

EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE**DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF SUB-COMMITTEE**

A record of the decisions made at the meeting of the Discretionary Rate Relief Sub-Committee held on Wednesday, 29 June 2016, at 11.07 a.m.

Present

Councillors

Giles Archibald	Leader of the Council and Promoting South Lakeland Portfolio Holder
Jonathan Brook	Housing and Innovation Portfolio Holder
David Fletcher	Environment Portfolio Holder

Officers

Michael Fisher	Revenues and Benefits Services Manager
Nicola Hartley	Acting Solicitor to the Council
Ross McLaughlin	Revenues Officer (BIDS and Reliefs)
Paul Rogers	Assistant Committee Services Officer

DRR/1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – That Councillor Jonathan Brook be elected Chairman for the meeting.

DRR/2 APOLOGIES AND RECONSTITUTION OF MEMBERSHIP

There were no apologies and there had been no changes in the membership of the Sub-Committee, and therefore reconstitution of membership was not necessary.

DRR/3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED – That it be noted that no declarations of interest were raised.

DRR/4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUDED ITEMS

RESOLVED – That it be noted that there are no excluded items on the Agenda.

DRR/5 DETERMINATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF**Summary**

Consideration was given to applications for Discretionary Rate as detailed in the report.

At the Chairman's discretion, Derek Hurton, on behalf of the applicant, spoke with regard to the application. He emphasised that although Rydal Hall was a Limited Company, it was non-profit making. He informed the Sub-Committee that any money generated by the Company was utilised to help the charitable side of Rydal Hall but conceded that the company did trade and was in competition with other providers.

Decision***RESOLVED - That***

(1) Discretionary Rate Relief be refused in respect of Rydal Hall Ltd (account no. 53070267) as their application is not in line with the Council's policy, in that the organisation does not sufficiently benefit residents of the district, considering the cost that awarding relief would place on the Council, and as its main objects are not charitable; and

(2) 20 per cent Discretionary Rate Relief be awarded to the following organisations, as the benefits that these organisations bring to the residents of the district outweigh the cost of awarding relief:-

- ***Leonard Cheshire Disability (account no. 51732881);***
- ***Lunesdale Agricultural Society (account no. 50167481); and***
- ***South Lakes Citizens' Advice Bureau (account nos. 53086627, 53086643 and 53086651).***

Reasons for Decision

The award of discretionary rate relief to charitable organisations and other non-profit making organisations is to help achieve the priorities and targets set out in the Council Plan.

The application from Rydal Hall Ltd is not in line with Council Policy as it does not sufficiently benefit residents of the district, considering the cost that awarding relief would place on the Council, and its main objectives are not charitable.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

The alternative for Rydal Hall Ltd would be to approve the application but this is not recommended for reasons already stated.

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Discretionary Rate Relief
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The alternative for Leonard Cheshire Disability, Lunesdale Agricultural Society and South Lakes Citizens' Advice Bureau would be to refuse the applications but this is not recommended as this would not be in accordance with the Council's policy.

The meeting ended at 11.31 a.m.