

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**POLICY AND RESOURCES
CABINET MEMBER**

NON-DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF APPLICATIONS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To decide the level of Business Rate relief to be awarded to ratepayers in North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The key points in this report are as follows:
 - New rate relief applications for the years 2013/14 and 2014/15 have been received, and the recommended level of discretionary relief awarded is based on set criteria.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Policy Committee agreed the legal position and administrative practices for dealing with rate relief on 22 January 1996.
- 2.2 The Corporate Services Cabinet Member on 20 February 2004 (minute 128 refers) agreed to adopt a scoring system based on set criteria for the awarding of discretionary rate relief. The Corporate Services Cabinet Member on 7 February 2005 (minute 233 refers) and 21 December 2006 agreed to amend and update the criteria and gave approval to the Director of Policy and Resources to authorise relief where the level of relief remains unchanged. The latest amendment to the criteria was at the Policy and Resources Cabinet Member briefing on 25 May 2012.
- 2.3 The ratepayers in receipt of rate relief in 2011/12 have had their applications reviewed. New and existing applicants continue to return forms fully completed.
- 2.4 There is no discretion about granting mandatory relief.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The attached schedule, appendix A, shows 4 new applications.
- 3.2 Option 1 – Award the recommended level of discretionary relief, shown on the attached schedule, appendix A. Also included is the cost to the Council and where applicable the previous level of relief for each applicant.
- 3.3 Option 2 – Consider a level of discretionary relief different to that recommended. All application forms will be available at this meeting for inspection by Councillors. This will enable Councillors to review in detail, if required, any suggestions set out in the schedule.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Criteria are used to score all applications and to recommend the appropriate level of rate relief. To continue using these criteria will ensure fairness in awarding relief for new applicants. Members have the option to consider each case on its merits and change the level of relief from that recommended in this report.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial

If the decision is to award the recommended level of discretionary relief in each case, it is estimated the additional amount granted will be £861.33. The estimated cost to the council for the 2013/14 rate reliefs and the revised actual cost are shown in appendix B.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTERGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 6.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment is not required. Applications are considered and encouraged from all different organisations

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 7.1 No consultation is required.
- 7.2 There are no conflict of interests to declare.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 To award the level of rate relief to each applicant as set out in the attached schedule to this report.

DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND RESOURCES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

Local Government Finance Act 1988
Application Forms
Cabinet Member Report 25 May 2012
Local Government and Rating Act 1997

Appendix A

App No.	Ratepayer	Property Address	Mandatory Charity 80%	R V £	PR N	Suggested Relief %	Amount borne by NLC £
<u>APPLICATIONS</u>							
CHARITY/NON PROFIT							
1/13	Healthwatch North Lincolnshire	Business Unit - Unit 25 Dunlop Way, Scunthorpe	N	3500	ND440284548	45	347.76
2/13	Grimsby & Scunthorpe Rape Crisis Ltd	Offices - 24/28 Laneham Street, Scunthorpe	Y	8900	ND440289496	10	203.72
SPORTS CLUBS							
42/12	Nth Lincs & Humbs Sailing Club	Lake & Sailing Club - Barrow Mere Barton on Humber	Y	8700	ND050209000	20	295.43
44/12	Brigg Rd Tennis & Bowling	Bowling Green & Premises - Bowls Club Brigg Road Barton on Humber	Y	1,250	ND050859180	20	14.42
TOTAL							861.33

Appendix B

RELIEF	Estimated amount £	Cost to NLC £	Revised amount £	Cost to NLC £
<u>Mandatory</u>				
Charities	1,875,690.18	919,088.19	1,921,782.03	941,673.19
Community Amateur Sports Clubs	33,337.38	16,335.32	36,552.90	17,910.92
Rural premises	26,114.92	12,796.31	19,994.32	9,797.22
<u>Discretionary</u>				
Charities	70,233.67	34,414.50	66,948.71	32,804.87
Not for profit organisations	77,036.91	37,748.09	56,019.42	27,449.52
Community Amateur Sports Clubs	3,718.55	1,822.09	4,770.44	2,337.51
Rural premises	27,579.23	13,513.82	29,302.40	14,358.18
Total		1,035,718.31		1,045,997.87
Increase in cost				10,279.56