

**CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET – DATED 20 August 2012**

<b>Scrutiny Committee and date</b>	<b>Cabinet Agenda item No.</b>	<b>Cabinet Report Title</b>	<b>Comments/Recommendations</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>
Corporate 4 September 2012	5	Review of Discretionary Rate Relief Policy	<p>The Committee noted the schedule containing the names of all the ratepayers that would be affected by a change in policy on legacy protection. However, It was reported that 2 organisations had not received the correspondence and could not therefore have responded. The Director of Finance and Business Services was requested by the Committee to double check that all of the organisations had in fact been written to. The committee contended that the impact on individual organisations was likely to be variable and needed to be taken into account.</p> <p>The Committee was also informed that the review would realise savings of £3,590. However it was explained that the intention of the policy review was to ensure a fair and equitable policy for all existing and future rate payers. It was noted by the Committee that in cases of genuine hardship, there were discretionary powers which enabled the Council to award rate relief.</p> <p>The Committee concluded that although it supported the principle of reviewing the policy to remove legacy arrangements, it suggested that as there were likely to be consequences for the Council, such as potential additional requests for relief under the hardship rules which may outweigh any savings accrued under the current policy review proposals, these issues needed to be addressed and quantified before Cabinet makes a formal decision.</p> <p>RESOLVED - That although the Committee supports the principle of reviewing existing legacy arrangements in relation to discretionary rate relief, Cabinet is requested to investigate further the consequences of removing legacy protection, to ensure that any savings made are not outweighed by additional costs being borne by the Council in relation to cases of hardship.</p>	Peter Raynes