

Applications for Discretionary Rate Relief

Name of applicant	British Red Cross
Address of property concerned	Shop, 96 St Mary Street, Weymouth
What are the aims and objectives of the organisation?	To provide assistance to victims of armed conflicts; To work for the improvement of health, for the prevention of disease and for the prevention and alleviation of human suffering in the British Islands and throughout the world.
Is membership open to all sections of the community? How much is the membership fee?	Yes No fee is charged
Does the organisation provide training and education to its members? Are its facilities open to non members?	Yes
How does the organisation raise income? What funds are held?	Donations, grants fundraising and retail. The accounts for the year ended 31/12/16 show that income totalled £253.4m and expenditure £237m. The applicant had reserves of £166.8m as at 31/12/16. This is broken down into £115.5m unrestricted funds and £51.3m that is restricted.
What would be the cost to the Council if relief was awarded	The applicant already receives 80% Mandatory Rate Relief and is applying for Discretionary Rate Relief to be awarded from 01/04/17. If Discretionary Rate Relief was awarded in respect of the outstanding charge of £4,721.59, the cost to the Council would be £1,888.64.

Name of applicant	Steps Club for Young People
Address of property concerned	110 Chickerell Road, Weymouth
What are the aims and objectives of the organisation?	To provide young people with opportunities that are educational, developmental and preventative enabling them to grow to full maturity as healthy and responsible members of society.
Is membership open to all sections of the community? How much is the membership fee?	Yes within the age range 12-25 £3 annual membership (optional) Evening subscriptions: - £0.50 (Members); £1.00 (Non Members)
Does the organisation provide training and education to its members? Are its facilities open to non members?	Not formal but work undertaken is classed as "informal education" Yes
How does the organisation raise income? What funds are held?	Through fundraising events, grants, sponsorship and income from lettings. The accounts for the year ended 31/03/16 show income of £9,333.26 against expenditure of £2,518.25. Reserves at 31/03/16 total £25,432.36. The Club states it has £30,000 annual building costs to meet and aims to raise annual funds of £90,000 to meet these costs as well as the costs of employing staff to deliver its programme of youth work.
What would be the cost to the Council if relief was awarded	The applicant became liable to Rates from 01/09/16. It already receives 80% Mandatory Rate Relief and is applying for Discretionary Rate Relief to be awarded from 01/09/16. The charge (after Mandatory Rate Relief has been applied) is £1,602.11 (in respect of the period 01/09/16 to 31/03/17) and £2,524.23 (in respect of the period 01/04/17 to 31/03/18). Unfortunately, some of the information submitted in support of the application was delayed and only received in September 2017. Legislation does not permit Councils to backdate the award of

Discretionary Rate Relief to a previous year unless that decision is made within 6 months of the end of that year (i.e. in this case, 30/09/17). However, Committee may decide that it does not want the Council to pursue the charge for 2016/17 if it considers the case to be exceptional.

If Discretionary Rate Relief was awarded in respect of the charge of £2,524.23, the cost to the Council would be £1,009.69