

Subject: Discretionary Rate Relief

Status: For Publication

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 17th March 2010

Report of: Head of Customer Services and ICT.

**Portfolio Customer Services
Holder:**

Key Decision: No

Forward Plan

General Exception

Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is for members to approve the award of Discretionary Relief against National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) to various charitable organisations.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.
- Delivering Quality Services to Customers (Customers, Improvement)
 - Well Managed Council (Improvement, Community Network)

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 In each of the cases listed in Appendix 1 mandatory relief has been granted which covers 80% of the charge for NNDR. The Council may then award a discretionary 'top-up' to cover some or all of the remaining 20%. In these circumstances, where a top-up of discretionary relief is awarded, it is funded 75% by the local authority and 25% from the central government NNDR pool.

- 4.2 The Head of Financial Services (s151 Officer) has delegated authority to approve discretionary rate relief up to the value of £2000. The cases listed in Appendix 1 have a value in excess of £2000 and therefore Member approval is required in respect of the cases attached.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1 The amounts recommended will be financed from existing budget resources for 2010/11. To date, including the current recommendations, £37,886 has been granted in Discretionary Relief against a full year budget of £45,000.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from the report

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

- 7.1 There are no Human Resources implications arising from the report

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The cases listed have previously received financial support from the Council and recent applications have been submitted in order that any material changes in circumstances may be identified.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 9.1 It is recommended that discretionary rate relief is awarded as outlined in Appendix 1, the total cost to the council being £14871.55.
- 9.2 That Cabinet recommends to Council to increase delegated authority to approve discretionary rate relief up to the value of £5,000 to the Head of Financial Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources and that this be recommended for inclusion in the Annual Review of the Constitution.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1 By individual application from the institutions

11. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Community Impact Assessment required No

Is a Community Impact Assessment attached No

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required No

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached No

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