
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2011

ROSP.77/11 DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICY

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of Paragraph 3)

Following a discussion by Members regarding the reason for submitting report CD.15/11 as a private report they agreed to continue with the item in private.

The Assistant Director (Community Engagement) (Mr Gerrard) submitted report CD.15/11 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 Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 1 September 2011 and 6 October 2011 and the suggested proposal 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.

The Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel had considered the report at its meeting on 6 October 2011 (COSP.76/11) and a minute excerpt had been circulated to Members.

In considering the report Members raised the following questions and concerns:

- A Member reminded the Panel of a Motion that had been considered by full Council that asked for full discretionary rate relief for all local charities. He added that this included all community centres as they played an important part of the local communities and local charities.

Mr Gerrard reminded the Panel of the decision of Council which gave charities 80% rate relief, this report was for the consideration of a further 20%. He explained that the limit of £18,000 rateable value was to ensure that the policy was transparent and consistent for all. The policy allowed for support to small local charities likely to be less robust and able to absorb the loss.

The Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder reminded the Panel of the financial implications of giving rate relief to all local charities, including those with a rateable value of over £18,000. He also reminded the Panel of the grant that the Council gave to community centres and how that compare to other local authorities.

In response to a question Mr Gerrard confirmed that there would be an appeals process in place for charities and the budget allowed for this and the addition of new charities.

Following voting it was a tied vote. The Chairman used his casting vote and it was

RESOLVED: That the Panel support recommendation 1 as set out in report CD.15/11 to give 100% rate relief to small and local charities.