

Discretionary Rates Relief Policy – Charities & Kindred organisations

1. This policy is to be used to calculate Discretionary Rates Relief for charities and kindred organisations. The Rateable Values mentioned relate to values in the 2005 Rating List.
2. Approval of 20% discretionary Rates Relief to top up mandatory charitable relief shall be considered for local charities, taking into consideration
 - the extent to which their activities meet the Council's corporate objectives
 - the extent to which Huntingdonshire residents benefit from their activities
 - the financial position of the applicant
 - the financial position of the District council.
3. Organisations which may qualify for mandatory relief under the Small Business Rates Relief scheme but have not applied for it shall be deemed to have up to 50% mandatory relief in accordance their entitlement under that scheme, and shall have their Discretionary Rates Relief calculated accordingly.
4. Qualifying organisations in occupation of premises with a Rateable Value of under £15,000 shall receive 80% discretionary relief.
5. Qualifying organisations in occupation of premises with a Rateable Value of £15,000 or more but below £25,000 shall receive 50% discretionary relief.
6. Qualifying organisations in occupation of premises with a Rateable Value of £25,000 or more shall not receive discretionary relief.
7. Unoccupied premises shall not qualify for Discretionary Rate Relief.
8. All applications will be considered on the merits of the individual case, and relief may be granted in exceptional cases where the rateable values exceed the above amounts.