

Merton Council Discretionary Rate Relief

The Council has the discretion to grant relief of up to 100% of the rates on properties occupied by certain non-profit making bodies or in the case of registered charities that are entitled to 80% mandatory relief, to top up to 100%.

Criteria

In deciding to grant discretionary relief the Council will look at:

- The services provided by the organisation are directly for the benefit of residents in the borough
- The contribution the organisation makes to the borough and its residents
- Organisations not established for profit whose objectives are charitable, philanthropic or social welfare
- How the organisations activities meet the Council's direction and vision for the borough through the Community Plan.

Children and Young People

Improving health outcomes

Maintaining robust safeguarding

Improving educational outcomes

Promoting the positive contribution

Promoting the economic wellbeing

Health and Wellbeing (previously Healthier Citizens)

Healthy living

Safeguarding

Citizenship and inclusion

Service delivery group

Sustainable Communities and Transport

Work to support economic growth, by increasing jobs and skills

Work to increase the supply of housing

Work towards carbon reduction

Work to increase investment

Work to improve sustainable transport provision

Safer and Stronger

Reduce the fear of crime

Reduce alcohol related violence and support those who are affected by alcohol misuse

Reduce anti-social behaviour and the effects of serious anti-social behaviour on communities as well as supporting individuals to find positive outcomes for local disputes

Reduce acquisitive crime by working with our communities to ensure that they keep their valuables safe

Reduce repeat victimisation of domestic violence victims

Develop the council's local leadership role and the capacity of the community and voluntary sector

Empower local people to have a greater choice and influence over local decision-making and a greater role in public service delivery

Increase community cohesion and integration

Applications

Written applications are required and any evidence requested by the Council must be provided

Discretionary rate relief will only be granted for 12 months and a new application will be required every year.

Cost to the Council Tax Payer

The budget for discretionary rate relief is limited and is partly funded by council tax payers and therefore the Council will need to be satisfied that there will be a benefit to the community by awarding relief. The Council will look at the financial status of the organisation and applications may be refused where funding is received elsewhere or it is considered that the organisation can meet the rates liability even though it is non-profit making or re-invests any surplus back into the organisation.

Subsidy Controls

Subsidy control regulations will be considered.

Timeframe

A decision will normally be made within four weeks of receiving all of the information required.

Cancellation of Relief

Relief will normally be allowed for a specified period (no more than 12 months) Relief will be cancelled at the end of each year unless a new application is received.

Relief will also be cancelled/reviewed if:

1. The ratepayer ceases to be liable for NNDR
2. The property becomes empty.(this change is a non relevant variation to our decision to grant)
3. There is a decrease or in the amount of rates payable relief will be recalculated based on lower charge

The ratepayer has an obligation to tell the Council where (1) to (3) applies.

Decision Making and Appeals

The Executive Director of Finance and Digital in conjunction with the Head of Revenues and will be responsible for approving all applications. There will be no right of appeal.

Description	Discretionary Relief Award
A. Local schools, and youth organisations such as Scouts, Guides etc., who provide formal facilities and activities for the young and who as charities receive the 80% mandatory relief (not including academies)	Up to 20%
B. Local charities providing direct or non direct facilities and/or help to the public, where Merton residents make up at least 80% of the overall local client base, and who as charities receive the 80% mandatory relief	Up to 20% direct services Up to 10% non direct services
C. Local charity <u>not</u> a registered charity, but is non-profit making and set up for charitable purposes for local residents where it can be demonstrated that the client base/customers is made up of at least 80% Merton Residents	Up to 90%
D. Branches of National Charities receiving 80% mandatory relief – where it can be demonstrated that the client base/customers is made up of at least 80% Merton Residents or there is a benefit to local residents	Up to 10%
E. Any other registered Charities receiving 80% mandatory relief– where it can be demonstrated that the client base/customers is made up of at least 80% Merton Residents	Up to 10%
F Sports Grounds and Social Clubs, who are not bona fide charities, whose membership is available to all, at an acceptable membership cost, may, provided Merton’s residents comprise more than 60% of membership	Up to 80%
G. Charity shops receiving 80% mandatory relief, which sell donated goods	Up to 10%