

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 19 October 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 three applications for discretionary non-domestic rate relief, under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 1) The request for 15% discretionary rate relief from Stick ‘n’ Step for the period 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, be approved;**
- 2) The request for 15% discretionary rate relief from Halton District Citizens Advice Bureau Service for the period 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, be approved;**
- 3) The request for 15% discretionary rate relief from Community Integrated Care Ltd for the period 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, be rejected on the basis that the organisation 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 registered charity, a community amateur sports club or a not-for-profit organisation.

3.2 From 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Three applications for discretionary rate relief have been received as outlined below, from organisations who are all registered charities. Where discretionary rate relief is granted to registered charities, it is

currently provided until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 in order to provide the organisations with some degree of certainty. In these instances 15% discretionary rate relief is usually granted, with the organisation meeting the remaining 5% themselves.

**Stick 'n' Step  
Union Hall, York Street, Runcorn**

- 3.4 Stick 'n' Step is a registered charity operating locally which provides educational sessions for children who suffer with cerebral palsy and other related motor disorders.
- 3.5 The application is in respect of Union Hall which is used for education therapy workshop sessions to teach children to be independent and help with ways to increase their confidence, mobility and communication skills.
- 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 from 22nd April 2017. The cost of each to the Council in 2017/18 would be as follows;

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Actual cost of 80% mandatory rate relief            | £1,914.11       |
| <u>Actual cost of 15% discretionary rate relief</u> | <u>£ 358.90</u> |
| Total   | £2,273.01       |

**Halton District Citizens Advice Bureau Service  
Suite 2 Ground Floor, (Pt) Eccleston Building Grosvenor House,  
Halton Lea, Runcorn**

- 3.7 Halton District Citizens Advice Bureau Service is a registered charity operating locally which provides free impartial advice to local residents.
- 3.8 The application is in respect of a training suite which is used to train volunteers and staff in order for them to provide an advice service to local residents.
- 3.9 Advice and support are offered through the charity to help local residents with issues such as debt management, problems with housing and rent, relationship issues, problems at work and consumer rights.
- 3.10 As a registered charity, the organisation automatically qualifies for 80% mandatory rate relief. The organisation has now applied for 15% discretionary rate relief from 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The cost of each to the Council in 2017/18 would be as follows;

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Actual cost of 80% mandatory rate relief            | £799.78        |
| <u>Actual cost of 15% discretionary rate relief</u> | <u>£149.96</u> |
| Total   | £949.74        |

**Community Integrated Care Ltd  
The Flat Bredon, Lapwing Grove, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2TH**

- 3.11 Community Integrated Care Ltd is a registered charity operating nationally which offers help and social care to people with a diverse range of care needs.
- 3.12 The application is in respect of a flat used by staff members to sleep, which enables them to provide night time support to residential respite clients.
- 3.13 As a registered charity, the organisation automatically qualifies for 80% mandatory rate relief. The organisation has now applied for 15% discretionary rate relief from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016. The cost of each to the Council in 2017/18 would be as follows;

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Actual cost of 80% mandatory rate relief            | £1,954.32       |
| <u>Actual cost of 15% discretionary rate relief</u> | <u>£ 366.43</u> |
| Total   | £2,320.75       |

- 3.14 Whilst the organisation's headquarters is located in Widnes, it operates on a national basis. Historically the Council has not supported applications for discretionary rate relief from registered charities which operate nationally. It is therefore proposed to reject the application from Community Integrated Care Limited.

#### **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**

The organisations provide support to children and young people.

##### **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

Halton District Citizens Advice Bureau Service provides support towards employment, learning and skills.

**6.3 A Healthy Halton**

Stick 'n' Step provides information on mobility and independence for suffers.

**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 applicants 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**

| <b>9.1 Document</b>                       | <b>Place of Inspection</b>                  | <b>Contact Officer</b>                    |
|---|---|---|
| Application forms and supporting evidence | Kingsway House,<br>Caldwell Road,<br>Widnes | Louise Bate,<br>Business Rates<br>Manager |

**APPENDIX**

| <b>Ratepayer</b>                               | <b>Address</b>   | <b>Annual Rates Liability</b> | <b>Mandatory Rate Relief Awarded</b> | <b>Annual Cost of Mandatory Rate Relief to HBC</b> | <b>Disc. Rate Relief Claimed</b> | <b>Annual Cost of Disc. Rate Relief to HBC</b> | <b>Actual Rates Liability 2017/18</b> | <b>Actual Rates Payable 2017/18</b> | <b>Actual Cost of Disc. Rate Relief to HBC 2017/18</b> |
|--|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
|  |  | <b>£</b>                      |                                      | <b>£</b>   |                                  | <b>£</b>                                       | <b>£</b>                              | <b>£</b>                            | <b>£</b>   |
| Stick 'n' Step                                 | Tudor Hall<br>York Street<br>Runcorn<br>WA7 5BB  | 2,534.74                      | 80%                                  | 2,027.79   | 15%                              | 380.21   | 2,392.64                              | 478.53                              | 358.90   |
| Halton District Citizens Advice Bureau Service | Suite 2 Ground Floor<br>(Pt) Eccleston Building<br>Grosvenor House<br>Halton Lea<br>Runcorn<br>WA7 2HF | 1,240.12                      | 80%                                  | 992.07   | 15%                              | 186.02   | 999.73                                | 199.95                              | 149.96   |
| Community Integrated Care Ltd                  | The Flat Bredon<br>Lapwing Grove<br>Runcorn<br>WA7 2TH   | 2,442.90                      | 80%                                  | 1,954.32   | 15%                              | 366.43   | 2,442.90                              | 488.58                              | 366.43   |