



## **SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **Promoting Pride in our Communities**

#### **Business Rates Charitable Rate Relief Application Guidance**

##### **What is Charitable Rate Relief?**

It is a relief scheme that allows rates bills to be reduced for charitable and non-profit making organisations.

##### **What organisations may Qualify?**

If your organisation is a registered charity, and the property concerned is used wholly or mainly for charitable works, then you may be entitled to 80% relief.

If your organisation is not a charity, but is another type of non-profit making organisation, the Council still has discretion to award relief. To qualify, your organisation must be charitable, religious or concerned with education, social welfare, science, literature, or the property must be used by a non-profit making organisation and used wholly or mainly for recreation purposes.

##### **How do I Apply?**

Complete an application form and return to South Kesteven District Council.

If there is insufficient space on the form and you would like to add additional information then you can attach additional sheets if you wish.

##### **Factors Considered when Assessing your Application**

- (a) **Whether the application satisfies the legal requirements.**

The Authority cannot award relief to any organisation that does not meet the legal requirements of Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

**(b) Which aspects of the Council's Priorities would be met by the award of Discretionary Rate Relief?**

Relief will only be awarded to organisations that show they are helping the Authority to achieve its ambitions. These are: -

- Anti-social behaviour (a local priority)
- Access to Council services (a future issue)
- Recycling (a national priority)
- Street Scene (a local priority)
- Town-Centre regeneration and the development of Grantham as a sub-regional centre (a local priority).

**(c) Whether the ratepayer is in direct competition with other ratepayers in the immediate vicinity or outside the District**

The Authority would not wish to give any organisation a competitive advantage by the award of rate relief.

**(d) The benefit the ratepayer brings to the residents of the District**

The Authority needs to ensure that the award of Discretionary Rate Relief is to the benefit of the wider population of the South Kesteven District. Any ratepayer who is customer based or whose membership comes from largely outside the District's boundaries is unlikely to qualify for relief unless they can prove a sound case for a specific and unequivocal benefit to residents of the District.

**(e) The cost to the Council Tax payer**

The cost to the Council Tax payer of awarding relief varies from 25% to 75% of the relief granted. The Authority will need to be satisfied that value for money is being provided, bearing in mind the subsidy from the General Fund which an organisation will receive.

**(f) Whether the ratepayer is a local organisation, or a branch of a national organisation**

The Authority will need to consider the overall benefit to the community of the organisation and what effect the award of rate relief will have upon the organisation.

If the benefit of the rate relief is kept locally, the relief is more likely to be awarded than if it goes to a national organisation which is based elsewhere.

(g) **Membership costs**

The cost of membership should not be used as a means to restrict membership.

(h) **Whether the organisation actively promotes representation from disadvantaged or under-represented groups in the community**

Organisations which do so are more worthy of rate relief.

(i) **Whether membership is determined by the votes of existing members**

Where an organisation determines membership based on the election by existing members this could be construed as restriction. Such organisations will need to be carefully evaluated as to whether they should receive rate relief.

(j) **Whether the organisation provides training or education for its members**

An organisation which provides training packages or educational aspects for its members is more worthy of relief than one which does not.

(k) **Is the organisation or the facilities provided being funded largely by self-help rather than relying on full external funding?**

Whilst many organisations do depend on grant-aid and awards from statutory bodies, those which undertake fundraising themselves by various methods are probably more worthy of rate relief than those who do not make additional efforts.

(l) **Whether the organisation operates a bar**

An organisation which operates a bar is generating income, although this should not be confused with the self-help detailed in (k) above. There is no reason why discretionary rate relief should be awarded to give additional subsidy.

### **What if our Circumstances Change?**

If the aims and objectives of the organisation, or the use in which the premises are used for, change then the Council needs to be notified of this immediately.

All successful applications will be subject to a review every two years to ensure relief is still applicable.

**Further Information**

If you require further information then contact the Business Rates Section on (01476) 406256. Email [ndr@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:ndr@southkesteven.gov.uk)

**Where to send your Application Form**

South Kesteven District Council  
Business Rates Section  
Council Offices  
St Peter's Hill  
GRANTHAM  
Lincs  
NG31 6PZ