



Title of Report:	Summer VAT Reduction
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 June 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Approval
To be discussed In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2026-31)	
Strategic Theme	P2 Empowering and supporting our people
Outcome	
Lead Officer	Director of Leisure & Development

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	01 September 2026

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	TBC
Included in Current Year Estimates	NO
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	Various
Staffing Costs	Already included within budget

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of a rule change on VAT charges which are being implemented by HMRC for the period 25 June to 01 September and to seek approval for these changes to be implemented within the Council service areas affected.

2.0 Background

2.1 In a Ministerial Statement made by the Chancellor on 21 May 2026, the government announced the introduction of a temporary reduced rate of VAT (5%) for supplies of children's meals and tickets to certain attractions, intended to reduce the cost of selected activities and services for families with children during the summer holiday period. The reduced rate will apply from 25 June 2026 to 1 September 2026 (inclusive).

3.0 Proposal

3.1 The reduced rate for children's meals and children's tickets for cinemas, theatres, exhibitions and shows covers those supplies that are marketed, priced and presented as intended for children. These do not generally apply to supplies aimed at adult customers, except where those supplies form part of a qualifying family package.

This cut in VAT rate from the standard rate of 20% will be introduced by statutory instrument and have effect on admissions from 25 June 2026 to 1 September 2026. Council services likely to be affected are noted.

3.2 Children's theatre and cinema tickets

The reduced rate applies to children's admission tickets to:

- cinema screenings
- theatrical performances, shows and concerts
- exhibitions

3.3 Attractions and soft play

- museums and similar cultural facilities, including planetariums, heritage sites, nature reserves and botanical gardens.
- soft play centres, indoor bounce parks and indoor play facilities.

3.4 Sporting activities

The reduced rate does not apply to sport, including charges for spectating and for participating in sport or physical recreation. This includes:

- admission to sports events
- use of sports facilities
- participation in recreational sport

4.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the rule change on VAT charges which are being implemented by HMRC for the period 25 June to 01 September and approve the implementation of this reduction, within the Council services affected for the period outlined.