
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2010

EX.151/10 DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICY (Key Decision)

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of paragraph 3)

Councillor Mrs Bowman, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, retired from the meeting room during consideration of this item of business.

Councillor Mitchelson, having declared a personal interest, remained but took no part in discussion.

Portfolio Governance and Resources

Subject Matter

The Assistant Director (Resources) submitted report RD.35/10 concerning the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy.

He set out the background to the matter, informing Members that there had been a growth in the number of charities and non-profit making organisations qualifying for discretionary rate relief occupying premises in the Carlisle District area, which trend was continuing, and outlined options for consideration to bring the cost of the Discretionary Rate Relief within available budget.

The Executive was asked to consider the preferred option from options detailed in Section 2.0 (i-iii) of the report or agree a supplementary estimate of £50,000 to meet the increased cost due to significant additional take-up. Once agreed the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy would be updated (in draft) to reflect the Executive's preferred option before being made available for consideration by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

The Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder recommended that the report be referred to the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel, and the Panel be informed that the Executive's preferred option was Option iii as set out at Section 2.0 thereof.

Summary of options rejected

Options i and ii as set out at Section 2.0 of Report RD.35/10.

DECISION

1. That the Executive had considered the options set out in Section 2.0 of report RD.35/10 and had indicated a preference for option iii.
2. That the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy be updated (in draft) to reflect the Executive's preferred option before being referred to the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel for their views.

Reasons for Decision

The Executive is required to consider options to address a shortfall in the Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Budget before consideration by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel.