



## POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 4TH MARCH 2014

**SUBJECT: DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF APPLICATIONS**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This Report sets out details of an application for discretionary rate relief and notes the decision proposed by the Acting Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council is able to assist a wide range of voluntary and sporting organisations by granting rate relief. This Report contains details of an application received for discretionary rate relief and the proposal for the determination of the application to be formally implemented on the 11th day of March 2014.

### 3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The granting of rate relief is a very cost effective way in which the Council can pursue its Regeneration objective by giving financial assistance to local organisations.

### 4. THE REPORT

#### 4.1 Background

- 4.1.1 Under the Council's Scheme of Delegation applications for discretionary rate relief submitted to the Council are determined by the Council's Acting Head of Corporate Finance.
- 4.1.2 The determination is exercised following consideration of the Council's Policy on Discretionary rate relief supplemented by guidance from Welsh Government and Central Government.

#### 4.2 The Application

##### **Bedwas Rugby 2011 Ltd**

An application for discretionary rate relief has been received from the above club in respect of its club and premises at Bedwas RFC, Bedwas Road, Caerphilly. The company is limited by guarantee; this means that its profits are not distributed to its members but are retained to be used for the purposes of the guarantee company.

The main objectives of the club are stated to be:

Promotion of rugby football within the community on a non-profit making basis.

High quality rugby opportunities for all to improve fitness health and social cohesion and social provision for the whole community.

To achieve its objectives, it offers its facilities and training expertise to local primary schools and it hosts rugby training sessions in association with the Welsh Rugby Union where young people from further afield receive advanced rugby and coaching skills. The club actively encourages adults and young people to become members; it has partnership arrangements with Bedwas High School and Ystrad Mynach College. Members receive training in fitness, first aid, personal development, leadership and public safety. The club's function room is made available for a range of social, recreational and community activities.

The club's funding is derived mainly from charges made for the use of facilities and supported by fund raising activities and grant aid.

The current rate liability of the organisations premises is £6171.61 and the cost to the Authority of awarding 20% discretionary relief at present would be £123.43 (10%) with the Welsh Government Pool bearing the remainder of £1,110.89 (90%).

It has previously been the policy of the Authority to award 20% discretionary relief to sporting and recreational clubs with bar facilities, such as Bargoed Rugby Club, Newbridge RFC and Caerphilly Rugby Club.

**Proposal (to be implemented on 11th day of March 2014):**

**20% discretionary rate relief be awarded.**

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report is to advise Members of the proposed determination of the application(s) for discretionary rate relief so the Council's full Equalities Impact Assessment process does not need to be applied.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 These are contained within the report.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no consultation responses which have not been reflected in this report.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 Members note the proposed determination of the application(s) for discretionary rate relief under delegated powers which will be implemented on the 11th day of March 2014.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 To assist local voluntary organisations.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Section 47 of the Local Government Financial Act 1988.

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Cllr Mrs J Summers, Vice-Chairman - Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee  
Stephen Harris, Acting Head of Corporate Finance

Background Papers:

Rate Relief Application Forms, contact ext 3421