

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CORPORATE SERVICES  
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 current financial year have been received, and the recommended level of discretionary relief awarded is based on set criteria.
  - The projected level of relief, and the cost to the council, a total of £3,497.58 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) agreed to amend the criteria. The Corporate Services Cabinet Member on 21 December 2006 agreed to update the criteria and gave approval to the Service Director Finance to authorise relief where the level of relief remains unchanged.

2.3 The ratepayers in receipt of rate relief in 2006/7 have had their applications reviewed. To date 234, 96 per cent, of the review forms have been fully completed. Of those, the level of relief has not changed for 217 applicants. 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 8 new applications.

3.2 The recommended level of discretionary relief, and where appropriate the previous level of relief for each applicant, and the cost to 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 this 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 £3,497.58. The budget provision for rate relief for 2008/9 is £82,000.00, of which £79,899.02 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 £83,396.60. The additional cost can be met within existing budgets.

### **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.

SERVICE DIRECTOR FINANCE

Pittwood House  
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SCUNTHORPE  
North Lincolnshire  
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Date: 10 June 2008

### **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 80%	R V £	PR N	Suggested Relief %	Amount borne by NLC £
<b><u>CHARITY NEW APPLICANTS</u></b>							
34	Second Byte Retail Ltd	Shop 26 Dunstall Street, Scunthorpe	N	6100	ND440265802	75	797.59
39	Active Community Team	Warehouse Unit 13 Normanby Business park, Normanby Road, Scunthorpe	Y	2750	ND440273927	0	NIL
40	Lindsey Lodge Hospice	Shop 8 Ravendale Street North , Scunthorpe	Y	11750	ND445000203	0	NIL
42	North Lincs Woodcarvers	Workshop Unit 6A Brickhills Farm, Castlethorpe, Brigg,	N	880	ND090809017	100	199.32

47	Pre School Learning Alliance	Day Nurseries Collum Lane, Scunthorpe	Y	21000	ND445001070	15	2140.43
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**RURAL  
NEW  
APPLICANTS**

36	Mr Paul Searby	Shop Howe Lane, Goxhill	Y	2250	ND171609260	50	207.05
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37	Mr Derek Shephard	Shop 23A New Trent Street, Ealand	Y	1900	ND631240260	50	107.59
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The following application is for the period 23 January to 10 March 2007

43	Rewler Leisure Ltd	Public House The Wheatsheaf, 15 Station Road, Hibaldstow	N	11000	ND192709050	50	45.60
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TOTAL 3497.58