

Appendix A

Local Government Finance Act 1988 – Applications for Discretionary Rate Relief

1. The Newcastle Co-Operative Learning Trust , Ostend Place, Newcastle, Staffordshire, ST5 2QY

The Newcastle Co-operative Learning Trust is the former Westlands County Primary School and as part of a registered Academic Trust it already receives 80% mandatory relief.

The majority of educational establishments are unable to claim any rate relief but for various reasons, a number are able to register as charities or academies and receive 80% mandatory relief. It is your usual practice to grant no further discretionary relief in these cases.

The gross rates payable for the current financial year will be £9760.50 reduced to £1952.10 by academy status.

Recommendation: That no additional discretionary rate relief be granted.

2. Staffordshire Adults Autistic Society, 15 Andrew Place, Newcastle, Staffordshire, ST5 1DL

Staffordshire Adults Autistic Society is a registered charity and as such already receives 80% mandatory charity relief. It occupies 15 Andrew Place to help to facilitate its work in promoting and protecting the physical and mental health of adults on the ASD spectrum by providing support, practical advice and recreational facilities and raising awareness of the condition.

It is your usual practice to grant such an organisation 5% additional discretionary rate relief, to the mandatory charity relief it already receives.

SAAS have been in occupation of 15 Andrew Place since 2 June 2014. The gross rates payable for the current financial year will be £1720.54, reduced to £344.11 by mandatory charity relief. Granting 5% discretionary rate relief would further reduce this amount by £86.03 to £258.08 at a cost to the Borough Council of £24.09.

Recommendation: That additional discretionary rate relief at 5% is granted.

3 Cinders's Hub CIC 9-10 Lancaster Buildings, Newcastle, Staffordshire, ST5 1PG

Cinders's Hub CIC is a newly established Community Interest Company limited by guarantee which was created on 30 July 2014.

They have negotiated a short term lease on 9-10 Lancaster Buildings, Newcastle, from 29 September 2014 to 24 December 2014 and intend to use the premises as an 'Artisans Market' until the Christmas period with the possibility of extending the enterprise if successful.

In trying to establish the value of this particular business to the area over and above other service providers Cinder's Hub were asked to state if there were any special service delivery items that make their business unique or meriting special consideration. They state that: *"the Hub is a centre, a meeting place, a venue and an affordable outlet for artists and artisans to show and sell their creations to the enjoyment of the public. These creations could range from a poetic or musical composition, a painting, a piece of furniture, a cupcake or a sausage. The variety, diversity and uniqueness of the stock should generate steady turnover and footfall from the locality and further afield. The Hub aims to complement the general shopping experience of Newcastle by employing co-operative, ethical and fair trading principles"*.

The gross rates for the period 29 September 2014 to 24 December 2014 is £3331.74. However as the property has been empty for nearly 2 years the new occupier will qualify for Reoccupation Relief of 50% of the charge reducing the amount to £1665.87. They will also qualify for retail relief of £238.37 leaving £1427.50 to be paid.

Recommendation: That no additional discretionary rate relief be granted.