



NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL

POLICY MANUAL

REDUCTION IN PLANNING APPLICATION FEES FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Originated Date: Adopted 22 February 2010 – Min. No. 55/10 (as Policy 58)

Amended Date/s: Reviewed 8 December 2014 – Min. No. 336/14
Reviewed 15 February 2016 – Min. No. 44/16
Reviewed 20 August 2018 – Min. No. 230/18
Reviewed 14 December 2020 – Min. No. 423/20
Reviewed 18 September 2023 – Min. No. 23/0330

Applicable Legislation: *Local Government Act 1993, s.207*

Objective To establish a policy relating to the reduction in application fees for planning approval by not for profit community organizations for projects with a community benefit.

Administration: Corporate Services

Review Cycle/Date: Next review 2027.

1 INTRODUCTION

Each year a number of not-for-profit, community-based, voluntary organizations undertake a number of minor projects with a community benefit. It is normal for these projects to be funded either by grants, donations or by monies raised by their volunteer members of the organisation.

Given the ongoing difficulties associated with fund raising, this policy seeks to minimise the impact of Council fees on qualifying projects.

2 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy:

Minor project refers to projects such as, but not limited to, pergolas, barbeques, fences, play equipment (in an existing playground), monuments, street furniture and the like.

Not-for-profit organisation refers to individuals, recognised groups, clubs or organisations within the community whose work is principally to improve the environment or lifestyle of the community or quality of life of individuals/families at either no or nominal cost to the recipients.

3 OPERATION

Where a not-for-profit organisation applies for planning approval for a minor project, applicable planning assessment and building assessment fees shall be waived.

Where such a planning application requires public exhibition in accordance with s.57 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, the advertising fee shall be reduced to 50% of the scheduled fee.

4 ACCOUNTING

For the purposes of record keeping, where fees are waived or reduced in accordance with clause 3, the relevant accounts for that section shall record the full fees as if they had been paid with corresponding adjustment entries to record the waived component as a donation.

Council shall be advised, in the information section of its meeting agenda, of all such donations.