

Executive decision taken by Leader



Lewes District Council

Pro-forma for completion in respect of executive decisions taken by Leader of the Council.

** If matter includes exempt information, complete addendum section of pro-forma (found separately on the Hub).*

Decision taken by:

Councillor Smith, Leader of the Council

Date of decision:

3 January 2019

Subject of report:

Discretionary rate relief

Exempt matter (if any as given under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972):

Not applicable

Key decision?:

Non-key

Open summary of decision made:

To decline request for 20% 'top-up' discretionary rate relief to:
Brighton & Hove Wood Recycling Project – Community Wood Recycling

Reason(s) for decision:

The Council has set a Policy for the award of 'top-up' rate relief to registered charities. New applications can be received at any time of the year. Once awarded, rate relief remains in place until the end of the financial year. An annual review takes place to ensure that the circumstances of the organisation have not changed significantly and, if not, rate relief will continue for a further year.

The applicant has put forward a case for the award of relief but has unfortunately not met the criteria to be able to award the relief.

The policy states that 'The Council will award 20% 'top-up' relief to its key partners which are registered charities, or non-profit making organisations that enable membership and participation from all sectors of the community'. Community Wood recycling are not registered as a charity, although they could be considered a non-profit making organisation.

The storage facility based in Lewes is purely a storage facility and does not provide services or activities that would involve participation from all sections of the Lewes community. Organisations and charities are required to be activity based, we would not consider the venue as being used to provide or facilitate activities to the wider public.

The total annual cost of the top-up relief to the Council will be £1,942.51.

Alternative options considered:

To award discretionary rate relief.

Was an executive councillor(s) consulted before decision was taken?

Not applicable

If councillor(s) consulted, did they declare any personal interest relating to the decision, had they been given a dispensation in respect of the matter?

Not applicable

Signed:

Andy Suisse