

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 13 June 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources

SUBJECT: Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief

PORTFOLIO: Resources

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider an application for discretionary non-domestic rate relief, under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the application for 90% discretionary rate relief from Power In Partnership Ltd in relation to its premises at 5 Alcock Street, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 1NA and Unit 1a, Halton Lodge Local Centre, Whitchurch Way, Halton Lodge, Runcorn, WA7 5YP, be approved from 1st April 2019 until 31 March 2022.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Under the amended provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Council is able to grant up to 100% discretionary rate relief to any business ratepayer. This relief had previously only been available to organisations that were a registered charity, a community amateur sports club or a not-for-profit organisation.

3.2 The Council currently meets the full cost of all mandatory and discretionary relief granted, as part of the Liverpool City Region 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot Scheme.

3.3 For not-for-profit organisations where discretionary rate relief has been granted in the past, the Council has in the main granted a maximum of 90% discretionary rate relief. The organisations themselves then have to meet the remaining 10% of their business rates liability.

3.4 In instances where discretionary business rate relief is granted, the Council currently awards the relief for a three year period.

3.5 An application for discretionary rate relief has been received as outlined below, from Power in Partnership Ltd. The organisation is not

a registered charity and is not considered a charity by HMRC for tax purposes, so 80% mandatory relief is not applicable.

Power in Partnership Ltd

5 Alcock Street, Runcorn, WA7 1NA and Unit 1a, Whitchurch Way, Halton Lodge, Runcorn, WA7 5YP

- 3.6 Power in Partnership Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation and the application for discretionary rate relief relates to their two premises at 5 Alcock Street, Runcorn and Unit 1a, Whitchurch Way, Halton Lodge, Runcorn.
- 3.7 Power in Partnership Ltd is described as a not-for-profit “community college” who work with young people in the community and whose aims and purposes are providing foundation learning and skills to disengaged and disadvantaged young people. All funds generated by the organisation are reinvested back into the organisation to support the delivery of its aims and objectives.
- 3.8 The organisation has provided a statement of its key objectives which are as follows;
- (i) To increase, promote and deliver projects to achieve further skills and life chances.
 - (ii) To provide opportunities to achieve economic, personal health and wellbeing.
 - (iii) To work with first level steps to new skills for those with barriers to learning and employment, including those with special needs and the vulnerable.
 - (iv) To provide or assist in the provision, in the interests of social welfare, of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation for men and women.
 - (v) To provide, improve and manage houses and premises providing drop in services, Residential accommodation, training and information and advice for men and women of all ages upon terms appropriate to their means.
- 3.9 The organisation has advised that they currently have around 140 young people currently involved in their programmes. They provide data to the Council’s 14-19 team so they can collate young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) statistics. Young people are referred to Power in Partnership from a variety of sources including; Young Offender Teams, the Council’s 14-19 team, vulnerable NEET group referrals, college referrals, housing referrals, care homes, and self-referrals.
- 3.10 The organisation also has premises at 7 Queens Avenue, Widnes in respect of which the Board awarded discretionary rate relief in December 2018. The organisation’s premises at 5 Alcock Street,

Runcorn and Unit 1a, Whitchurch Way, Halton Lodge, Runcorn were previously subject to small business rate relief, however, this no longer applies under regulations. Hence the application for discretionary rate relief.

3.11 If 90% discretionary rate relief were awarded to the organisation from 1 April 2019, the annual cost to the Council for would be as follows;

- 5 Alcock Street £1,282
- Unit 1a Whitchurch Way £1,922

3.12 It is therefore proposed that the application for 90% discretionary rate relief in respect of both premises is approved from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2022.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Board is required by the regulations to consider each application on its own merit. Any recommendations provided are given for guidance only, are consistent with Council policy and, wherever possible, previous decisions.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Appendix presents the potential annual costs to the Council of granting rate relief and the cost in the current financial year.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Power in Partnership Ltd supports young people in Halton.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Power in Partnership Ltd provides learning and skills to NEET young people in Halton.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None

6.4 A Safer Halton

None

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

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 offer 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 form	Kingsway House, Caldwell Road, Widnes	Adel Tomkins Senior Rating Officer

APPENDIX

Ratepayer	Address	Mandatory Rate Relief Awarded	Annual Cost of Mandatory Rate Relief to HBC	Disc. Rate Relief	Annual Cost of Disc. Rate Relief to HBC 01/04/19-31/03/20	Actual Rates Liability 01/04/19-31/03/20	Actual Cost of Mandatory Relief to HBC from 01/04/19-31/03/20	Actual Cost of Disc. Rate Relief to HBC from 01/04/19-31/03/20
			£		£	£	£	£
Power in Partnership Ltd	5 Alcock Street, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 1NA	0%	0.00	90%	1281.51	1,423.90	0.00	1281.51
Power in Partnership Ltd	Unit 1a, Halton Lodge Local Centre, Whitchurch Way, Halton Lodge, Runcorn, WA7 5YP	0%	0.00	90%	1922.27	2,135.85	0.00	1922.27