

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION AND FINANCE CABINET MEMBER

NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF APPLICATIONS

1 OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To decide the level of National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR) discretionary relief to be awarded to eligible ratepayers in North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 New rate relief applications for 2017/18 have been received, and the recommended level of discretionary relief awarded is based on set criteria.
- 1.3 The report presents the current level of mandatory and discretionary reliefs granted, compared to the budget.

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 NNDR legislation makes provision for granting relief to a range of non-domestic properties. That includes, for example, small business relief, charitable relief and empty property relief. Some relief is mandated and must be granted; other relief is discretionary.
- 2.2 Under the current regime of part localisation of NNDR the council funds a proportion of both mandatory and discretionary reliefs. For the level of collection assumed in the budget the council will fund 44% of all reliefs.
- 2.3 The levels of all mandatory and discretionary reliefs are reported periodically to inform the cabinet member of the forecast impact on the budget.
- 2.4 Mandatory reliefs comprise around 97% of all reliefs by value. The forecast is that more relief will be granted than was assumed in the budget. The level of discretionary relief will be higher than originally estimated if the proposals in this report are approved. The details are shown in Appendix A.
- 2.5 The ratepayers in receipt of rate relief in 2015/16 have had their applications reviewed. New and existing applicants continue to return forms fully completed.

2.6 The council also has a Hardship Relief scheme for cases of exceptional hardship. Cases are rare, but no application has been received on this occasion.

3 OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The attached schedule, appendix B, shows six new applications for discretionary relief.

3.2 Option 1 – Award the recommended level of relief, shown on the attached schedule, appendix B.

3.3 Option 2 – Consider a level of relief different to that recommended.

4 ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Approved criteria are used to score all applications for discretionary relief and to recommend the appropriate level of rate relief. These cover charitable, not for profit and voluntary sports organisations, and rural businesses. To continue using these criteria will ensure fairness in awarding relief for new applicants.

4.2 The Cabinet Member has the option to consider each case on its merits and change the level of relief from that recommended in this report. Both applications meet the approved criteria for discretionary support.

4.3 The Hardship Relief scheme has its own criteria, which consider wider social and economic implications as well as the impact on the business. There is again discretion over the level of support awarded, if any.

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

5.1 Financial

If the decision is to award the recommended level of discretionary or hardship relief in each case, it is estimated the additional cost to NLC will be £3863.34.

6 OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment is not required. Applications are considered from eligible organisations.

7 OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 No consultation is required.

7.2 There are no conflicts 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.
- 8.2 To note the latest position for 2017/18 on business rate reliefs.

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

Civic Centre
Ashby Road
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN16 1AB
Author: R Catlyn/M Kitching
Date: 13 July 2017

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

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

Appendix A

2017/2018	Reliefs			Cost to NLC		
	Budgeted Level of Reliefs	Actual Level of Reliefs	Increase/ Decrease(-)	Estimated Cost of Reliefs (Budget)	Estimated Cost of Reliefs (Current)	Increase/ Decrease(-)
Small Business Relief	2,596,502	2,906,912	310,410	1,142,461	1,279,041	136,580
Charitable Relief	2,478,057	2,466,477	-11,580	1,090,345	1,085,250	-5,095
Community Amateur Sports Clubs	37,692	47,225	9,533	16,584	20,779	4,195
Rural premises	23,407	36,101	12,694	10,299	15,884	5,585
Partial Occupancy	96,062	9,723	-86,339	42,267	4,278	-37,989
Empty Property Relief	2,250,323	2,815,693	565,370	990,142	1,238,905	248,763
Total Mandatory	7,482,043	8,282,131	800,088	3,292,098	3,644,137	352,039
Charity Top-up Relief	80,918	78,647	-2,271	35,604	34,605	-999
Charity Discretionary Relief	118,993	85,552	-33,441	52,357	37,643	-14,714
Hardship Relief	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Amateur Sports Clubs	3,294	5,677	2,383	1,449	2,498	1,049
Rural premises	22,484	0	-22,484	9,893	0	-9,893
Other Rural premises	1,194	1194	0	525	525	0
Total Discretionary	226,883	171,070	-55,813	99,828	75,271	-24,557
Grand Total	<u>7,708,926</u>	<u>8,453,201</u>	<u>744,275</u>	<u>3,391,926</u>	<u>3,719,408</u>	<u>327,482</u>

Appendix B

App No.	Ratepayer	Property Address	Mandatory Charity 80% Rural 100%	R V £	PR N	Suggested Relief %	Discretionary Relief £
<u>NEW APPLICATIONS</u>							
CHARITY/NON PROFIT							
5/18	Kings Christian Bookshop	Shop - 74-78 Frodingham Road Scunthorpe DN15 7JW	Y	9800	ND440267492	10	456.68
8/18	Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire	Car Parking Spaces - 4-6 Robert Street Scunthorpe DN15 6NG	Y	2000	ND445002076	10	293.80
9/18	Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire	Offices & Premises - 4-6 Robert Street Scunthorpe DN15 6NG	Y	7800	ND445002073	10	1,145.82
11/18	Framework Housing Association	Offices & Premises - Place of Change Scotter House Dorchester Road Scunthorpe DN17 1QH	Y	15750	ND445001770	5	498.68

12/18	Scunthorpe Citizens Advice Bureau	Shop & Premises - 12 Oswald Road Scunthorpe DN15 7PT	Y	8800	ND445002061	10	1,354.80
13/18	Crosby Community Association	Offices - 2 Parkinson Avenue Scunthorpe DN15 7JT	Y	2075	ND445000760	10	113.56
						TOTAL	3,863.34

RURAL

NONE