

POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 5TH OCTOBER 2010

SUBJECT: DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF APPLICATIONS

REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The following application for rate relief has been determined by the Head of Corporate Finance under delegated powers (Scheme of Delegation Item 5.2(t) refers).
- 1.2 In arriving at her determination the Head of Corporate Finance has been guided by Council policy laid down by the former Finance Committee on 14 February 1996 and 30 April 1996, together with Welsh Office criteria for considering such applications.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council is able to assist a wide range of voluntary and sporting organisations by granting rate relief. This report deals with recent applications.

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. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Bargoed Amateur Boxing Club

- 4.1.1 The applicant is a non profit making organisation and its application relates to its ground floor premises at the Village Hall in Commercial Street, Aberbargoed.
- 4.1.2 The main objectives of the club are stated to be the development and control of amateur boxing in the local community with the aim of providing some boxers of tournament standard. To achieve its aims boxing and fitness training is provided by qualified coaches from the Welsh Boxing Association, the National Organisation to which it is affiliated.
- 4.1.3 Club membership is drawn from the local communities of Aberbargoed, Bargoed, New Tredegar and Markham and is open to anyone over the age of 10 years of age. The club currently has 8 adult and 17 junior members who pay a weekly subscription of £3 per week towards the club's overheads.
- 4.1.4 Funding is derived mainly from member subscriptions and is supplemented from monies raised by staging boxing events.

- 4.1.5 The current annual rate liability of the club's premises is £2004 and the cost to the Authority of awarding 100% discretionary rate relief at present levels would be £200 with the Welsh Assembly Government Pool bearing the remainder of £1804.
- 4.1.6 The club's activities provide benefit to the local community as members are encouraged to eat healthily, acquire improved fitness levels and are also taught self-discipline and respect for others.
- 4.1.7 The Authority currently awards 100% discretionary rate relief to similar boxing clubs which include Cwmcarn Amateur Boxing Club, Fleur De Lys Boxing Club and the Aber Valley Boxing and Sports Club based in Abertridwr.

Decision: That 100% discretionary rate relief be awarded.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no personnel implications.

6. CONSULTATIONS

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

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Members note the decisions taken under delegated powers.

8. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 To assist local voluntary organisations.

9. STATUTORY POWER

- 9.1 Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

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Background Papers:
Rate Relief Application Forms