

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

RATE RELIEF COMMITTEE

6 JULY 2009

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO LEADER – LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES – CHARITABLE RELIEF

KEY DECISION – NO

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise Members of further renewal applications received in respect of National Non-Domestic Mandatory and Discretionary Charitable Relief for the financial year commencing 1 April 2009.
- 1.2 To advise Members of new applications received in respect of National Non-Domestic Mandatory and Discretionary Charitable Relief for the financial years commencing 1 April 2008 and 1 April 2009.
- 1.3 To advise Members of new applications received in respect of National Non-Domestic Mandatory Charitable Relief for the financial years commencing 1 April 2008 and 1 April 2009.
- 1.4 To advise Members of a re-submitted application received in respect of National Non-Domestic Discretionary Relief for the financial year commencing 1 April 2009.
- 1.5 To advise Members of 2 re-submitted new applications received in respect of National Non-Domestic Mandatory and Discretionary Relief for the financial years commencing 1 April 2008 and 1 April 2009.
- 1.6 To note the action taken by the Head of Financial Management in approving applications for Mandatory Relief.
- 1.7 To consider and determine the granting of top-up Discretionary Relief from Non-Domestic Rates in respect of new and renewal applications for charities in receipt of Mandatory Relief.
- 1.8 To consider and determine the level of Discretionary Rate relief from Non-Domestic Rates in respect of the new and renewal applications for non-profit making organisations.

2. Recommendations

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">2.1 To consider the applications for discretionary relief on their merits, determine the amounts of discretionary relief to be granted (whilst considering the limited amount of budget to be spent, as referred to in the financial implications) and specify the basis on which any relief is refused.2.2 To note the action of the Head of Financial Management in awarding Mandatory Relief. |
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3. Conclusions and Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1 Officers will not recommend a rate of relief to be awarded in respect of particular applications. Members must treat each application on its own merits and have regard to the interests of Council Tax payers within the district.

4. Key Issues

- 4.1 Members are asked to determine the amount of relief to be awarded to each of the cases detailed in Annexes 2 – 8 having regard to the information provided in the applications and the interests of Council Tax payers within the district.

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Report Author Details:

Rob Wolfe, Local Taxation and Benefits Manager – Extension 4397

Section 1**5. Background**

5.1 The Rate Relief Committee, at its meeting held on 10 March 2009, considered a report on National Non-Domestic Rates - rate relief applications for the financial year commencing 1 April 2009. The Committee noted the action of the Head of Financial Management in awarding mandatory relief. The Committee then considered a consolidated list of applications from all those organisations requesting annual renewal of their Mandatory and/or Discretionary Charitable Relief for the financial year 2009/10. The Committee noted each of the renewal requests and determined whether or not to grant discretionary relief in line with the percentage relief granted at the beginning of or during the previous year. New applications were then considered separately on their merits.

5.2 When considering the level of discretionary relief to be awarded in each category for the financial year commencing 1 April 2009, Members should be mindful of the new framework which was approved by Cabinet on 20 November 2008. Cabinet agreed that in order to achieve the required savings of £8,000 then the currently levels of relief should be reduced as follow:

- organisations currently receiving 10% Top Up Rate Relief be reduced to 7%
- organisations currently receiving 25% Discretionary Rate Relief be reduced to 15%, and
- organisations currently receiving 75% Discretionary Rate Relief be reduced to 65%.

Notification has been sent to affected ratepayers to advise of the changes to discretionary rate relief entitlements from 1 April 2009.

5.3 Framework of Criteria

5.3.1 A framework of criteria for assessing eligibility for Discretionary relief was agreed by the Financial Sub-Committee on 9 February 1990. Details of the framework and a simplified précis, which Members might find useful, are attached to this report at **Annex 1** (pages 3 to 6).

5.3.2 Members may also wish to bear in mind the following points when considering applications for relief:-

- (a) in general, any reduction in the cost of administering a charity releases more funds to further the objects for which it exists, and
- (b) careful consideration should be given to bona fide cases for relief, taking into account the contribution which the organisation makes to the amenities of the area and
- (c) consideration should be given to the financial benefits of granting relief from rates as an offset against any annual assistance of grants given to clubs and organisations. In general, the cost to the Council taxpayer of granting rate relief may be less than cash grants.

Section 2**6. Details of Matters to be Considered**

6.1 **Annex 2** attached to this report contains 3 late renewals from Rugeley Rifle Club, Brereton Town Football Club and Greenheath Progressive WMC for Discretionary Relief for the financial year 2009/10.

- 6.2 **Annex 3** attached to this report details 2 late renewals from St Joseph's Community Centre and Wimblebury Community Services Association for Mandatory Relief and Discretionary Relief for the financial year 2009/10.
- 6.3 **Annex 4** attached to this report details 2 new applications from ADS (Addiction Dependency Solutions) and Birth Defects Foundation for Mandatory and Discretionary Relief for the financial years 2008/09 and 2009/10.
- 6.4 **Annex 5** attached to this report details 4 new applications from South Staffordshire College for Mandatory Relief for the financial years 2008/09 and 2009/10.
- 6.5 **Annex 6** attached to this report details 1 new application from Spiritia Home Improvement Agency for Mandatory Relief for the financial year 2009/10.
- 6.6 **Annex 7** attached to this report details 1 re-submitted application from Cannock Bowling Club for Discretionary Relief for the financial year 2009/10.
- 6.7 **Annex 8** attached to this report details 2 re-submitted applications from The Birth Defects Foundation Ltd, for Mandatory and Discretionary Charitable Relief, for the financial years 2008/09 and 2009/10. These applications have been continuously resubmitted for consideration each year since 18 March 2003. However, on all occasions the discretionary elements were refused on the grounds that, in view of the very large rateable values of the properties concerned, it was inappropriate for one charity to receive such a disproportionate percentage of the overall budget.
- 6.8 Members are reminded that each application should be considered on its merits, particularly as the Committee has previously agreed to inform applicants, who are refused relief, of the reasons for that refusal.
- 6.9 Members should also note that, from 1 April 1997, regulations provide that Local Authorities may reach a decision to grant discretionary relief for a limited time after the end of a particular financial year. This means that applications for discretionary relief for 2008/09 may be considered up to the end of September 2009.

Section 3

7. Contribution to CHASE

There are no identified implications arising from this report.

Section 4

8. Financial Implications

8.1 Mandatory and Discretionary Charitable Relief

- 8.1.1 The full cost of mandatory relief to charities under Section 43 or 45 is borne by the Non-Domestic rate pool. Where an authority exercises its discretion and grants relief at a higher level than the 80% mandatory level, the amount of relief that would have been allowed under Section 43 and 45 will be offset against payments into the pool, together with 25% of the additional relief granted. Council Taxpayers meet the remaining 75% of the additional discretionary relief. Therefore, if 100% relief is granted to a charity, 85% of the cost is met by the Non-Domestic rate pool and 15% locally.

8.1.2 Where discretionary relief is granted to a non-profit making organisation, 75% of the cost is met by the Non-Domestic rate pool and 25% locally by Council Taxpayers.

8.3 Budgeted Relief for 2009/10

8.3.1 For 2009/10, an amount of £21,720.00 is included in the General Fund Budget to meet the Council's costs of discretionary relief granted. This amount is to cover renewals and new applications submitted to this meeting and any new applications for charitable, rural or hardship relief that might be submitted during the year. Following the Rate Relief Committee on 10 March 2009 a total of £19,919.82 has been awarded in relief from the 2009/10 budget; currently, there remains £1,800.18 in the budget to meet further costs.

8.3.2 As an indication for Members, the table below sets out an example of the cost to the Council if discretionary relief is granted for 2008/09 and 2009/10 in respect of the new and renewal applications included in **Annexes 2-7**. Members should note that these amounts are in line with current awards of discretionary relief for other similar organisations.

8.3.3 Members should also note that the table below sets out an example of the cost to the Council if discretionary relief is granted for 2008/09 and 2009/10 in respect of the re-submitted new applications included in **Annex 8**.

8.4 The cost to the Council if discretionary relief is granted as follows would be:-

<u>Application</u>	<u>Relief</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Cost to the Council</u> £
<u>Annex 2: (Late Renewals for 2009/10 – Discretionary Relief Only)</u>			
Rugeley Rifle Club (100730173)	65% Discretionary	2009/10	58.62
Brereton Town Football Club (100730746)	15% Discretionary	2009/10	23.45
Greenheath Progressive WMC (100711833)	15% Discretionary	2009/10	118.40
<u>Annex 3: (Late Renewals 2009/10 – Mandatory & Discretionary Relief)</u>			
St Josephs Community Centre (100727652)	7% top-up relief	2009/10	78.94
Wimblebury Community Services Association (100710520)	7% top-up relief	2009/10	61.11

<i>Annex 4: (New Applications for 2008/09 & 2009/10 – Mand & Disc Relief)</i>			
ADS (Addiction Dependency Solutions) (101118105)	10% top-up relief	2008/09	108.68
	7% top-up relief	2009/10	137.50
Birth Defects Foundation Trading (101123019)	10% top-up relief	2008/09	405.79
	7% top-up relief	2009/10	655.66
<i>Annex 5: (New Applications for 2008/09 & 2009/10 – Mandatory Relief Only)</i>			
South Staffordshire College (101122272) <i>Gnd Flr (Front), 1st & 2nd Floors, Kingston Court, Walsall Road, Cannock</i>	MANDATORY ONLY	2008/09	0.00
		2009/10	0.00
South Staffordshire College (101122285) <i>Gnd Flr (Rear), Kingston Court, Walsall Road, Cannock</i>	MANDATORY ONLY	2008/09	0.00
		2009/10	0.00
South Staffordshire College (101121396) <i>High Green, Cannock</i>	MANDATORY ONLY	2008/09	0.00
		2009/10	0.00
South Staffordshire College (101121406) <i>Progress Drive, Bridgtown</i>	MANDATORY ONLY	2008/09	0.00
		2009/10	0.00
<i>Annex 6: (New Application for 2008/09 & 2009/10 – Mandatory Relief Only)</i>			
Spirita Home Improvement Agency (101122081)	MANDATORY ONLY	2009/10	0.00
<i>Annex 7: (Re-submitted New Application for 2009/10 – Discretionary Relief Only)</i>			
Cannock Bowling Green Club	65% Discretionary	2009/10	27.36
		2008/09	514.47
		2009/10	<u>1,161.04</u>
SUB TOTAL			<u>1,675.51</u>

<i>Annex 8: (Re-Submitted New Applications for 2008/09 & 2009/10 – Mand & Disc Relief)</i>			
Birth Defects Foundation Ltd (101064165) Unit 1 Hemlock Business Park, Hemlock Way	10% Discretionary	2008/09	2,893.28
	7% Discretionary	2009/10	2,126.12
Birth Defects Foundation Ltd (101064178) Unit 2 Hemlock Business Park, Hemlock Way	10% Discretionary	2008/09	5,158.96
	7% Discretionary	2009/10	3,793.91
SUB TOTAL		2008/09	8,052.24
		2009/10	<u>5,920.03</u>
			<u>13,972.27</u>
GRAND TOTAL			15,647.78
<i>Less Budget Remaining</i>			1,800.18
Balance of Budget			<u>-13,847.60</u> (Deficit)

- 8.5 Members will note that if the proposal is to approve the renewals together with the new applications at 7% top-up discretionary relief, 15% and 65% discretionary relief then the budget remaining of £1,800.18 would reduce by £1,675.51, leaving a balance of £124.67. Members are also reminded that these figures include the new application from the Birth Defects Foundation for their new premises. Members may wish to consider this application separately alongside the 2 re-submitted applications made by the organisation and contained within this report.
- 8.6 Should Members decide to award top-up discretionary relief in respect of the 2 re-submitted applications by the Birth Defects Foundation, then the budget would further reduced by £15,647.78 and result in a deficit to the budget of £13,847.60.
- 8.7 Members must consider that the remaining budget is the only provision in order to meet any further new or renewal applications received during the current financial year. There is no scope within existing approved budgets to meet any shortfall in rate relief.
- 8.8 Should Members agree to relief in excess of the approved Discretionary Rate Relief budget for 2009/10 then this report should be referred to Cabinet to allow compensating savings to be identified to enable the required Supplementary Estimate to be granted.
- 8.9 Should there be an excess of budget at the end of the financial year 2009/10 then this should be carried forward and added onto the budget for the new financial year 2010/11.

Section 5

9. Human Resource Implications

There are no identified implications arising from this report.

Section 6

10. Legal Implications

10.1 Mandatory and Discretionary Charitable Relief Regulations

10.1.1 The relevant Mandatory and Discretionary rate relief regulations with regard to Charitable Relief contained in the Local Government Finance Act 1988 are attached to this report at *Annex 1* (page 1).

Section 7

11. Section 17 (Crime Prevention)

There are no identified implications arising from this report.

Section 8

12. Human Rights Act Implications

There are no identified implications arising from this report.

Section 9

13. Data Protection Act Implications

There are no identified implications arising from this report.

Section 10

14. Risk Management Implications

There are no identified implications arising from this report.

Section 11

15. Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no identified implications arising from this report.

Section 12

16. Other Options Considered

Members have discretion as to the amount of relief to be awarded.

Section 13

17. List of Background Papers

Cannock Bowling Green Club Rules – attached to **Annex 7** in support of their re-submitted application for Discretionary Rate Relief.

18. Annexes

- Annex 1* Mandatory and Discretionary Charitable Relief Regulations
- Annex 1* Members' Guidelines and Framework of Criteria
- Annex 2* 2 Late Renewals for Discretionary Relief Only
- Annex 3* 3 Late Renewals for Mandatory and Discretionary Relief
- Annex 4* 2 New Applications for Mandatory and Discretionary Relief
- Annex 5* 4 New Application for Mandatory Relief Only
- Annex 6* 1 New Application for Mandatory Relief Only
- Annex 7* 1 Re-submitted New Application for Discretionary Relief Only
- Annex 8* 2 Re-submitted New Applications for Mandatory and Discretionary Relief

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES - RATE RELIEF

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT, 1988 - SECTIONS 43, 45 AND 47

MANDATORY AND DISCRETIONARY RELIEF REGULATIONS

1. Mandatory Relief

1.1 Mandatory relief is at 80% of rates payable and is provided for in Sections 43(5) and (6) and 45(5) and (6) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

1.2 To qualify for mandatory relief, the ratepayer must be a charity or trustee for a charity and the hereditament must be wholly or mainly used for charitable purposes. Registration under the Charities Act 1960 is conclusive evidence of charitable status and bodies which, under the 1960 Act, are exempted from registration or are exempt charities are also eligible for mandatory relief.

2. Discretionary Relief

2.1 The authority to grant discretionary relief is provided for in Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

2.2 A charging authority has discretion under Section 47 to grant relief to charities in excess of 80% mandatory relief up to 100%. If relief to charities is increased above the mandatory level, Sections 43(5) and 45(5) are disapplied and the amount of relief is determined by rates determined by the Authority. It also has discretion to grant relief of up to 100% to certain non-profit making bodies.

2.3 To qualify for discretionary relief, two conditions must be met. The first condition is that one or more of the following applies:-

(a) The ratepayer is a charity or trustee for a charity and the hereditament is wholly or mainly used for charitable purposes.

(b) All or part of the hereditament is occupied for the purposes of one or more institutions or other organisations, none of which is established or conducted for profit and each of whose main objects are charitable or are otherwise philanthropic or religious or concerned with education, social welfare, sciences, literature or the fine arts.

(c) The hereditament is wholly or mainly used for the purposes of recreation and all or part of it is occupied for the purposes of a club, society or other organisation not established or conducted for profit.

2.4 The second condition that must apply is that the charging authority must have taken a decision to the effect that Section 47 applies to the hereditament concerned.

2.5 A decision to grant discretionary relief cannot have effect for any financial year prior to the year in which the decision is made. Relief can be revoked by a further decision of the charging authority. Notice must be given to the ratepayer of any decision to grant, vary or revoke relief. One year's notice is required of any decision that revokes or reduces the relief granted and such a notice must have effect from the expiry of a financial year.

2.6 Authorities do not have discretion to grant relief from rates on property, all or part of which is occupied, other than as a trustee, by a charging or precepting authority.

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT, 1988 (SECTION 49)

REDUCTION OR REMISSION OF NON-DOMESTIC RATES ON THE GROUNDS OF HARDSHIP

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT GUIDELINES

The following guidelines have been issued by the Department of the Environment in order to assist Members in the consideration of hardship applications:-

- (a) Although authorities may adopt rules for the consideration of hardship cases, they should not adopt a blanket policy either to give or not to give relief, each case should be considered on its own merits.
- (b) Reductions or remission of rates on grounds of hardship should be the exception rather than the rule.
- (c) The test of "hardship" may not be confined strictly to financial hardship, all relevant factors affecting the ability of a business to meet its liability for rates should be taken into account.
- (d) The interests of Council Taxpayers in an area may go wider than direct financial interest. For example, where the employment prospects in the area would be worsened by a company going out of business or the amenities of an area might be reduced by, for instance, the loss of the only shop in a village.
- (e) Where the granting of relief would have an adverse effect on the financial interests of taxpayers, the case for a reduction or remission of rates payable may still, on balance, outweigh the cost to taxpayers.

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988

NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES - DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF

FRAMEWORK OF CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING ELIGIBILITY

The following framework of criteria for assessing eligibility for discretionary relief was agreed by the Finance Sub-Committee on the 9th February, 1990. A simplified précis of the criteria which Members might find useful follows:-

1. Access

- 1.1 Is membership open to all sections of the community? There may be legitimate restrictions placed on membership which relate for example to ability in a sport or to the achievement of a standard in the field covered by the organisation or where the capacity of the facility is limited. Clubs or organisations should not be considered if they have membership rates set at such a high level as to exclude the general community. In general, the club or organisation must be prepared to show that the criteria by which it considers applications for membership are consistent with the principle of open access.
- 1.2 Does the organisation actively encourage membership from particular age groups in the community, e.g. young people, women, old age groups, persons with disability, 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 authority considered to be particularly deserving of support.
- 1.3 Are the facilities made available to people other than members, e.g. schools, casual public sessions, etc.? The wider use of facilities should be encouraged and rate relief might be one form of recognition that an organisation was promoting its facilities more widely.

2. Provision of Facilities

- 2.1 Does the organisation provide training or education for its members? Are there schemes for particular groups to develop their skills, e.g. young people, the disabled, retired people? An organisation providing such facilities might deserve more support than one which did not.
- 2.2 Have the facilities available been provided by self-help or grant aid? The fact that a club uses or has used self-help for construction or maintenance or had facilities funded by grant aid might be an indicator that they were more deserving of relief.
- 2.3 Does the organisation run a bar? The mere existence of a bar should not in itself be a reason for not granting relief. The authority should look at the main purpose of the organisation. In sports clubs for example, the balance between playing and non-playing members might provide a useful guide as to whether the main purpose of the club is sporting or social activities. A social club whose main aim is to bring together people with similar interests should not be excluded from relief just because of the existence of a licensed bar.
- 2.4 Does the organisation provide facilities which indirectly relieve the authority of the need to do so, or enhance and supplement those which it does provide? Authorities should not refuse relief on the grounds that an organisation is in competition with the authority itself, but should look at the broader context of the needs of the community as a whole. A new need, not being provided by the authority itself but identified as a priority for action, might be particularly deserving of support.

3. Other Considerations

- 3.1 Is the organisation affiliated to local or national organisations, e.g. local sports or arts councils, national representative bodies? i.e. are they actively involved in local/national development of their interests?
- 3.2 Is the membership drawn from people mainly resident in the charging authority's area? Although authorities will have in mind that 25% of the cost of any relief given will be borne by the Council Taxpayers in their area, particular difficulties may arise with hereditaments which straddle local authorities boundaries and which under Regulation 6 of the Non-Domestic Rating (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 1989 (SI 1989 No. 160) will now fall to be shown in one list. In these cases, and in those where hereditaments are situated close to an authority's boundary, a proportion of the membership may come from another charging authority area. Also for geographical reasons, or because of the nature of the terrain, particular facilities may be the only ones available for a wide area. In such cases, the joint use of facilities by one or more similar organisations is not uncommon. In most cases, there will be a measure of reciprocity between the membership of organisations from different areas.
4. The Council may add further criteria or substitute relevant alternative criteria which are appropriate to the furthering of the Council's policies and the needs of the community.

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT, 1988

N.N.D.R. RATE RELIEF - PRÉCIS OF CRITERIA

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document précis the criteria adopted by the Council as a framework to be used in determining eligibility for discretionary rate relief under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. The framework is based upon the guidance provided by the Department of the Environment in its Practice Note on Discretionary Rate Relief.

2. Basic Conditions

One or more of the following conditions must apply as regards the application:-

- 2.1 The ratepayer is a charity or trustees for a charity, and the hereditament (property) is wholly or mainly used for charitable purposes.
- 2.2 The hereditament is not an excepted hereditament and all or part of it is occupied for the purposes of one or more institutions or other organisations none of which is established or conducted for profit and each of whose main objects are charitable or are otherwise philanthropic or religious or concerned with education, social welfare, science, literature or the fine arts.
- 2.3 The hereditament is not an excepted hereditament, it is wholly or mainly used for purposes of recreation and all or part of it is occupied for the purposes of a club, society or other organisation not established or conducted for profit.

For the purposes of 2.2 and 2.3 above, an excepted hereditament is one that is all or part occupied (otherwise than as a trustee) by a Charging Authority (i.e. Cannock Chase District Council) or a precepting authority (i.e. Staffordshire County Council and Parish Councils).

3. Access to Organisation

- 3.1 Is membership open to all sections of the community?
- 3.2 Are there legitimate restrictions on membership, e.g. ability, facility limits?
- 3.3 Are membership fees unduly high and restrictive.
- 3.4 Are membership criteria consistent with the principle of open access?
- 3.5 Does the organisation actively encourage membership from particular groups in the community, e.g. disabled, O.A.P.s?
- 3.6 Are facilities available to non-members, e.g. schools, general public?

4. Provision of Facilities

- 4.1 Does the organisation provide training or education for its members?
- 4.2 Are there training schemes for specific groups, e.g. disabled, young people?
- 4.3 Have facilities been provided by self help or grant aid?
- 4.4 Does the organisation run a bar? This in itself is not a reason for not granting relief.
- 4.5 What is the main purpose of the organisation, e.g. playing or social?
- 4.6 What is the balance between the playing and social membership?
- 4.7 Does organisation provide facilities that indirectly relieve the Council of providing the facility or supplement Council facilities?

5. Other Considerations

- 5.1 Is the organisation affiliated to local or national organisations?
- 5.2 Is the membership drawn from people mainly resident in the Council's area.

N.B. Please note that not all the criteria outlined above will be applicable in each case.

LATE APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF RATE RELIEF
UNDER SECTION 47 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR
2009/10

Applicant's Name: Rugeley Rifle Club Account Ref: 100730173

Property Address: Wharf Road, Rugeley, Staffs, WS15 1BL

Registered Charity: No

Occupation Date: 1/4/90 RENEWAL

Relief Claimed: Discretionary Period: 1/4/09 – 31/3/10

Use of Property: Clubhouse with indoor and outdoor ranges for smallbore and airgun target shooting

Previous Relief Granted: Discretionary - 75%

Rates Payable:	2009/10
	£
Full charge	721.50
Small Business Rate Relief	<u>360.75</u>
Discretionary consideration	360.75
If 65% granted	
NDR Pool (75%):	175.87
General Fund (25%):	<u>58.62</u>
Rates Payable:	£ <u>126.26</u>

Comment:

Renewal application confirmed that their circumstances had not changed from the previous year.

LATE APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF RATE RELIEF
UNDER SECTION 47 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR
2009/10

Applicant's Name: Brereton Town Football Club **Account Ref:** 100730746

Property Address: Main Road, Brereton, Staffs, WS15 1EE

Registered Charity: No

Occupation Date: 1/4/90 **RENEWAL**

Relief Claimed: Discretionary **Period:** 1/4/09 – 31/3/10

Use of Property: Football and social activities

Previous Relief Granted: Discretionary - 25%

Rates Payable:	2009/10
	£
Full charge	1,250.60
Small Business Rate Relief	<u>625.30</u>
Discretionary consideration	625.30
If 15% granted	
NDR Pool (75%):	70.35
General Fund (25%):	<u>23.45</u>
Rates Payable:	£ <u>531.50</u>

Comment:

Renewal application confirmed that their circumstances had not changed from the previous year.

LATE APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF RATE RELIEF
UNDER SECTION 47 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR
2009/10

Applicant's Name: Greenheath Progressive WMC **Account Ref:** 100711833

Property Address: 21 Blewitt Street, Hednesford, Staffs, WS12 4BE

Registered Charity: No

Occupation Date: 1/4/90 **RENEWAL**

Relief Claimed: Discretionary **Period:** 1/4/09 – 31/3/10

Use of Property: Working Men's Club

Previous Relief Granted: Discretionary - 25%

Rates Payable:	2009/10
	£
Full charge	3,896.10
Small Business Rate Relief	<u>738.81</u>
Discretionary consideration	3,157.29
If 15% granted	
NDR Pool (75%):	355.19
General Fund (25%):	<u>118.40</u>
Rates Payable:	£ <u>2,683.70</u>

Comment:

Deferred from Rate Relief Committee on 10 March 2009 as audited accounts not submitted in support of their application. Audited accounts now received; therefore, renewal application submitted on the basis that their circumstances had not changed from the previous year.

LATE APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF RATE RELIEF UNDER
SECTION 43 AND 47 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR
2009/10

Applicant's Name: St Josephs Community Centre Account Ref: 100727652

Property Address: Lichfield Street, Rugeley, Staffs, WS15 2EH

Registered Charity: Yes - 234216

Occupation Date: 1/4/90 RENEWAL

Relief Claimed: Mandatory and Discretionary Period: 1/4/09 – 31/3/10

Use of Property: Community Centre and Church Hall

Previous Relief Granted: Mandatory - 80%
Discretionary - 10%

Rates Payable:	2009/10
	£
Full charge	1,503.50
Mandatory Relief	<u>1,202.80</u>
Discretionary consideration	300.70
If 7% granted	
NNDR Pool (25%):	26.31
General Fund (75%):	<u>78.94</u>
Rates Payable:	£ <u>195.45</u>

Comment:

Renewal application confirmed that their circumstances had not changed from the previous year.

ENCLOSURE 4.21
ANNEX 3

NEW APPLICATION

ENCLOSURE 4.22
ANNEX 4

APPLICATION FOR RATE RELIEF UNDER SECTIONS 43 AND 47 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
FINANCE ACT 1988 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2008/9 AND 2009/10

Applicant's Name: ADS (Addiction Dependency Solutions) Account Ref: 101118105

Property Address: Cecil Street, Chadsmoor, Cannock, Staffs, WS11 5BE

Registered Charity: Yes - 702559

Occupation Date: 1 September 2008 **NEW APPLICATION**

Relief Claimed: Mandatory and Discretionary Period: 1/9/08 – 31/3/09
1/4/09 – 31/3/10

Use of Property: Community Centre

Main Objectives: To promote a better and more sympathetic understanding of alcohol and drug related problems.

Financial Situation: As at 31 March 2008

	£
Surplus (Deficit)	397,233
Reserves	397,233*

**These figures appear to represent the organisation at a national level.*

Rates Payable:	2008/09	2009/10
	£	£
Full charge	1,449.04	2,619.00
Less Mandatory Relief (80%)	<u>1,159.23</u>	<u>2,095.20</u>
Discretionary consideration	289.81	523.80
 If 10% granted		
NNDR Pool (25%):	36.23	
General Fund (75%):	<u>108.68</u>	
Rates payable:	£ <u>144.90</u>	
 If 7% granted		
NNDR Pool (25%):		45.83
General Fund (75%):		<u>137.50</u>
Rates payable:		£ <u>340.47</u>

Continued.....
NCRS

NEW APPLICATION

ENCLOSURE 4.23
ANNEX 4

Supporting Information:

ADS (Addiction Dependency Solutions) is a regional charity established in 1973 to promote a better and more sympathetic understanding of alcohol and drug related problems, to study their causes and effects and to undertake and co-operate with all relevant agencies in the prevention.

The premises at Cecil Street , Chadsmoor are used as an office and for training and counselling purposes.

The organisation is open to all sections of the community. Users are generally referred to the organisation from Government Bodies including the Probation Service – currently there are 38 users registered at these premises.

The organisations principle source of income is via Local Government funding, donations, P.H.C. funding and the National Lottery.

Comments.

None.

NEW APPLICATION

ENCLOSURE 4.24
ANNEX 4

APPLICATION FOR RATE RELIEF UNDER SECTIONS 43 AND 47 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2008/09 AND 2009/10

Applicant's Name: The Birth Defects Foundation Ltd. Account Ref: 101123019
Property Address: Unit 9 The Cedars Business Centre, Avon Road, Cannock, Staffs, WS11 1QJ
Registered Charity: Yes - 1001817

Occupation Date: 17/10/08 NEW APPLICATION
Relief Claimed: Mandatory and Discretionary Period: 17/10/08 – 31/3/09
1/4/09 – 31/3/10

Use of Property: Warehouse and premises

Main Objectives: Research into and the relief of defects which affect parents and children prior to conception, during pregnancy and subsequent to birth.

Financial Situation: As at: 31 Mar 2008

Surplus (Deficit)	£
Reserves	1,342,584.00*
	1,025,134.00

*Profit is distributed away in the form of Grant Aid

Previous Relief Granted: Mandatory - 80%
Discretionary - 0%

Rates Payable:	2008/09	2009/10
	£	£
Full charge	5,410.46	12,488.75
Less Mandatory Relief (80%)	<u>4,328.37</u>	<u>9,991.00</u>
Discretionary consideration	1,082.09	2,497.75
If 10% granted		
NDR Pool (25%):	135.26	
General Fund (75%):	<u>405.79</u>	
Rates Payable:	<u>541.04</u>	
If 7% granted		
NDR Pool (25%):		218.55
General Fund (75%):		<u>655.66</u>
Rates Payable:		<u>1,623.54</u>

Continued.....
NCRS

Supporting Information:

The main objective of Birth Defects Foundation (BDF) is the provision of education and social welfare for the care of disabled and terminally ill children. In addition, the organisation conducts research into the relief of defects which affect parents and children prior to conception, during pregnancy and subsequent to birth.

The premises at Cedars Business Centre are used for nurse services, equipment services, medical research campaigns and awareness for physically and mentally impaired children. Donated clothing is also sold from the premises.

The organisation actively encourages membership from all sections of the community via its policy of equal opportunities. In particular, the organisation are holders of the "Positive about Disabilities" award.

No charges are made to members and non-members and the principle source of income for the organisation is from donations and sales.

Comments.

Members should be mindful that included within this report are further re-applications from BDF for top-up discretionary rate relief in respect of Units 1 and 2 Hemlock Business Park.

NEW APPLICATION

ENCLOSURE 4.26

ANNEX 5APPLICATION FOR RATE RELIEF UNDER SECTIONS 43 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
FINANCE ACT 1988 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2008/9 AND 2009/10

Applicant's Name: South Staffordshire College Account Ref: 101122272

Property Address: Ground Floor (Front) and 1st and 2nd Floors, Kingston Court, Walsall Road,
Cannock, Staffs, WS11 0HG

Registered Charity: Exempt Charity

Occupation Date: 1 March 2009 NEW APPLICATION

Relief Claimed: Mandatory Period: 1/3/09 – 31/3/09
1/4/09 – 31/3/10

Use of Property: Educational

Main Objectives: Provision of education and learning to all sections of the community.

Financial Situation: Not applicable Surplus (Deficit) £
Reserves N/A
N/A

Previous Relief Granted: Mandatory - 0%

Rates Payable:	2008/09	2009/10
	£	£
Full charge	755.34	9,336.25
Less Mandatory Relief (80%)	<u>604.27</u>	<u>7,469.00</u>
Discretionary consideration	N/A	N/A
 Rates payable:	£ <u>151.07</u>	£ <u>1,867.25</u>

Supporting Information:

Enrolment is open to all sections of the community; there are currently 37 students at this campus.

Under the Further & Higher Education Act 1992 the College became a Further Education Corporation with effect from 1 April 1993. The Corporation is an exempt charity which is allowed to claim 80% exemption from rates (F & HE Act 1992, Schedule 8, Section 69)

Comments:

None

NEW APPLICATION

ENCLOSURE 4.27
ANNEX 5APPLICATION FOR RATE RELIEF UNDER SECTIONS 43 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
FINANCE ACT 1988 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2008/9 AND 2009/10

Applicant's Name: South Staffordshire College Account Ref: 101122285

Property Address: Ground Floor (Rear), Kingston Court, Walsall Road, Cannock, Staffs,
WS11 0HG

Registered Charity: Exempt Charity

Occupation Date: 1 March 2009 NEW APPLICATION

Relief Claimed: Mandatory Period: 1/3/09 – 31/3/09
1/4/09 – 31/3/10

Use of Property: Educational

Main Objectives: Provision of education and learning to all sections of the community.

Financial Situation: Not applicable Surplus (Deficit) £
Reserves N/A
N/A

Previous Relief Granted: Mandatory - 0%

Rates Payable:	2008/09	2009/10
	£	£
Full charge	166.76	2,061.25
Less Mandatory Relief (80%)	<u>133.41</u>	<u>1,649.00</u>
Discretionary consideration	N/A	N/A
Rates payable:	£ <u>33.35</u>	£ <u>412.25</u>

Supporting Information:

Enrolment is open to all sections of the community; there are currently 37 students at this campus.

Under the Further & Higher Education Act 1992 the College became a Further Education Corporation with effect from 1 April 1993. The Corporation is an exempt charity which is allowed to claim 80% exemption from rates (F & HE Act 1992, Schedule 8, Section 69)

Comments:

None

NEW APPLICATION

ENCLOSURE 4.28

ANNEX 5APPLICATION FOR RATE RELIEF UNDER SECTIONS 43 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
FINANCE ACT 1988 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2008/9 AND 2009/10

Applicant's Name: South Staffordshire College Account Ref: 101121396

Property Address: High Green, Cannock, Staffs, WS11 1UE

Registered Charity: Exempt Charity

Occupation Date: 1 January 2009 NEW APPLICATION

Relief Claimed: Mandatory Period: 1/1/09 – 31/3/09
1/4/09 – 31/3/10

Use of Property: Educational

Main Objectives: Provision of education and learning to all sections of the community.

Financial Situation: Not applicable Surplus (Deficit) £ N/A
Reserves N/A

Previous Relief Granted: Mandatory - 0%

Rates Payable:	2008/09	2009/10
	£	£
Full charge	12,189.20	51,895.00
Less Mandatory Relief (80%)	<u>9,751.36</u>	<u>41,516.00</u>
Discretionary consideration	N/A	N/A
Rates payable:	£ <u>2,437.84</u>	£ <u>10,379.00</u>

Supporting Information:

Enrolment is open to all sections of the community; there are currently 37 students at this campus.

Under the Further & Higher Education Act 1992 the College became a Further Education Corporation with effect from 1 April 1993. The Corporation is an exempt charity which is allowed to claim 80% exemption from rates (F & HE Act 1992, Schedule 8, Section 69)

Comments:

None

NEW APPLICATION

ENCLOSURE 4.29

ANNEX 5APPLICATION FOR RATE RELIEF UNDER SECTIONS 43 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
FINANCE ACT 1988 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2008/9 AND 2009/10

Applicant's Name: South Staffordshire College Account Ref: 101121406

Property Address: Progress Drive, Bridgtown, Cannock, Staffs, WS11 0JE

Registered Charity: Exempt Charity

Occupation Date: 1 January 2009 NEW APPLICATION

Relief Claimed: Mandatory Period: 1/1/09 – 31/3/09
1/4/09 – 31/3/10

Use of Property: Educational

Main Objectives: Provision of education and learning to all sections of the community.

Financial Situation: Not applicable Surplus (Deficit) £
Reserves N/A
N/A

Previous Relief Granted: Mandatory - 0%

Rates Payable:	2008/09	2009/10
	£	£
Full charge	12,758.80	54,320.00
Less Mandatory Relief (80%)	<u>10,207.04</u>	<u>43,456.00</u>
Discretionary consideration	N/A	N/A
Rates payable:	£ <u>2,551.76</u>	£ <u>10,864.00</u>

Supporting Information:

Enrolment is open to all sections of the community; there are currently 37 students at this campus.

Under the Further & Higher Education Act 1992 the College became a Further Education Corporation with effect from 1 April 1993. The Corporation is an exempt charity which is allowed to claim 80% exemption from rates (F & HE Act 1992, Schedule 8, Section 69)

Comments:

None

NEW APPLICATION

ENCLOSURE 4.30
ANNEX 6

APPLICATION FOR RATE RELIEF UNDER SECTION 43 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
FINANCE ACT 1988 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2009/10

Applicant's Name: Spirita Home Improvement Agency **Account Ref:** 101122081

Property Address: 1st Floor, 7-9 Wolverhampton Road, Cannock

Registered Charity: 'Exempt' – Industrial and Provident Charity

Occupation Date: 1 April 2009 **NEW APPLICATION**

Relief Claimed: Mandatory **Period:** 1/4/09 - 31/3/10

Use of Property: Offices

Main Objectives: To provide help, support and assistance to vulnerable members of the community with building repairs, improvements and adaptations.

Financial Situation:	N/a	Surplus (Deficit)	£
		Reserves	N/a
			N/a

Rates Payable:		2009/10
	Full charge	3,104.00
	Less Mandatory Relief (80%)	<u>2,483.20</u>
	Discretionary Consideration	N/A
	Rates Payable	<u>620.80</u>

Supporting Information:

Spirita Home Improvement Agency is dedicated to helping older people, younger disabled people and low-income households. The Agency works with Local Authorities and Social Services to provide help support and assistance to vulnerable groups of people who need help with building repairs, improvements and adaptations in order to try and maintain independence in their homes.

The agency does not trade for profit and is principally funded via Government Grants.

Comments.

None

NEW APPLICATION FOR RATE RELIEF UNDER SECTION 47 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
FINANCE ACT 1988 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2009/10

Applicant's Name: Cannock Bowling Green Club Account Ref: 100716786

Property Address: Market Place, Cannock, Staffs, WS11 1EB

Registered Charity: No

Occupation Date: 1 April 1990 NEW APPLICATION

Relief Claimed: Discretionary Period: 1/4/09 - 31/3/10

Use of Property: Bowling Green

Main Objectives: Recreational

Financial Situation:	As at: 31/12/08	Surplus (Deficit)	£
		Reserves	395.00
			3,405.00

Previous Relief Granted: Mandatory - 0%
Discretionary - 25%

Rates Payable:	2009/10
	£
Full charge	336.70
Less Small Business Rate Relief	<u>168.35</u>
Discretionary consideration	168.35
If 65% granted	
NNDR Pool (75%):	82.07
General Fund (25%):	<u>27.36</u>
Rates payable:	58.92

Continued.....

Supporting Information:

The bowling green is regarded as a special feature within the heritage area of Cannock Town Centre and is maintained as such by the Bowling Green Club at its own expense.

Membership of the club is open to all sections of the community – applications for club membership must be sponsored and seconded by a club member and approved by the club management committee. ALL applicants receive the same consideration.

Currently the club comprises of 79 male members.

The principle source of income for the club is the annual membership subscription which is currently £50. This covers green maintenance and the upkeep of the surrounding environment.

Comments:

Members' at the Rate Relief Committee on 10 March 2009 decided to defer the 2009/10 renewal application for the Club as it was unclear whether or not the club still satisfied the Council's criteria for discretionary rate relief.

A full application has now been submitted by the club. For information, attached to this annex is the Club rules.

CANNOCK BOWLING GREEN CLUB

RULES

CONSTITUTION

1. The Club shall be called 'The Cannock Bowling Green Club' and shall be managed by a Committee comprising The President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Captain, Vice-Captain, Chairman of the Green sub-Committee, the immediate Past President and two members nominated to represent the membership. Fourteen days notice shall be given of any meeting of the management committee. Five members shall form a quorum at any such meeting.
2. The Officers and Members comprising the Committee shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting each year and retiring members shall be eligible for re-election. Three members shall be appointed to the Green sub-Committee in addition to the Chairman.

GENERAL MEETINGS

3. **Annual General Meeting :** The Annual General Meeting shall be held during the month of February each year. Each member shall be given at least fourteen days notice of the Annual General Meeting and such notice shall include an agenda and an audited statement of accounts for the past year together with any propositions to be considered at the Meeting and supplementary information relevant to such propositions. Propositions for consideration at the Annual General Meeting, duly proposed and seconded must be submitted in writing to the Secretary, by 1st January prior to the meeting. The proposer and seconder, or their appointed representatives, must be present at the meeting to introduce and speak to the submitted proposition otherwise the proposition will lapse.

Thirty five members (including Honorary Members) shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business. Should a quorum not be present, an alternative date and time for a re-convened Annual General Meeting to consider the published Agenda shall be set by the members present. Items on the Agenda requiring the approval of members shall be determined by a majority vote of the members present unless otherwise agreed by the meeting. The Presiding Officer shall have a casting vote if necessary.

4. **Special General Meetings.** At the direction of the Committee or upon a requisition in writing, being signed by no less than TEN members, the Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting of the Club within 28 days of such direction or receipt of such requisition, giving every member at least 14 days notice. Special General Meetings shall be governed by the above Rules for the Annual General Meeting. The notice of the Special General Meeting must state the purpose for which the meeting is called. No other business may be introduced at a Special General Meeting. Should a quorum not be present at a Special General Meeting called upon requisition of members, that meeting shall be dissolved, in any other case it shall stand adjourned to such day and at such time as the members present may determine.

5. The Annual General Meeting shall have the power to appoint an Auditor.
6. The Annual General Meeting shall have the power to appoint Honorary Members. Honorary members shall enjoy all the privileges of membership but will be exempt payment of the annual subscription.
7. The date of the next Annual General Meeting shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting each year.

MEMBERSHIP

8. The Secretary shall maintain a list of the names of members together with a registered address. Such address may be a business or a private address within the local postal area (the local postal area being in Staffordshire or the West Midlands).

9. All correspondence to Members shall be sent to the address registered in the current Membership List. Correspondence delivered by hand or sent by mail to the registered address shall be deemed to have been received by the member concerned.

10. New members must be proposed and seconded by members of the Club who have been members for FIVE years. Applications for membership will be considered by the Committee in date order.

New members shall pay an entrance fee in addition to the Annual Subscription.

The entrance fee shall be set by the Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting shall decide the maximum number of members that must not be exceeded.

11. A member who is no longer able to participate in Club activities through disability or ill health, who has been a member for five years and wishes to maintain an association with the Club, may be offered Associate Membership.

Associate Members will pay a reduced annual subscription to be determined by the Committee.

Associate Members may attend General Meetings but will not have a vote on matters to be determined at such meetings unless such matters directly affect Associate Membership

12. Members' visitors will be allowed to play on the Green to a maximum of six visits per season, at a fee to be agreed at the Annual General Meeting each year and payable to the Treasurer.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

13. The annual subscription shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting each year. Honorary Members and Associate Members may speak to, but may not vote upon, the setting of the Annual **Subscription**.

All subscriptions must be paid by the THIRD THURSDAY IN MARCH, otherwise the Committee will assume that the member no longer wishes to remain a member.

AUTHORISED EXPENDITURE

14. Items of expenditure exceeding £100 must have prior Committee approval. Items of expenditure between £25 and £100 must have the agreement of three of the Executive Officers of the Committee (the Executive Officers being the President, Treasurer, Secretary, Captain and Greenkeeper), Items costing less than £25 may be purchased or authorised to be purchased, by any member of the Committee.

GAMES AND MATCHES

15. All games played on the Green shall be governed by the Rules of the Crown Green Bowling Association.

16. All competitions shall be run in accordance with Rules approved by the Committee.

All handicapping shall be decided by the Committee who will also be responsible for the arrangement of the Competitions and Matches. No other competitions or matches shall be played on the Green without the consent of the Committee.

All members will accord due courtesy during the playing of matches and to the competitors during the playing of competitions.

17. No person shall be allowed on the Green unless wearing suitable footwear which will not cause damage to the Green.

GREEN MAINTENANCE

18 The Committee may be empowered by the Annual General Meeting to employ a groundsman.

19. The Green Committee shall be responsible, and have the authority to ensure, that the Green is kept in good condition for bowling.

BOWLING GREEN TRUSTEES

20 Four Trustees shall be appointed at a General Meeting to represent the Club on the Board of Trustees. The appointed Trustees may be members of the Club in accordance with the terms of the Trust Deed dated 23rd October 1896 and shall serve for a period of three years.

DISSOLUTION

21.: The Club may be dissolved by the consent of three fourths of the members present at a General Meeting called for that purpose in accordance with Rule 4.

In event of dissolution the fixed assets of the Club shall be transferred to the Trustees of the Bowling Green Trust and all other assets shall be liquidated and, after all proper debts and other liabilities have been met, the proceeds thereof shall be donated to local charities as the Committee shall decide'.

22. No alteration shall be made to these Rules unless approved by the Annual General Meeting or by a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.

Rules adopted at the AGM February 2009.

NEW APPLICATION RE SUBMITTED

ENCLOSURE 4.36
ANNEX 8

APPLICATION FOR RATE RELIEF UNDER SECTIONS 43 AND 47 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2008/09 AND 2009/10

Applicant's Name: The Birth Defects Foundation Ltd. **Account Ref:** 101064165

Property Address: Unit 1 Hemlock Business Park, Hemlock Way, Hawkes Green, Cannock, Staffs, WS11 2LH

Registered Charity: Yes - 1001817

Occupation Date: 29/5/02 **NEW APPLICATION**

Relief Claimed: Mandatory and Discretionary **Period:** 1/4/08 – 31/3/09
1/4/09 – 31/3/10

Use of Property: Warehouse and premises

Main Objectives: Research into and the relief of defects which affect parents and children prior to conception, during pregnancy and subsequent to birth.

Financial Situation: As at: 31 Mar 2008

	£
Surplus (Deficit)	1,342,584.00*
Reserves	1,025,134.00

*Profit is distributed away in the form of Grant Aid

Previous Relief Granted:

Mandatory	-	80%
Discretionary	-	0%

Rates Payable:	2008/09	2009/10
		£
Full charge	38,577.00	40,497.50
Less Mandatory Relief (80%)	<u>30,861.60</u>	<u>32,398.00</u>
Discretionary consideration	7,715.40	8,099.50
If 10% granted		
NNDR Pool (25%):	964.42	
General Fund (75%):	<u>2,893.28</u>	
Rates Payable:	3,857.70	
If 7% granted		
NNDR Pool (25%):		708.71
General Fund (75%):		<u>2,126.12</u>
Rates Payable:		5,264.67

Continued.....
NCRS

Supporting Information:

The Foundation is open to all sections of the community and all groups are actively encouraged to participate. Informal training is given to volunteers and counsellors. Funding is met by income from the sale of donated merchandise, recycling products, fundraising activities, grants, gifts and donations

In addition to the above, Birth Defects have summarised the work and support that they provide for the local community as follows:

- 1). BDF Newlife employs 100 full and part time staff including able bodied and disabled employees.
- 2). They train disabled young people and adults in conjunction with Cannock Chase College special needs courses, Spring Skills and 5C`s Training.
- 3). They offer an employment package via a government agency Re-employ and jointly employ several disabled adults.
- 4). They have, as a successful organisation, attracted dozens of people to the area and other companies, based local to their operation, have benefited through increase in custom.
- 5). They have a community donations programme and provide up to £10,000 worth of goods every year to local hospitals, schools, social services departments, play groups, local welfare charities, theatre and art groups.
- 6). In recent years they have brokered and part funded a deal which provided an ultrasound scanner for Cannock Hospital, costing BDF £11,797.
- 7). They have provided support to many local families through their national 'Here to Help' Service. This is manned by nurses and midwives and they regularly get visitors to their premises asking for assistance, which they happily provide.

Comments.

The Birth Defects Foundation have rationalised their occupation of properties in Cannock by moving into Units 1 and 2 Hemlock Business Park with effect from May 2002 and moving out of most of the others. However, with effect from 17 October 2008, they have occupied an additional property at Unit 9 The Cedars Business Centre (*further relief application for these new premises is included within this report*).

Their application for Discretionary Relief for their occupation of this property during 2002 was considered at the Grant Applications and Rate Relief Committee on 13 December 2002. However, as these are large premises, there were insufficient funds left in the Budget at that stage of the financial year to cover the cost to the Council of granting this relief. Their application was resubmitted for consideration in respect of the financial year 2003/04 at the Annual Meeting of the Grant Applications and Rate Relief Committees on 18 March 2003, 24 March 2004, 29 March 2005, 7 March 2006 and 13 March 2007. It was refused on the grounds that it was inappropriate for one charity to receive such a disproportionate percentage of the overall budget.

APPLICATION FOR RATE RELIEF UNDER SECTIONS 43 AND 47 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2008/09 AND 2009/10

Applicant's Name: The Birth Defects Foundation Ltd. **Account Ref:** 101064178

Property Address: Unit 2 Hemlock Business Park, Hemlock Way, Hawkes Green, Cannock, Staffs, WS11 2LH

Registered Charity: Yes - 1001817

Occupation Date: 29/5/02 **NEW APPLICATION**

Relief Claimed: Mandatory and Discretionary **Period:** 1/4/08 – 31/3/09
1/4/09 – 31/3/10

Use of Property: Warehouse and premises

Main Objectives: Research into and the relief of defects which affect parents and children prior to conception, during pregnancy and subsequent to birth.

Financial Situation: As at: 31 Mar 2008

	£
Surplus (Deficit)	1,342,584.00*
Reserves	1,025,134.00

*Profit is distributed away in the form of Grant Aid

Previous Relief Granted:

Mandatory	-	80%
Discretionary	-	0%

Rates Payable:	2008/09	2009/10
		£
Full charge	68,786.10	72,265.00
Less Mandatory Relief (80%)	<u>55,028.88</u>	<u>57,812.00</u>
Discretionary consideration	13,757.22	14,453.00
If 10% granted		
NDR Pool (25%):	1,719.65	
General Fund (75%):	<u>5,158.96</u>	
Rates Payable:	6,878.61	
If 7% granted		
NDR Pool (25%):		1,264.64
General Fund (75%):		<u>3,793.91</u>
Rates Payable:		9,394.45

Supporting Information:

The Foundation is open to all sections of the community and all groups are actively encouraged to participate. Informal training is given to volunteers and counsellors. Funding is met by income from the sale of donated merchandise, recycling products, fundraising activities, grants, gifts and donations

In addition to the above, Birth Defects have summarised the work and support that they provide for the local community as follows:

- 1). BDF Newlife employs 100 full and part time staff including able bodied and disabled employees.
- 2). They train disabled young people and adults in conjunction with Cannock Chase College special needs courses, Spring Skills and 5C`s Training.
- 3). They offer an employment package via a government agency Re-employ and jointly employ several disabled adults.
- 4). They have, as a successful organisation, attracted dozens of people to the area and other companies, based local to their operation, have benefited through increase in custom.
- 5). They have a community donations programme and provide up to £10,000 worth of goods every year to local hospitals, schools, social services departments, play groups, local welfare charities, theatre and art groups.
- 6). In recent years they have brokered and part funded a deal which provided an ultrasound scanner for Cannock Hospital, costing BDF £11,797.
- 7). They have provided support to many local families through their national 'Here to Help' Service. This is manned by nurses and midwives and they regularly get visitors to their premises asking for assistance, which they happily provide.

Comments.

The Birth Defects Foundation have rationalised their occupation of properties in Cannock by moving into Units 1 and 2 Hemlock Business Park with effect from May 2002 and moving out of most of the others. However, with effect from 17 October 2008, they have occupied an additional property at Unit 9 The Cedars Business Centre (*further relief application for these new premises is included within this report*).

Their application for Discretionary Relief for their occupation of this property during 2002 was considered at the Grant Applications and Rate Relief Committee on 13 December 2002. However, as these are large premises, there were insufficient funds left in the Budget at that stage of the financial year to cover the cost to the Council of granting this relief. Their application was resubmitted for consideration in respect of the financial year 2003/04 at the Annual Meeting of the Grant Applications and Rate Relief Committees on 18 March 2003, 24 March 2004, 29 March 2005, 7 March 2006 and 13 March 2007. It was refused on the grounds that it was inappropriate for one charity to receive such a disproportionate percentage of the overall budget.