

Proposal for Voluntary & Community Sector Rent Relief Grant

All applications for Rent Relief Grant will be considered by the Grants Panel.

We propose to have a three tiers of grant for determining the amount of rent payable by Voluntary & Community Sector Groups. The process includes a provision for VCS groups to appeal for a further reduction via the Executive Committee.

First tier - 25% Reduction for all VCS groups – this will be determined by the following criteria:

1. Registered Charity
2. Community Interest Company
3. Social Enterprise
4. Locally recognised Community Organisation

Second Tier – Additional 20% Reduction – Above + following criteria

1. Is providing a service that is addressing the needs of the local community.
2. Employs Staff or has Volunteers or a mix of both to deliver services
3. In receipt of grant funding to deliver services

Third Tier – Additional 25% Reduction – Above + following criteria

1. Supports Redditch Borough Councils local priorities
2. Does not receive any funding in respect to the rent on their building via external grant funding (All funding in relation to rents must be declared)
3. Is capable of, or does maintain the building to the required standards
4. Has a long term plan (*three years) for delivery of their service into the Town

Where more than one organisation is applying to occupy the same premises then the Grants Panel's existing scoring criteria will be used to distinguish between the applicants. Property Services will at the same time assist with identifying suitable alternative premises.

The Grants Panel will recommend to the Head of Finance & Resources the level of Rent Relief Grant to be awarded up to the 70% ceiling.

*All organisations will be offered a three year tenancy agreement with the approved discount under the terms agreed above. The Grant will be paid on the signing of the lease agreement.

****Further appeal process:**

If the full 70% relief is applied and the organisation feels that the rental value applied is still too high we propose that the organisations put a business case to the Head of Finance & Resources for consideration by the Executive Committee. **The organisation must fulfil all of the above criteria in order to initiate the appeal process