



POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13TH NOVEMBER 2012

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 a recent application.

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 Foundation 14A Ltd

- 4.1.1 The applicant is a registered charity which has therefore been awarded 80% mandatory charitable rate relief in accordance with statutory provisions. The application is in respect of the ground floor, Block C, Van Court, Caerphilly Business Park.
- 4.1.2 Foundation 14a Limited is a non-profit making organisation whose main objective is to promote social inclusion of people unable to afford the cost of further education and those who are faced with additional barriers to employment due to ill health disability, age, race, ethnic origin and crime (as an ex offender rehabilitating into society). Many are lone parents who may never have had a job.
- 4.1.3 The current rate liability is £17628 but the organisation occupied the premises from 13 February 2012 and therefore cost to the Authority of awarding the top up of 20% discretionary rate relief at present would be £2973, with the Welsh Government bearing the remaining cost of £991.

4.1.4 The Authority is presently awarding the top up rate relief to CFBT Education Services that are a similar organisation and registered at 9 premises within the County Borough.

Decision: That 20% discretionary top-up relief be awarded

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report is for information purposes only, so the Council's full Equalities Impact Assessment process does not need to be applied.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no personnel implications.

7. CONSULTATIONS

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

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Members note the decisions taken under delegated powers.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 To assist local voluntary organisations.

10. STATUTORY POWER

10.1 Section 47 of the Local Government Financial Act 1988.

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Consultees: Nicole Scammell, Head of Corporate Finance and Section 151 Officer

N. Barnett, Deputy Chief Executive

Cllr K Reynolds, Deputy Leader/Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

Cllr HW David, Chairman - Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Mrs J Summers, Vice-Chairman - Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers:

Rate Relief Application Forms, contact ext 3421