

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub-Committee
DATE: 17th March 2011
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Resources
SUBJECT: Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief
WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is for members to consider an application for discretionary non-domestic rate relief, under the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS: That

(1) Under the provisions of Section 47, Local Government Finance Act 1988, discretionary rate relief be granted to the following organisations at the percentage indicated, for the period from 1st April 2010 or the commencement of liability, whichever is the later, to 31st March 2013:

Norton Priory Museum Trust Ltd	20%
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3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Under the provisions of Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Authority is allowed to grant discretionary rate relief to organisations that are either a charity or a non-profit making organisation. This relief may also be awarded to Community Amateur Sports Clubs. A summary of the applications follows and a list of the associated figures are attached in Appendix 1.

Norton Priory Museum Trust Ltd
2 Seymour Court, Manor Park, Runcorn

The Norton Priory Museum Trust Ltd is a registered charity based within the Borough. The trust's main operations are focused on the Museum and Walled Garden, located at sites at Warrington Road, Runcorn.

The additional premises have been utilised from 10th December 2010, in order to perform the necessary restoration, enhancement and maintenance of features and objects of historical and archeological

interest from the Norton Priory sites. In particular, the unit is being used to store, assess, clean and conserve the Norton Priory collection, whilst also documenting and further researching this collection.

As a registered charity, the trust qualifies for 80% mandatory rate relief but the application includes a request for the additional discretionary rate relief. This organisation currently receives the additional 20% rate relief, in respect of both the Museum and Walled Garden sites at Warrington Road, Runcorn.

Cost to Taxpayer (75%) 2010/11 £666.94 *

* based on charge for 10th December 2010 to 31st March 2011 only.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Members are required by the regulations to consider each application on its own merit. Any recommendations provided are given **for guidance only** and are consistent with previous decisions and Council policy.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 75% of any discretionary rate relief granted to organisations receiving mandatory rate relief must be met by the Council Taxpayer, whilst 25% must be met if mandatory rate relief has not been awarded. Appendix 1 identifies the cost to the Council Taxpayer for each application. The applicant provides education to the community, which is consistent with the Council's Corporate Plan.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None specifically applicable, although the main operations of the trust are particularly well utilised by children and young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The organisation offer advice and education to residents.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None applicable.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None applicable.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None applicable.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 There are no key risks associated with the proposed action.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The applicant offers their services to all sections of the community, without any prejudice.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Application forms and supporting evidence	Kingsway House, Caldwell Road, Widnes	Phil Murphy, Business Rates Manager

APPENDIX 1

Ratepayer	Address	Annual Rates 20010/11 £	Actual Rates Liability 2010/2011 £	Mandatory Rate Relief Awarded	Actual Rates Payable 2010/2011 £	Discretionary Rate Relief Claimed	Annual Cost of Relief to HBC 2010/2011 £	Actual Cost of Relief to HBC 2010/2011 £
Norton Priory Museum Trust Ltd	2 Seymour Court, Runcorn	14,490.00 *	4,446.25	80%	889.25	20%	2,173.50 *	666.94

* Based on figures had charge applied for the full financial year.