

Item no.

Report to: **Executive**
Date: **30th August 2005**
Report of: **Director of Finance and Corporate Services**
Subject: **Discretionary Rate Relief - National Non Domestic Rates**
Ward: **All**

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To consider new applications for discretionary rate relief and the recommendations of the Rate Relief Panel which met on the 25th July 2005.

2.0 Consultation

2.1 In preparing the report I have consulted with the Head of Financial Management.

3.0 Background

3.1 Applications have been considered by the Rate Relief Panel in accordance with Sections 43, 45, 47 and 49 of the Local government Finance act 1998 and appropriate guidance provided by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

3.2 Appendix 1 lists the applications and type of relief considered.
The recommendations in terms of the percentage and the amount of the relief are included on the schedule.

4.0 Position Statement and Optional Appraisal

4.1 New applications for discretionary relief were considered on merit by the Rate Relief Panel in line with appropriate guidance from the ODPM.

5.0 Implications

5.1 Financial

5.1.1 If the recommendations are accepted a total of £12,300.51 will be borne by the Council increasing the running total of relief to £68,192.70 in 2005/06, which is within the current budget provision.

Item no.

5.1.2 For information purposes the total granted to date is the equivalent of £2.65 for Band D and £1.77 for Band A properties.

5.2 Legal

5.2.1 There are no legal implications.

5.3 Policy

5.3.1 Declarations of Interest (Items 3,10 and17*)

Councillor Napier declared an interest in items 3 and 10 and the Principal Rating & Income Officer declared an interest in item 17.

The recommendations in these cases were agreed by the remainder of the panel.

5.4 Risk Assessment

5.4.1 A risk assessment has been completed and the necessary actions required to manage the identified risks have been implemented.

Applications for discretionary rate relief are partly funded by the District's taxpayers.

5.4.2 Failure to consider rate relief applications on a regular basis may result in the issue of incorrect rate bills and delays in ratepayer notifications regarding their rate relief entitlement.

5.4.3 Any delay could also impact on the authorities National non-domestic collection rate which is directly associated with the national performance indicator (BVPI 10).

5.5 Communications

5.5.1 There are no communication implications.

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 There are no corporate, equality and diversity, e-govt. or procurement implications.

7.0 Recommendation

7.1 To approve the applications as set out in the report.

Item no.

Background Papers

1. Report to the Rate Relief Panel on the 25th July 2005.
2. ODPM guidance notes on non-domestic rate relief.
3. District of Easington Risk Assessment

RR-DB/THB/CS