



POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 5TH MARCH 2013

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 GREENCAP LTD

- 4.1.1 An application for discretionary rate relief has been received from Greencap Ltd. The application is in respect of Unit 4 Block D Varlin Court, Western Industrial Estate, Caerphilly, CF83 1BQ.
- 4.1.2 The Company's objectives are to be established as a non-profit making Social Enterprise providing employment and work experience for disabled and socially challenged individuals through the refurbishment and re-upholstery of various furnishings. Based in the County Borough, Greencap aim to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfill from both domestic and commercial avenues by giving an alternative solution at a competitive rate.
- 4.1.3 This service would not only allow the customer to save money by reusing furniture rather than buying it new, but also helps with their carbon footprint by recycling. Greencap will also undertake office clearances to provide business with re-saleable stock, which otherwise would likely to be destroyed and be added to landfill. Recycling is one of the key values in Greencap's business strategy.

- 4.1.4 As the business develops all profits made will be reinvested within the organisation to increase employment opportunities and training facilities.
- 4.1.5 The current annual rate liability of the organisation's premises is £6359 and the cost to the Authority of awarding 100% discretionary rate relief at present levels would be £636 with the Welsh Assembly Government pool bearing the remainder of £5723.

Decision: 100% Discretionary rate 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.V. Reynolds, Deputy Leader/Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

Cllr H.W. 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