

The image features a background of four diverse individuals engaged with technology. On the left, a man with a beard and glasses looks at a smartphone. Next to him, a woman with dark hair smiles while looking at her phone. In the center, a man in a plaid shirt is focused on a laptop. On the right, a woman with blonde hair smiles while using a tablet. The background is light gray with large, semi-transparent teal shapes. The Civica logo is in the top left corner.

CIVICA

Transforming the way you work

Business Rates Update 2019/20

January 2018

What are Business Rates?

- ▶ Who are Civica and what do we do?
- ▶ A charge on all Non Domestic Properties
- ▶ Rateable values set by the Valuation Office Agency and based on the assumed market rental value of the property at 1st April 2015
- ▶ Rates Retention since 1st April 2013
- ▶ Local Authorities are rewarded for growth ie bringing new Businesses into the area and there is a Safety net to protect Council's from substantial losses in appeals or significant closures
- ▶ Central Government policy intent to increase national retention levels to 75% from 2020/21 rather than 100% as previously stated. WDC is part of the 75% Retention Pilot in Worcestershire

2019 More of the same but with some changes

- ▶ Small Business Rates Relief Scheme to continue
- ▶ Retail Relief Scheme, 1/3 off the net bill (after other reliefs) for qualifying properties. Details on our website shortly
- ▶ Year 3 of Supporting Small Business, affected cases will pay at least £600 more per annum. Transitional Scheme Year 3 – Increased and reduced bills
- ▶ Rural Settlement Relief, 100% relief scheme extended for 2019/20. Local Newspaper Relief to continue, Pub Relief to cease
- ▶ Discretionary Fund Year 3, reduced amount £59k available, was £143k (2018/19)
- ▶ Multipliers calculated using CPI rather than RPI. An increase of 2.4%. The Provisional Multipliers are 49.1p and 50.4p in the £
- ▶ Central Government push for Digital Bills, have you signed up?

Reliefs and Exemptions

- ▶ Charities and Non Profit making organisations
- ▶ Small Business Rates Relief
- ▶ Empty properties and empty rate exemptions
- ▶ Discretionary Reliefs under the Localism Act
- ▶ Hardship Relief

Payment & Billing Options

- ▶ Government desire to enable electronic billing, this service is already available and to sign up go to www.wychavon.gov.uk/e-billing or call us
- ▶ Explanatory notes will be on the Council's website
- ▶ Pay by Direct Debit, Online Banking and Telephone payments
- ▶ 10 or 12 monthly instalments ?
- ▶ Did you know you can view your account, documents sent to you, set up a direct debit or make payments online, interested? Then please use the following link to subscribe for this service : www.wychavon.gov.uk/selfservice

Recovery

- ▶ Recovery processes set down in law (Bill, Reminder, Final Notice if applicable, Summons, Liability Order)
- ▶ Arrangements
- ▶ Enforcement Agents
- ▶ Further recovery action (Insolvency)
- ▶ Phoenix companies
- ▶ We have a highly skilled team that wants to help you, please call us !!!!

Final Thoughts

- ▶ High collection rates are essential to pay for Council Services
- ▶ Many challenges and changes within the next few years
- ▶ We are always happy to help

Thank you