

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 £892.97 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 235, 96 per cent, of the review forms have been fully completed. Of those, the level of relief has not changed for 218 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 four 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 £892.97. The budget provision for rate relief for 2008/9 is £85,000.00, of which £81,433.40 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 £82,326.37.

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

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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 80%	R V £	PR N	Suggested Relief %	Amount borne by NLC £
<u>NEW APPLICATIONS</u>							
CHARITY/NON PROFIT							
58	Lodge Moor Community Assoc	Community Centre, The Minster Centre, Minster Road, Scunthorpe	Y	7300	ND445001165	20	331.25
59	Independent Living North Lincolnshire	Offices 50 Holydyke Barton on Humber,	Y	2025	ND057409154	20	196.34
61	Active Community Team (North Lincolnshire)	Office 41/43 Doncaster Road Scunthorpe	Y	7200	ND445001203	20	239.23
60	Humberside Animal Rescue	Shelter Church Farm Vicarage Lane North Killingholme	Y	2425	ND343009070	20	126.15
						TOTAL	892.97