

## Appendix 2 Old Discretionary Rate Relief Policy

### **CHESTER-LE-STREET DISTRICT COUNCIL**

#### **POLICY ON THE GRANTING OF DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF**

##### **SECTION 47, LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988**

**With Effect From 1 April 2000**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Council has the power to grant discretionary rate relief to charities and voluntary organisations under the above Act. This policy sets out the manner in which applications for relief will be considered, the factors to be taken into account and rates of relief to be applied.

#### **2. Applications for Relief**

- 2.1 Applications for relief shall be made in writing and shall contain all the information required by the Council to determine the application. A new application will be required periodically by the Council to confirm continued entitlement to relief. Each application will be considered on its individual merits according to the criteria set out below.

#### **3. Criteria for Determining Applications**

- 3.1 The organisation's occupation of the property must comply with the requirements of section 47 of the above Act, and must fall into one of the following categories:
- A charity occupying the property for charitable purposes.
  - A property occupied for the purposes of an organisation not established or conducted for profit, whose main objects are charitable, philanthropic, or religious, or concerned with education, social welfare, science, literature, the fine arts or recreation.
- 3.2 The organisation should make a contribution to the amenities of the area by its occupation of the property upon which rate relief is sought.
- 3.3 Membership of the organisation or use of the facilities should be open to all sections of the community and fees should be at a level affordable by the community at large.
- 3.4 In the case of community groups, sports clubs, etc., the organisation should be able to show that it encourages participation from either the community at large or sections within the community with special needs.

- 3.5 If the property contains a bar, this should be ancillary to the provision of sporting or community activities.
- 3.6 While the occupation of the property should generally be to the benefit of the residents of the Chester-le-Street area, consideration will be given to organisations providing more specialised facilities of a regional nature provided the remaining principles set out above are fulfilled.
4. **Rates of Relief**
- 4.1 Charitable organisations, occupying the property for charitable purposes and in receipt of 80% mandatory relief, will be granted 20% discretionary relief if they meet the above conditions. Shops, administrative offices and other premises not providing any direct benefit to the community are unlikely to be granted discretionary relief.
- 4.2 Voluntary organisations not qualifying for mandatory (charitable) relief (sports clubs, etc.) will be granted 75% relief if they fulfil the above criteria.

February 2000