

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE NON-KEY DECISION

Decision Taken By: Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing	Decision Number: D240011MEM
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Date: 16 January 2024

Decision(s) and Reason(s)
APPLICATION FOR HARDSHIP RELIEF
Following consideration of an application for hardship relief, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing resolved that: (1) in respect of the application from Cave Direct Ltd, Units B9 & 10, Larkfield Trading Estate, New Hythe Lane, Larkfield, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 6SW, £10,000 hardship relief be awarded to partly offset the loss of CARF (Covid 19 Additional Relief Fund) Relief following a revaluation of the property.
Reasons for decision: (1) The fall in profit was not considered to be solely due to the business rate change. Other factors such as staff and internet cost increases and a reduction in sales, all contributed to this. (2) It was felt the ratepayer's agent should have undertaken more due diligence when submitting the appeal to the Valuation Office which would have identified the potential loss of CARF relief. (3) It was felt the full amount of hardship relief claimed (£30,863.36) was not appropriate for the reasons mentioned. However, as this is a local business, that had been trading in Larkfield for 24 years and who employed many people from the local area, it was decided an award of £10,000 was appropriate. (4) The relief is awarded in accordance with Section 49 Local Government Finance Act 1988. (5) The cost to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is £4,000.

Signed Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing:	K Tanner
Signed Leader:	M Boughton
Signed Interim Chief Executive:	A Stanfield
Date of publication:	16 January 2024

This decision will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of 5 working days after publication unless it is called in.