

Extract of minute:

RESOURCES DSP – 24TH NOVEMBER 2005

46. REVIEW OF DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF SCHEME

The Revenues Manager reminded the DSP that the Council had decided to disinvest in discretionary rate relief. Registered charities would receive mandatory rate relief of 80%. Organisations not registered as charities could receive up to 75% discretionary rate relief; these groups would be encouraged to apply for charity status. Organisations had been sent written notice advising them that the scheme is likely to change. Panel Members discussed the potential effects of changing the system on village halls and agreed that they should be encouraged to apply for charity status. It was suggested that village hall committees did not realise the potential rate charges they could face. No condition could be imposed to stop people applying for discretionary rate relief or top-up. Each organisation would need to apply and applications would be judged on the merits of each case. The Panel agreed that there would need to be ruled in place should an organisation appeal against a decision.

CONCLUSIONS: The Panel recommends that: 1. The new Discretionary Rate Relief Scheme should be adopted with effect from 1st April 2006; 2. All awards for Discretionary Rate Relief and Mandatory Rate Relief are delegated to the Revenues Manager; 3. Appeals are dealt with by the Corporate Director of Finance and Strategic Resources in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Finance plus three members of the Resources DSP.