

**Meeting date:** 12 September 2018  
**Report to:** Cabinet Member for Resources and Delivering Value



**Subject/report title:** Applications for Discretionary Rate Relief  
**Report from:** Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive  
**Report author/lead contact officer:** Louise Lynch, Income Operations Manager  
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**Wards affected:**

All Wards |  Bickenhill |  Blythe |  Castle Bromwich |  Chelmsley Wood |  
 Dorridge/Hockley Heath |  Elmdon |  Kingshurst/Fordbridge |  Knowle |  
 Lyndon |  Meriden |  Olton |  Shirley East |  Shirley South |  
 Shirley West |  Silhill |  Smith's Wood |  St Alphege

**Public/private report:** Public

**Exempt by virtue of paragraph:** N/A

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**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 To consider the applications for discretionary rate relief as detailed in the appendices attached to this report.

**2. Decision(s) recommended**

2.1 The Cabinet Member is asked to consider the applications for discretionary rate relief for the premises listed in the Appendices to this report.

(i) Determine the percentage of relief to be granted.

(ii) Determine the duration of the relief (up to a maximum of 2 years).

(iii) If the relief is not allowed, please provide the reason for the decision.

**3. What is the issue?**

3.1 Discretionary relief is governed by Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988; the intention is that the relief supplements the provisions concerning mandatory relief. The organisations which it is intended should qualify are charities and organisations of prescribed types.

3.2 Legislation enables the Council to grant up to 20% discretionary relief, to top up the

80% mandatory relief already awarded to a registered charity. 100% relief can be considered for organisations who are not registered charities but are not for profit.

From 2017/18, the Council has been involved in a full business rates retention pilot with the other West Midlands metropolitan authorities, so the Council will bear 99% of the cost of any discretionary rate/mandatory relief granted for periods funded from 1 April 2017, with the remaining 1% funded by the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority.

#### **4. What options have been considered and what is the evidence telling us about them?**

- 4.1 Each application for relief is supported by a score card (which can be seen in the appendices). The purpose of each score card is to ensure relief is awarded to those charities and not for profit organisations who are most in need, for example small, local organisations who have limited funds who work with the Council to support residents.

#### **5. Reasons for recommending preferred option**

- 5.1 The reasons for each recommendation can be seen on the scorecard for each applicant.

#### **6. Implications and Considerations**

- 6.1 Delivery of the Council's priorities:

How will the options/proposals in this report contribute to the delivery of the key themes in the Council Plan?

- Build Stronger Communities – to support small, local organisations who have limited funds who work with the Council to support residents

- 6.2 Implications for children and young people, vulnerable groups and particular communities:

- 6.2.1 The client group each applicant supports can be seen in the appendices.

- 6.3 Consultation and Scrutiny:

- 6.3.1 This report has not been presented to scrutiny.

- 6.3.2 Financial implications:

- 6.3.3 The Council has a budget of £62,410 to fund discretionary rate relief. The cost of relief in 2018/19 to date has amounted to £28,569.35 (leaving £33,840.65 available to allocate). If all four applications are agreed in line with their recommendations, this would leave £19,421.48.

- 6.4 Legal implications:

- 6.4.1 None

6.5 Risk implications:

6.5.1 Assessment identified there are no net "red" risks that need to be reported.

6.6 Statutory Equality Duty:

6.6.1 There are no equality implications.

**7. List of appendices referred to:**

7.1 Appendix 1- The Get A Head Charitable Trust

7.2 Appendix 2 – This Way Up Youth Project

7.3 Appendix 3 – The Real Junk Food Project

7.4 Appendix 4 – Jubilee Church Solihull

**8. Background papers used to compile this report**

8.1 None

**9. List of other relevant documents**

9.1 None