

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**REPORTING OFFICERS:** Strategic Director - Enterprise, Community & Resources

**PORTFOLIOS:** Resources

**SUBJECT:** Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief

**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 amended the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, such that councils may grant discretionary business rates relief to any business ratepayer in any circumstance.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to consider the renewal of discretionary business rate relief for existing registered charities, not-for-profit organisations and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) who continue to satisfy the appropriate criteria.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That**

- (1) Discretionary business rate relief of 15% be granted for those registered charities and CASC organisations currently in receipt of such relief, for the period of three years commencing 1st April 2022; and**
- (2) Discretionary business rate relief of 90% be granted for the not-for-profit organisations currently in receipt of such relief (with lower amounts for two as indicated in the Appendix), for the period of three years commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.**

## **3.0 REGISTERED CHARITIES AND CASCs**

- 3.1 The Council has previously granted discretionary business rate relief to a number of organisations which are registered charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC). The Council currently grants discretionary business rate relief for these organisations for a period of three years.
- 3.2 The organisations automatically receive mandatory 80% business rates relief and the Council funds the full cost of such relief as part of the 100% business rates retention pilot scheme.

#### **4.0 NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS**

4.1 Not-for-profit organisations are not entitled to mandatory rate relief and therefore the full cost of any discretionary relief granted is funded by the Council.

#### **5.0 LEVEL AND PERIOD OF BUSINESS RATES RELIEF AWARDED**

5.1 Given the current financial challenges and constraints facing the Council, discretionary business rate relief of only 15% is currently awarded for registered charities and CASC organisations. The organisations themselves then have to meet the remaining 5% of their business rates liability.

5.2 For not-for-profit organisations the Council has in the main granted 90% discretionary rate relief, except in the case of two organisations who received less than 90% for specific reasons. The organisations themselves then have to meet the remaining 10% of their business rates liability.

5.3 The Council currently grants discretionary business rate relief to organisations for a three year period. It is recommended that this practice continues, in order to provide the organisations with some certainty so as to assist with their financial planning.

5.4 The Council provides these organisations with approximately twelve months' notice of any changes to their discretionary rate relief, to assist with their financial planning. Hence this request to consider the renewal of discretionary business rate reliefs from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

#### **6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The registered charities, not-for-profit organisations and community amateur sports clubs (CASC) currently in receipt of discretionary rate relief, are listed in the Appendix along with the cost of such relief.

6.2 The Council funds 100% of any mandatory and discretionary business rates relief awarded.

#### **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

7.1 The organisations for whom discretionary rate relief is granted may engage with one or more of the Council's priorities.

#### **8.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

8.1 None.

#### **9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

9.1 None.

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

<b>10.1</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
	Application forms and supporting evidence	Kingsway House, Caldwell Road, Widnes	Louise Bate Business Rates Manager

## APPENDIX

### Registered Charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs

These organisations automatically receive 80% mandatory rate relief. The table below presents the cost to the Council in each case of both the 80% mandatory rate relief and the 15% discretionary rate relief.

<b>Liabile Party</b>	<b>Annual Rates Liability</b>	<b>Cost to the Council of 80% Mandatory Relief</b>	<b>Cost to the Council of 15% Discretionary Relief</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
10th Hough Green Scout & Guide Group	3,174.40	2,539.52	476.16
1st Halton Scout Group	1,280.00	1,024.00	192.00
1st Moore Scouts	704.00	563.20	105.60
1st Weston & 0 Weston Point Scouts	1,868.80	1,495.04	280.32
4th Runcorn Scout Group	1,382.40	1,105.92	207.36
4th Widnes (St Bede's) Scout Group	576.00	460.80	86.40
Age Concern (Mid Mersey)	6,784.00	5,427.20	1,017.60
Cathy Stankevitch Foundation T/A Resport Uk	8,448.00	6,758.40	1,267.20
Cathy Stankevitch Foundation T/A Resport Uk	10,112.00	8,089.60	1,516.20
Catalyst Science Discovery Centre & Museum Trust Ltd	89,088.00	71,270.40	13,363.20
Cheshire Asbestos Victim Support Group	2,252.80	1,802.24	337.92
Chester Diocesan Board Of Finance	49,664.00	39,731.20	7,449.60
Focus Institute Of Gymnastics	13,184.00	10,547.20	1,977.60
Four Estates Ltd – Hillcrest	5,149.25	4,119.40	772.39
Four Estates Ltd – Brook Centre	1,792.00	1,433.60	268.80
Four Estates Ltd – Palacefields Community Centre	7552.00	6,041.60	1,132.80
Hale Village Hall Management Committee	2,299.20	1,839.36	344.88
Hale Youth Club	819.20	665.36	122.88
Halebank Youth Club	1,305.60	1,044.48	195.84



	<b>Liability</b>  £	<b>Mandatory Relief</b> £	<b>Discretionary Relief</b> £
RSPCA (Warrington, Halton & St Helens Branch)	1,561.60	1,249.28	234.24
Runcorn Frodsham & District MENCAP Society	1,664.00	1,331.20	126.72
Runcorn And District Foodbank	2,662.40	2,129.92	399.
Sandymoor Community Association	4,761.60	3,809.28	714.24
Shetland Rescue	4,227.81	3,382.24	634.17
Stick N Step	2,713.60	2,170.88	407.04
St John Ambulance	3,686.40	2,949.12	552.96
St Lukes Scouts & Guides	4,454.40	3,563.52	668.16
Trustees Of Mrs T H Browns Trust	3,328.00	2,662.40	499.20
Trustees Of Preston Brook Village Hall	3,532.80	2,826.24	529.92
Trade Training	1,303.02	1,042.41	195.45
Vicarage Lodge Pre-School Community Play Group	4,710.40	3,768.32	706.56
Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group	3,686.40	2,949.12	552.96
Widnes Fellowship Centre	2,611.20	2,088.96	391.68
Widnes RUFC	14,130.50	11,304.40	2,119.58
Widnes Unit 365 Of The Sea Cadet Corps	3,891.20	3,112.96	583.68
Widnes Tennis Club	60,928.00	48,742.40	9,139.20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>486,007.70</b>	<b>387,484.94</b>	<b>72,773.30</b>

### **Not-For-Profit Organisations**

These organisations are not registered charities and therefore do not receive 80% mandatory rate relief. The Council currently provides 90% discretionary rate relief in all but two cases.

<b>Liabe Party</b>	<b>Annual Rates Liability £</b>	<b>Cost to the Council of Discretionary Relief £</b>
Astmoor Community Project Ltd	19,710.50	17,739.45
Birchfield Park Sports & Social	5,489.00	4,940.10
Bridgewater Motor Boat Club	2,544.90	2,290.41
Gentlemen Of Moore RUFC	4,590.80	4,131.72
Halebank Football Club	404.19	363.77
Halton Access To Media	2,694.60	2,425.14
Halton Credit Union Ltd – Halton Lea	13,847.25	12,462.53
Halton Credit Union Ltd – Queens Avenue, Widnes	2,694.60	2,425.14
Kingsway Bike Project	736.03	638.42
Pavillions Arena Ltd	5,114.75	4,603.28
Runcorn Rowing Club	464.07	417.66
Runcorn Sports Club	3592.80	3,233.52
Runcorn Subscription Bowling Club	785.93	707.34
Runcorn War Memorial Club Ltd <sup>(1)</sup>	5,738.50	573.85
West Bank Boat Club	1,010.48	909.43
Weston Rifle & Pistol Club <sup>(2)</sup>	1,322.35	991.76
Widnes Cricket Club	7,485.00	6,736.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78,225.75</b>	<b>65,590.02</b>

(1) Currently receives 10% relief.

(2) Currently receives 75% relief.