bill is £23,794 x 25% TR = £29,743

In 20/21 the bill has now reached its revaluation level of £28,000 so this would be the sum charged.

Even with transitional relief the yearly increases are still very high. Our proposal is to award Revaluation Relief for 2 years so that for companies with an RV less than:

- 28K the increase in the bill (after TR only) is not more than 5% each year
- 60K the increase in the bill (after TR only) is not more than 6% each year
- 100K the increase in the bill (after TR only) is not more than 10% each year

So in the example given above the bills for the next 2 years would be:

- 17/18 bill is £15,000 x 6% = £16,125 (revaluation relief would be £750)
- 18/19 bill is £16,125 x 6% = £17,092 (revaluation relief would be £2,736)