

**CRITERIA USED FOR NON-PROFIT MAKING ORGANISATIONS IN ASSESSING ENTITLEMENT TO DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF**

Membership of the organisation must be drawn from people mainly resident in the Borough. If so, the following relief(s) will be awarded:

1. **Relief of 20%** will be awarded to an organisation actively encouraging membership from particular groups in the community e.g. young people, women, older age groups, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities etc. An organisation which encouraged such membership might expect more sympathetic consideration than one which made no effort to attract members from groups which the Council considered to be particularly deserving of support.
2. **Relief of 15%** will be awarded if the facilities are made available to people other than members, e.g. schools, casual public sessions, etc.
3. **Relief of 20%** will be awarded if an organisation provides training or education for its members. Are there schemes for particular groups to develop their skills, e.g. young people, the disabled, retired people?
4. **Relief of 20%** will be awarded if an organisation provides facilities which indirectly relieve the Council of the need to do so, or enhance and supplement those which it does provide.

The Council has followed good practice and adopted general policy guidelines and criteria against which new applications are considered. However, it is also most important that every case is considered on its own merits, and exceptional circumstances must always be taken into account in reaching a decision. The Council's discretion must be used fairly and a blanket policy must never be applied without proper regard to the facts in each case.