

1 **GENERAL BOOKINGS**

A **Community Development Eligibility Criteria – Free Use**

The Council recognises that an immense amount of effort, time and commitment has been given voluntarily to various projects which are of benefit to local communities.

Further, it has been agreed that as a result a range of community activities should be considered for free use. In an effort to support this view and to ensure a consistent and equitable approach the criteria outlined below should be applied in order to assess groups for free use.

Groups are required to meet all elements of the criteria.

This criteria also applies to Centre Committee Activities

Criteria:

- The Project/Group is meeting an identified need in the local area, this will include relevant sporting and cultural activities.
- The Project/Group promotes positive responses to local needs. (This means that there is no element of personal financial gain for the organisation(s) or for individuals).
- The Project/Group involves local participation. Voluntary input.
- The Project/Group is not a duplication of an existing facility.
- The Project/Group is of clear benefit to the local community.
- The Project/Group is no-profit-making.
- The Project/Group is not in receipt of Grant Aid for running costs

B **Groups/Projects who do not meet the Community Development Criteria.**

1) Groups/Projects which attract Grant Aid/have an income.

Where groups are attracting Grant Aid on running costs or have an income, normal rate should be applied.

2) Projects of an exclusive use

An annual rent will be agreed based on the criteria laid down by the Council.

This will apply to projects where exclusive access to facilities is required thus preventing ad hoc use of the facility by other groups, projects and/or events.

The rent applied will reflect the actual costs and will be in accordance with the Centre opening hours.

3) Profit Making Groups

Profit making groups should be charged the full economic rate (ie normal rate x 4).

4) Use by Statutory Bodies

Where Centres are used by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Social Services or any other public body the full economic rate (normal rate x 4) will be charged.

The only exceptions to this policy should be determined by the Community Services Manager.

5) Weekend Bookings & Bank /Public Holiday Bookings

Approval must be given by the Community Services Manager for any bookings outside of normal opening hours.

If approved, bookings will be charged at the appropriate rate as per category A) or B) above. Bookings that do not qualify for Community Development free use will also be charged full staff costs for any bookings outside of normal opening hours.