

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 20 April 2023

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director, Finance

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

**PORTFOLIO:** Leader

**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 discretionary rate relief for SHAP Limited be approved at 15% with effect from 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

## **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 An application for discretionary rate relief has been received from Shap Limited as outlined below.

3.4 Currently, where discretionary rate relief has been granted to registered charities and non-profit organisations, it has been provided until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 in order to provide the organisations with some degree of certainty.

**Shap Limited**  
**1 Ann Street West, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 7UB**

3.5 Shap Limited is a registered charity and voluntary agency working with homeless and vulnerable people, offering them accommodation and support services.

- 3.6 The services cover a wide range of accommodation, with different levels and intensities of support.
- 3.7 The core function of the service provided within Halton from 1 Ann Street West, Widnes is to provide Domestic Abuse Supported Accommodation (Refuge), providing a service for victims of domestic abuse and their families to create a supportive environment that provides protection from abuse and empowers those impacted by domestic violence.
- 3.8 As a registered charity the organisation qualifies for 80% mandatory rate relief. Shap Limited has now applied for 15% discretionary rate relief.
- 3.9 Shap Limited also occupies 35 Queens Avenue, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 8HR which are used as offices and already receives 80% mandatory relief in respect of those premises as a registered charity.
- 3.10 The cost in 2022/23 of providing relief for the Ann Street West premises from 11 January 2023 to 31 March 23 will be as follows;

80% mandatory relief	£3,142.14
15% discretionary relief from	<u>£589.15</u>
Total cost to HBC	<u>£3,731.29</u>

- 3.11 The full year cost from 2023/24 will be as follows:

80% mandatory relief	£15,052.80
15% discretionary relief	<u>£2,822.40</u>
Total cost to HBC	<u>£17,875.20</u>

- 3.12 The full breakdown of the costs are as presented in the Appendix.

#### **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 costs to the Council of granting rate relief for the part 2022/23 financial year and the full 2023/24 financial year.

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

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

Shap Limited provides accommodation victims of domestic abuse and their families.

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

None.

**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 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</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
	Application form	Halton Stadium, Lower House Lane, Widnes	Adel Tomkins Senior Rating Officer – Business Rates

**APPENDIX**

<b>Ratepayer</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Annual Rates Liability 2023/24</b>	<b>Mandatory Rate Relief Awarded</b>	<b>Annual Cost of Mandatory Rate Relief to HBC 2023/24</b>	<b>Disc. Rate Relief</b>	<b>Annual Cost of Disc. Rate Relief to HBC 2023/24</b>	<b>Actual Rates Liability 2022/23 from 11.01.23-31.03.23</b>	<b>Actual Cost of Mandatory Relief to HBC from 11.01.23-31.03.23</b>	<b>Actual Cost of Disc. Rate Relief to HBC from 11.01.23-31.03.23</b>
		£	£	£		£	£	£	£
Shap Ltd	1 Ann Street West, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 7UB	£18,816.00	80%	£15,052.80	15%	£2,822.40	£3,927.67	£3,142.14	£589.15