

### Application for Hardship Relief

<b>Name of applicant</b>	Mr N *****
<b>Address of property concerned</b>	9-10 St Thomas Street, Weymouth
<b>Number of people employed by the business</b>	The ratepayer employed 6 people.
<b>Reasons for claiming relief</b>	<p>The ratepayer occupied the premises from March 2017 to February 2018. In order to commence trading as an ice cream parlour the ratepayer was required to undertake substantial renovation and redecoration. As a result, he was unable to commence trading until June 2017. Unfortunately, business during the summer season was not as predicted and, as a result, the ratepayer decided to cease trading in February 2018.</p> <p>The ratepayer's savings were invested in getting the business up and operating and, as he has now been forced to close, he is having to take out loans to meet his day to day expenditure.</p> <p>It is understood that the ratepayer has managed to sublet the property from February 2018, in order to keep his debts in respect of the business from increasing.</p>
<b>Financial information</b>	<p>The accounts for the period July 2017 to July 2018 show that the turnover for the business was £57,127 against cost of sales of £14,341. Operating expenditure for the year was £83,543 leaving a net loss of £40,757. Significant expenditure included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depreciation of £11,247</li> <li>• Rent &amp; Rates of £42,429</li> <li>• Staff wages of £20,611</li> </ul>

<b>Does the business provide a unique service to the community?</b>	The business has ceased trading
<b>What would be the cost to the Council if relief was awarded?</b>	The ratepayer has paid £13,499.91 in respect of his rates liability and has requested that Hardship Relief be awarded in respect of the balance outstanding of £6,767.65. If Committee awarded Hardship Relief in respect of that amount the cost to the General Fund would be £2,707.06 (i.e. 40% of £6,767.65).

<b>Name of applicant</b>	Ms K *****
<b>Address of property concerned</b>	Ground Floor, 104 St Mary Street, Weymouth
<b>Number of people employed by the business</b>	Two plus the business owner
<b>Reasons for claiming relief</b>	<p>The ratepayer commenced trading as a Play Café in August 2018. Time of commencing the business she believed the rates to be in the region of around £800 per month. However, in reality the rates charges are nearly double that amount.</p> <p>The ratepayer did not feel that she needed to produce a business plan for her venture as she was financing the business herself and had researched the demand for a Play Café beforehand.</p> <p>Although the business got off to a good start in August she has found that trade has significantly reduced in September. She has received very good reviews from customers but needs support over the next 12 months in order to help get the business established.</p>
<b>Financial information</b>	The financial information provided shows that the takings for the month of August totalled £7,721.75. Against this, the rent is £2,000 per month and staff wages are also £2,000 per

	<p>month. The ratepayer has not provided any information in respect of other expenditure (such as heating, lighting, drawings, etc) but that is most likely due to only operating for a short period.</p> <p>The ratepayer has appealed against the Valuation Office Agencies rating assessment of the property but has been informed that this may time to resolve.</p>
<b>Does the business provide a unique service to the community?</b>	There is another Play Café in Weymouth Town Centre
<b>What would be the cost to the Council if relief was awarded?</b>	The ratepayer has asked for support in respect of this year's rate charges. If Hardship Relief was awarded in respect of the charges due to 31 March 2018 (which total £10,998.45) the cost to the Council would be £4,399.38 (i.e. 40% of £10,998.45).