
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 6 OCTOBER 2011

COSP.79/11 DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF TO CHARITABLE AND NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of Paragraph 3)

The Assistant Director (Community Engagement) (Mr Gerrard) submitted report CD.14/11 which discussed considerations in setting and managing discretionary relief on National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR) to charitable and not for profit organisations.

He reported that the proposed policy change had been considered by the Panel on 1 September 2011 and was to award small, local charities and not for profit organisations 100% rate relief.

Mr Gerrard gave a detailed explanation of the recommended option of giving 100% rate relief to small and local charities. He outlined the alternative options that had been considered and the reasons why they had not been used.

He reminded the Panel of the Motion which had been agreed by Council which gave Eden Valley Hospice 100% rate relief. He added that Members should not consider the Hospice's rate relief as part of the report.

Members asked for clarification on some of the figures in the report and the Assistant Director (Resources) agreed to circulate the figures and some further information.

Members agreed that it was not an option to give everyone 100% relief but discussed if consideration should be given to the three community centres who did not qualify because their properties were above the £18,000 rateable value limit. Some Members felt that the centres had been penalised because they had inherited larger buildings from the Council and that the centres played a unique role in local communities. There was a debate as to whether all community centres and village halls should be treated equally and receive the 100% relief.

Following voting it was

RESOLVED - That the Panel recommend to the Executive that financial provisions should be found to enable the three community centres, who had not been eligible, to receive the full 100% Discretionary Rate Relief