

## **NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATING DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report refers to two applications for Discretionary Business Rate Relief in accordance with Section 47 Local Government Finance Act 1988.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Members are reminded that Local Authorities have discretionary powers to grant Rate Relief at levels between 1% and 100% to organisations who are not established or conducted for profit.
- 2.2 In addition power is given to “top up” relief to registered Charities who by right receive 80% Rate Relief.
- 2.3 The two applications received are for “top up” relief which if granted is funded 25% from the Government’s Rate Pool and 75% locally from Council Tax payers.
- 2.4 Members are also reminded that the Council’s Discretionary Rate Relief Policy was reviewed by the Corporate Resources Sub-Committee on 3 October 2000 (Minute 366/2000) and the recommendations contained are now used when considering future applications.
- 2.5 These recommendations included many of the national guidelines which were issued by the Central Government in 1989.

### **3 HAMELIN TRUST – RESIDENTIAL RESPITE CARE HOME, SUTTON BRIDGE FARM, SUTTON ROAD, ROCHFORD**

- 3.1 The Hamelin Trust have since 13 July 1999 owned the above Respite Centre and have applied for 80% Mandatory and 20% (top-up) Rate Relief from their Business Rate liability from the date it opened, being 11 October 1999.

- 3.2 The Trust is a registered charity and has its primary object as:-

The promotion of relief to people of all ages who have learning Disabilities (mental handicap) and/or physical disability and/or are suffering mental distress.

- 3.3 The premises at Sutton Bridge Farm contain 8 bedrooms with communal bathroom, toilet, dining and lounge facilities. A minimum of 3 staff are always in attendance 24 hours a day.
- 3.4 Persons attending the Respite Centre will have been recommended by Social Services, GP's and some attend privately. Funding for residency in the accommodation is provided by Social Services or by those attending privately.
- 3.5 The major sources of funding for the Trust are from their Charity Shops and Lottery Awards.
- 3.6 A similar Respite Centre is provided by the Trust within the Basildon District Council area.
- 3.7 In meeting the recommendations for Rate Relief below, the Head of Service has taken into account the main objects and purposes of the organisation and also present Council policy.
- 3.8 The Head of Service reminds Members that no previous applications have been received for Discretionary Relief from Respite Centres in the District although the Hamelin Trust received 80% Mandatory Relief on their storage premises at 12 Rose Way until 17/7/00.

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|---|---|
| • Rateable Value                                    | 1995 list - £15,000<br>2000 list - £23,800  |
| • Rate Charge                                       | 1999/2000 - £3,467.09<br>2000/2001 - £8,342.65<br>2001/2002 - £9,910.65   |
| • Registered Charity                                | - Yes   |
| • Registration Number                               | - 1004432   |
| • Is Membership open to all Sections of the Public? | - Available to all  |
| • Mandatory Relief Granted                          | - Under delegated authority 80% has been granted with effect from 11 October 1999 being the date the premises was first occupied. |
| • Discretionary Relief granted                      | Recommended that 20% Top-up Relief be granted from 11 October 1999  |

**4 FIRST HAWKWELL SCOUT GROUP – SCOUT HUT, IRONWELL LANE, HOCKLEY, ESSEX**

4.1 In addition to their premises in White Hart Lane, Hawkwell, where they hold their weekly meetings, they also have new premises at Ironwell Lane Hawkwell which is used for the storage of their camping equipment and used as a workshop by the Scouts on special projects.

4.2 The Head of Service reminds Members that it has always been Council policy to top-up the Mandatory Rate Relief for all Scouts Groups and this is reflected in the recommendation that follows.

- Rateable Value - £2,425
- Rate Charge
  - 1999/2000 £ 581.99
  - 2000/2001 £1,117.96
  - 2001/2002 £1,097.11
- Membership open to all sections of the Community - Yes
- Aims - To promote the Scouting Movement within the District
- Mandatory Relief Granted. - Under delegated authority 80% has been granted with effect from 1 October 1999
- Discretionary Relief Granted - Recommended 20% Top-up with effect from 1 October 1999 in line with Council Policy.

**5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None.

**6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There is no charge on the general fund where Mandatory Relief is granted.

6.2 If Discretionary Rate Relief is granted, for which there is budget provision, to the applicants reported upon, the costs to the General Rate fund would be as follows:-

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Hamelin Trust	£ 520	1999/2000
	£1,251	2000/2001
	£1,487	2001/2002
1 <sup>st</sup> Hawkwell Scout Group	£ 87	1999/2000
	£168	2000/2001
	<u>£165</u>	2001/2002
Total	<u>£3678</u>	

## **7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Section 47 Local Government Finance Act 1988 provides Local Authorities with the power to reduce or remit the Business Rate liability.

## **8 PARISH IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 If relief were granted, it may help to ensure that the facilities provided by the applicants remain within the Community.

## **9 RECOMMENDATION**

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That Discretionary Rate Relief be granted as follows:-

- Hamelin Trust – 20% (top up) Rate Relief from 11 October 1999
- 1<sup>st</sup> Hawkwell Scout Group – 20% (top up) Relief from 1<sup>st</sup> October 1999.

S J Clarkson

Head of Revenue and Housing Management

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**Background Papers:**

Application forms from the two applicants.

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