

NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL

REVENUE & BENEFIT SERVICE

POLICY FOR THE AWARDING OF DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF (28 MARCH 2008)

REVIEWED & EXTENDED BY CABINET ON 7 MARCH 2011

Section	Policy
1	In order for any relief to be granted an application for Discretionary Rate Relief must meet the statutory requirements contained in the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
2	Taking into account the guidance contained in this general policy, all applications received must be considered on their own merits.
3	(a) All applicants must complete an application form and state how their organisation contributes to at least one of the main aims and objectives of the Council as stated in the Council Plan, Local Area Agreement or any other such document as is in place at the time the application is received. (b) As long as this contribution is proved applicants shall receive the maximum available level of relief. (c) Provided evidence of exemption from Corporation Tax is supplied, an application from a Friendly Society or from an Industrial and Provident Society shall be treated as if it were submitted by a charity.
4	(a) In respect of office accommodation that is mainly used for administrative purposes rather than for the direct provision of services to the public, the level of Discretionary Relief shall be 50% of the amount available. (b) For the purposes of 4(a) above, "mainly" means more than 50% of the floor area of the hereditament.
5	Community Amateur Sports Clubs shall be granted the maximum level of relief from the date of entry on the appropriate register until such time as that registration ceases.
6	Sports Clubs that are a Registered Charity shall be granted the maximum level of relief from the date of entry on the appropriate register until such time as that registration ceases.
7	Other Sports Clubs shall be awarded 50% relief but only where all of the following criterion are met <ul style="list-style-type: none">• membership is open to all sections of the community on an equitable

Section

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basis

- the Council considers membership subscription rates to be reasonable (different rates may apply to different levels of membership)
- the Club follows the principles of the Council's Corporate Equality Policy and Equality Schemes, and
- the Club actively promotes the sport, especially with local schools.

8 Community Interest Companies

Community Interest Companies that meet the statutory requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 shall be granted Discretionary Rate Relief at 50% of the sum payable provided

- the company is contributing to at least one of the Council's main aims and objectives as described in 3(a) above
- the total amount paid to the directors of the company by way of salary and other benefits does not exceed the retained surplus for the year immediately prior to the financial year for which the application is being considered.

9 Charity Shops

Unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the charity or to the vicinity in which the shop concerned is located, Discretionary Rate Relief shall not be granted in respect of a charity shop.

10 Educational Establishments and Training Organisations

Unless there are exceptional circumstances Discretionary Rate Relief shall not be granted to educational establishments and training organisations.

11 Church Schools

The maximum level of Discretionary Rate Relief shall be granted to Church Schools.

12 a) This policy is to apply with immediate effect for new applications and from 1 April 2009 for organisations receiving relief as at 31 March 2008.

b) This policy shall be reviewed at intervals of no more than 3 years.

13 Review of Individual Applications

On a rolling basis each successful application is to be reviewed within 3 years of the date of the initial application or of the last review.