

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 15 June 2017

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 request for 15% discretionary rate relief from Active Nation UK Limited for the period 6th February 2017 to 31st March 2019, is refused on the grounds of being a charity which operates nationally.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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

3.2 From 1st April 2017 the Council became responsible for meeting 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 An application for discretionary rate relief has been received as outlined below, from Active Nation UK Limited who are a registered charity operating nationally. Currently, where discretionary rate relief has been granted to registered charities, it has been provided until 31st March 2019 in order to provide the organisations with some degree of certainty.

**Active Nation UK Limited
Unit J, Trident Retail Park, Runcorn**

- 3.4 Active Nation UK Limited is a registered charity operating nationally, which provides and operates a range of recreation and leisure facilities for the public.
- 3.5 The application is in respect of the Leisure Centre situated at Trident Retail Park, which is used for providing a wide range of sports facilities for the public, to promote amateur sports and community participation in healthy recreation.
- 3.6 As a registered charity, the organisation automatically qualifies for 80% mandatory rate relief. The organisation has now applied for 15% discretionary rate relief. The costs of each to the Council would be as follows;

Cost of 80% mandatory rate relief	£46,153
Cost of 15% discretionary rate relief	£8,654

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.
- 4.2 Historically the Board has chosen to only support applications for discretionary rate relief from locally based charities and has therefore rejected applications from charities which operate nationally such as Active Nation UK Limited. It is therefore proposed that the application from Active Nation UK Limited is rejected on the grounds that they are a charity which operates nationally.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Appendix presents the potential annual costs to the Council of granting rate relief.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton**
The organisation provides leisure and sports facilities for all members of the community, including children and young people.
- 6.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**
None.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The organisation provides leisure and sports facilities for all members of the community, which promote healthy lifestyles.

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 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	Louise Bate, Business Rates Manager

APPENDIX

Ratepayer	Address	Annual Rates 2017/18 £	Actual Rates Liability 2017/18 £	Mandatory Rate Relief Awarded	Annual Cost of Mandatory Rate Relief to HBC £	Actual Rates Payable 2017/18 £	Disc. Rate Relief Claimed	Annual Cost of Disc. Rate Relief to HBC 2017/18 £	Actual Cost of Disc. Rate Relief to HBC 2017/18 £
Active Nation UK Ltd	Unit J Trident Retail Park Halton Lea Runcorn WA7 2HF	57,691.26	57,691.26	80%	46,153.01	11,538.25	15%	8,653.69	8,653.69