

## POLICY

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### Grants

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## GRANTS TO ASSIST COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS IN TEMPORARY HARDSHIP TO PAY THEIR RATES

### 1 Introduction

This policy allows the Council to provide assistance by way of a payment towards rates to organisations that are experiencing hardship and that do not qualify for assistance from rates remission policies.

### 2 Policy Context

The Council may only provide rates relief in circumstances where it has a policy in place that authorises it to remit or postpone rates, or to make a grant.

### 3 Policy Objective

To provide temporary assistance to community organisations that exist primarily to provide recreational, sporting or community services that are experiencing hardship, by making a contribution of up to 50% towards the rates on land that they own that is used for recreational, sporting or community purposes.

### 4 Policy Statement

- 4.1** Grants may be available to assist community organisations to pay the rates on property that they own that is used for community purposes, where the organisation can demonstrate that the hardship is temporary and the organisation has a plan in place to become financially viable.
- 4.2** This policy does not apply to:
- (a) organisations operated for private pecuniary profit, or those which charge commercial tuition fees; or
  - (b) organisations where the primary purpose is to address the needs of adult members (over 18 years) for entertainment or social interaction, or that engage in recreational, sporting, or community services as a secondary purpose only.
- 4.3** Grants will be up to a maximum of 50% of the rates for which they are responsible.
- 4.4** Applications must be in writing and provide:

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- a statement of the organisations objectives
  - description of the governance structure
  - financial accounts for the last two years
  - information on activities and programmes
  - information on membership or clients, numbers of members and level of subscriptions
  - plans to improve the financial situation/viability of the organisation e.g. membership drives, and a timeframe for doing so
  - in the case of a repeat application under clause 4.7 evidence of progress made towards the plan to improve the financial situation of the organisation
  - financial account projection for 2 years.
- 4.5** A decision on whether or not a grant will be made is at the discretion of the Audit Committee.
- 4.6** Grants will be paid directly towards rates, and may be approved for one, two or three years.
- 4.7** At the end of each approval period in Clause 4.6 a further application may be made if the organisation continues to experience hardship.
- 4.8** Consideration by the Audit Committee will include factors such as:
- the level of rates on the rating unit
  - the extent to which the primary purpose of the ratepayer group is to provide services to disadvantaged groups (including children, youth, young families, aged people and economically disadvantaged people)
  - whether a grant will make membership of the organisation more accessible to the general public, in particular young persons and disadvantaged groups
  - the impact of the ratepayers activities on the social, cultural, economic or environmental well-being of the district
  - history of service to the residents of the district
  - rating status of similar groups
  - demonstration that the activities of the organisation benefit the community
  - survival of the organisation
  - level of use of the facilities
  - other areas of assistance that have been investigated
  - other types of assistance that the Council may already be providing

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- measures that have been taken to date to improve the financial situation of the organisation and evidence of a future plan to overcome the temporary hardship.

**4.9** Grants will be funded by General rates through the Grants budget.

### **5 Links to legislation, other policies and community outcomes**

Local Government Act 2002  
Local Government (Rating) Act 2002

Rates Remission Policy

### **6 Adopted by and date**

Draft for approval to take effect from 1 July 2013.

### **7 Review**

This policy will be reviewed in July 2019 or sooner on request.