
Report to: Clackmannanshire Council

Date of Meeting: 14 September 2023

Subject: Community Amateur Sports Clubs – Non Domestic Rates Relief

Report by: Chief Finance Officer/S95 Officer

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is for Council to determine a policy position for Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) Non Domestic Rates (NDR) relief.

2.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1. Approve a policy of 100% NDR relief for eligible Community Amateur Sports Clubs in Clackmannanshire, backdated no earlier than November 2022;
- 2.2. Agree the use of £5,123 from un-earmarked general reserves to fund the policy in the current year, 2023/24 and any eligible backdate element from November 2022 to 31 March 2023; and
- 2.3. Notes that it will be required to agree a demand pressure of approximately £4,100 at the forthcoming budget; should this not be possible, the policy would not be funded from 1 April 2024 onwards, and as such, would revert to the mandatory NDR relief position.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. An eligible Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) is entitled to NDR mandatory relief of up to 80% fully funded from the national rates pool. Whether 100% relief is applied to CASCs is at the discretion of each local authority.
- 3.2. Both Falkirk and Stirling Council have policies to award an additional discretionary relief to the 80% mandatory relief, providing 100% NDR relief to CASCs. Clackmannanshire Council does not have a similar policy; therefore, relief is currently limited at the mandatory 80% relief level.
- 3.3. The Scottish Government brought in a number of changes in business rates system on 1 April 2023. This included revaluation and changes to the Small Business Bonus, which has negatively impacted on some of our CASCs.

Following representation from a local CASC, officers have investigated the implications of aligning Clackmannanshire Council's policy with that of our Forth Valley neighbours.

- 3.4. There are currently 6 eligible CASCs with a Rateable Value of over £12,000 in Clackmannanshire that are likely to benefit from providing discretionary NDR relief. These are all amateur golf, rugby or bowling clubs. Should Council agree the proposal, there will be engagement with beneficiaries to encourage inclusive approaches that provide or enhance health and well-being benefits within the community consistent with the Council's Sport and Active Living Framework, and all four Local Outcome Improvement Plan outcomes.
- 3.5. If Council agreed to provide 100% relief for CASCs, it could claim 75% of the additionality (that is, the element above the 80% mandatory element) from the national pool, with a necessity to fund the remainder from its own resources (that is, 25% of the additionality above 80% mandatory element). As such, the annual cost to the Council of providing 100% relief to eligible CASCs is currently estimated to be in the region of £4,100 per annum. This is not budgeted, therefore, should Council agree to the recommendations in this report, the Chief Finance Officer has assessed that the only viable option would be to allocate a sum from un-earmarked reserves for 2023/24. There would also be a necessity for Council to agree a similar demand pressure to fund the policy in the 2024/25 budget and onwards.
- 3.6. It should be noted that potential beneficiaries may be eligible for a backdate element to November 2022 should Council agree the policy, the cost of which would be approximately £1000. Whilst there is no current indication of a likely marked increase in eligible CASCs in future years, Council should be aware that should this change; there would be a corresponding ongoing increased cost.
- 3.7. Should Council agree the recommendations in this report, officers will make contact and work with the eligible beneficiaries to facilitate the policy change.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. None

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. Financial Details

- 5.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes

- 5.3. Finance has been consulted and has agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes

5.4. Staffing

6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1. Is this report exempt? No

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential

Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish

(2) **Council Policies**(Please detail)

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1. Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?
Yes No (Not applicable)

9.0 Legality

9.1. It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices

10.1. Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

None

11.0 Background Papers

11.1. Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

No (please list the documents below)

Author(s)

| NAME | DESIGNATION | TEL NO / EXTENSION |
|-----------------|--|---------------------------|
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| Stuart Crickmar | Strategic Director Partnership & Performance | 2127 |

Approved by

| NAME | DESIGNATION | SIGNATURE |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Lindsay Sim | Chief Finance Officer |  |
| Stuart Crickmar | Strategic Director Partnership & Performance |  |