

<b>DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF – LIFELONG LEARNING &amp; CULTURE CRITERIA</b>
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**In order to qualify for Discretionary Rate Relief your organisation should meet all the criteria listed below. The total budget available for Discretionary Rate Relief is cash limited. If the total relief assessed exceeds the available budget, all payments will be reduced proportionately.**

1. Organisations must be working in one of the following areas:
  - Sport and Active Leisure
  - Arts and Culture
  - Heritage
  - Parks & Open Spaces
  - Children's play and young people's leisure
  - Events and festivals that contribute to a vibrant and cosmopolitan city culture
  
2. Organisations must be undertaking activities that contribute to one or more of our key outcome areas:
  - **Making York More Eventful** - More York residents and visitors will enjoy participating in, and taking the lead in cultural events and activities.
  - **Engagement in Learning** – More people will be supported into learning by providing opportunities for everyone to be part of a creative learning community, particularly focusing on the most disadvantaged.
  - **Being Healthy** – More residents will enjoy the good physical and mental health that comes from increased participation in active lifestyles.
  - **Supporting Stronger Communities** – Local communities will be supported to direct their own cultural activities and to take ownership of well maintained public spaces. Access will be open to all and we will enhance the quality of life of individuals and communities.
  - **Developing a Vibrant Cultural Infrastructure** – Residents will enjoy an increasingly thriving cultural sector and the economic benefits that flow from it.
  
3. The organisation's activities must actively increase participation amongst one or more of the target groups:
  - People with mental ill health, learning difficulties, physical or sensory impairments
  - Young people in care or living in transient families, young parents, young people who are bullied, and those who have low skills or are not in education, employment or training
  - Older people, particularly those living alone
  - Rough sleepers, homeless people
  - Carers

- People from black and minority ethnic (BME) communities, including asylum seekers, and travellers
  - People living in the most deprived neighbourhoods in York
4. Organisations must be non-profit making. Further, the level of their revenue reserves must not be in excess of:
- 10 times the amount of the gross rates payable, or
  - £10,000
- (whichever is the higher).

In assessing the level of reserves for this purpose, the assessment will be restricted to “free” reserves which are available in reasonably liquid form (e.g. not tied up in facilities) and are not required to meet legal requirements.

Higher reserves may be allowed if:

- your organisation can demonstrate that they are being kept for a specific, acceptable, development project, or
  - you have charitable status and your organisation's reserve policy meets the requirement of the Charity Commission or
  - it will be unable to pay the rates without putting its financial viability at risk.
5. Membership must be open all sections of the community. Organisations should provide some availability of facilities to non members e.g. schools or casual users, to encourage participation.
6. Any fees charged must be affordable. (“Affordable” will be interpreted as not being so expensive as to inhibit participation by the wider community. For example, consideration will be given to whether reduced fees are available to encourage younger and older participants and those on low incomes.)
7. Organisations must be primarily for the benefit of people who live or work in York, (i.e. at least 80% of users fall in this category). Organisations whose services are aimed at a wider audience and who do not meet this 80% threshold may be given assistance on a sliding scale based on the percentage of York users over the last 12 months.
- Organisations who do not meet the 80% threshold may be given up to 100% relief if they provide discounts for YorkCard holders in respect of their core services (as a minimum in line with the level of discount that the Council itself applies). This provision will not apply to any organisation that already receives grant funding from the Council which assists the organisation in providing YorkCard discounts.
8. Organisations must have a policy of equality which encourages access for people with disabilities and of different cultures and gender.
9. DRR may only be awarded to sports clubs who are either charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs).