

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**POLICY & RESOURCES
CABINET MEMBER**

**SECTIONS 43 AND 47 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988
SECTION 1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RATING ACT 1997**

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 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 have been received, and the recommended level of discretionary relief awarded is based on set criteria.
 - For applications which result in a change to the level of relief, the projected level of relief and the cost to the Council, a total of £3,982.92 is shown in Appendix A.

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 & Resources Cabinet Member on 25 May 2012.

2.3 The ratepayers in receipt of rate relief in 2011/12 have had their applications reviewed. To date 123, 79 per cent, of the review forms have been fully completed. 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 5 new applications.

3.2 The recommended level of discretionary relief, and the Council are shown on the attached schedule, appendix A.

3.3 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 A criteria is 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 £3,982.92. The budget provision for rate relief for 2012/13 is £82,000.00. £75,248.07 has already been awarded on the existing charity and rural relief cases. The awarding of relief to the applicants listed on the attached schedule will increase the total cost to the council to £79,230.99.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 –CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 The Non-domestic rate administration and collection service is a statutory obligation and considerations of rate relief meet the legislation requirements.

6.2 Applications are considered and encouraged from all different organisations.

- 6.3 If relief is not granted there is a risk businesses could cease to trade resulting in lack of services and unemployment.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 7.1 No consultation is required.

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 20 February 2004
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>NEW APPLICATIONS</u> | | | | | | | |
| CHARITY/NON PROFIT | | | | | | | |
| 23/11 | Second Byte IT Ltd | Office 6-8 Market Hill Scunthorpe | N | 16000 | ND440286588 | 80 | 2,502.67 |
| 24/11 | Second Byte IT Ltd | Workshop & Premises Unit D2 Mercia Way Park Farm Road Scunthorpe | N | 5300 | ND440280626 | 80 | 477.00 |
| 32/11 | Active Community Team (North Lincolnshire) | Store r/o 43 Station Road Scunthorpe | Y | 2850 | ND440277816 | 10 | 159.60 |
| 26/11 | Active Community Team (North Lincolnshire) | Meeting Room 146 High Street, Scunthorpe | Y | 14500 | ND440270724 | 10 | 752.82 |
| 33/11 | Westcliff Drop In Centre | Shop & Premises 11 The Precinct Westcliff, Scunthorpe | Y | 3,150 | ND445001440 | 5 | 90.84 |
| | | | | | | TOTAL | 3,982.93 |