

## **CURRENT GUIDELINES FOR AWARDING DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF**

### **SOCIAL CLUBS**

The Council will offer relief to organisations where membership is open to the community. The Council will normally require affiliation to a body such as the CIU (Club and Institute Union) to demonstrate open access.

For such organisations the Council will provide 10% relief.

### **SPORTING ORGANISATIONS**

The Council will investigate the possibility of obtaining mandatory relief for sporting organisations by advising them on the steps required to obtain Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) status through HM Revenues & Customs.

The amount of relief offered to sporting organisations will reflect the extent to which organisations extended their facilities to the public and priority groups in particular. In the case of CASC registered organisations the amount of discretionary rate relief refers to the balance net of mandatory relief.

Organisations, which restrict membership, will not receive support

Organisations which provide sporting facilities for the general public but have limited involvement with priority groups will receive **10% (Category 1)**.

Where organisations have more extensive involvement with priority groups, such as through youth teams, they will receive **25% (Category 2)**.

Organisations which have taken special steps to assist the Community, for instance by making facilities available to schools or in partnership with the Directorate of Learning and Leisure will receive **50% (Category 3)**.

### **OTHER ORGANISATIONS WHOSE MAIN OBJECTS ARE CHARITABLE OR OTHERWISE PHILANTHROPIC OR RELIGIOUS OR CONCERNED WITH EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE, SCIENCE LITERATURE OR THE FINE ARTS**

The Council will investigate the possibility of obtaining relief for organisations with charitable aims by advising them on the steps required to obtain charitable status.

*For those organisations which are not currently registered as charities, or which are ineligible, the amount of discretionary relief awarded will reflect the extent to which organisations extend their facilities to the public and priority groups in particular.*

Organisations, which restrict membership, will not receive support

Organisations which provide facilities for the general public but have limited involvement with priority groups will receive **10% (Category 1)**.

Where organisations have more extensive involvement with priority groups, such as young persons, the elderly and disabled, they will receive **25% (Category 2)**.

Organisations which have taken special steps to assist the Community, for instance by making facilities available to schools or in partnership with Leeds City Council will receive **50% (Category 3)**.

For those organisations which are registered as charities, discretionary relief may be awarded in addition to mandatory relief for the following organisations

Scout and Guiding Associations – 50%

Leeds based charities occupying a single property with a rateable value under £5,000, excluding shops – 50%

## **Hospices**

Applications will be considered from hospices that meet the following criteria;

Leeds based charities that provide buildings based palliative and end of care services, applications to be in respect of premises where hospice type services are provided. – 100% relief of the net balance

## **Social Enterprises**

The Council will offer relief to organisations which are recognised as social enterprises.

The amount of relief offered to Social Enterprises will reflect the extent to which organisations extended their facilities to the public and priority groups in particular.

A social enterprise is defined as a company which reinvests its profits for a social purpose as opposed to redistributing them. This enables them to meet the not for profit requirement of section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

Any application for relief must include copies of the organisation's constitution or Articles of Association, which must include statements to the effect that:

- 1 Any surplus raised by the organisation will be reinvested into a social purpose and not distributed to the owners, members or shareholders
- 2 Upon dissolution any remaining assets should be transferred to an organisation with similar aims and not distributed amongst the owners, members or shareholders.

Organisations, which restrict membership, will not receive support

Organisations which provide a service which is of benefit to the general public but have limited involvement with priority groups will receive **10% (Category 1)**.

Organisations provide a service which is of benefit to the general public and have more involvement with priority groups will receive **25% (Category 2)**.

Organisations which provide a service which is of benefit to the general public and which have extensive involvement with priority groups will receive **50% (Category 3)**.

Organisations which meet the criteria for category 3 relief and are in the first year of trading will receive relief of **80%** for the first twelve months.

Relief will be awarded up to the end of the financial year in which the application is received and a new application will be required for subsequent financial years.

Determination of the category of relief will be on the recommendation of the Business and Enterprise Team