

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board  
**DATE:** 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Policy & Resources  
**PORTFOLIO:** Resources  
**SUBJECT:** Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief  
**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the renewal of discretionary non-domestic rate relief for two organisations currently in receipt of the relief and who continue to satisfy the appropriate criteria.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That**

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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016:

Halton Community Transport	20%
Moorfield Sports & Social Club	100%

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Under the provisions of Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Council is allowed to grant discretionary rate relief to organisations that are either a charity or a not for profit organisation. This relief may also be awarded to Community Amateur Sports Clubs.

3.2 On 13<sup>th</sup> December the Board approved the granting of discretionary rate relief for a further three years for all existing recipients, except Halton Community Transport and Moorfield Sports and Social Club for whom additional information was requested. Additional information has been obtained in respect of the latter two organisations, which confirms that they are both still eligible to receive discretionary rate relief. A summary of the financial implications is shown in Appendix 1.

3.3 The Council currently grants discretionary rate relief to organisations for a three year period and Regulations require that organisations are given twelve months' notice of ceasing that relief. In March 2012 the Council therefore gave the required twelve months' notice to both of these organisations, as 2012/13 is their third year of receiving relief.

3.4 The Board has in previous years chosen to support these organisations by granting them discretionary rate relief. In light of the current financial constraints upon the Council, the Board could however decide not to grant relief to organisations, or to renew it for a shorter period, or at a lower percentage.

3.5 It is proposed that discretionary rate relief is granted from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 for a further three years at the current percentage, as these two existing recipients continue to meet the appropriate criteria.

#### **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 and are consistent with previous decisions, where applicable, and Council policy.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 For any discretionary rate relief granted to organisations who receive mandatory rate relief 75% of the cost will be funded by the Council. Whilst in cases where mandatory rate relief has not been awarded by Government 25% of the cost of discretionary rate relief will be funded by the Council. Appendix 1 identifies the current cost to the Council for each application, the total of which can be met from the existing discretionary rate relief budget.

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

##### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

Moorfield Sports & Social Club engages heavily within this particular demographic.

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

None specifically applicable.

##### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

None specifically applicable.

##### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

None specifically applicable.

##### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None applicable.

#### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no risks associated with the proposed action.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Both of 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>
Review forms and supporting evidence	Kingsway House, Caldwell Road, Widnes	Phil Murphy, Business Rates Manager

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Discretionary Rate Relief Only (Not for Profit Organisations)**

Moorfield Sports & Social Club is a “not for profit” organisation and, as such, is not entitled to mandatory rate relief. The club has previously applied to the Council and been granted 100% discretionary rate relief. The cost of discretionary rate relief for “not for profit” organisations is currently funded 75% by Government and 25% by the Council.

<b>Liabe Party</b>	<b>Amount of Relief Awarded</b>	<b>25% Cost to HBC (2012/13)</b>
Moorfield Sports & Social Club	£4,725.00	£1,181.25

### **Top-Up Discretionary Rate Relief (Mandatory Rate Relief Also Awarded)**

Halton Community Transport is a registered charity and receives 80% mandatory rate relief. In respect of the remaining 20%, the organisation has previously applied to the Council and been granted the full top-up discretionary rate relief to provide 100% relief. The cost of top-up discretionary rate relief is currently funded 25% by Government and 75% by the Council.

<b>Liabe Party</b>	<b>Amount of Relief Awarded</b>	<b>75% Cost to HBC (2012/13)</b>
Halton Community Transport	£1,305.30	£978.98