

Cabinet 14.02.23 Appendix 2 - Rent Support Assessment Process, Harvest Field Church

Date of rent support assessment:	25.8.22 (updated)
Carried out by:	Richard Gibson, Helen Down, Andrew Taylor, Mandeep Padan
Name of Applicant:	Harvest Field Church
Is the applicant a legally constituted, not-for-profit voluntary and community sector organisation?	The organisation is a registered charity, number 1120158
Name /address of property	Lynworth Hall Mendip Road Cheltenham GL52 5ED

Rent Support outcomes	Submission	Proposed score against the sub-elements (up to a maximum of 20% per outcome)
<p>Cheltenham's environmental quality and heritage is protected, maintained and enhanced. This could include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting bio-diversity • Responding to climate change • Promoting sustainable living • Protecting and enhancing parks, gardens and open spaces • Protecting and enhancing the built environment 	<p>As custodians of Lynworth Hall, the organisation has maintained the grounds as green space which is tranquil and attracts wildlife. The church community also plants and tends shrubs, hedging and trees.</p> <p>Besides maintenance of the grounds members of the Harvest Field Church regularly give their time voluntarily to repair and improve the building. The building is an historic one and the unique character of the building has been retained in all of the improvements that have been made to it. A number of major works have been carried out on the building over the years – and particularly in the last 20 years. These include: re-roofing, installing disabled access, building a stage where once was a walk-in storage area, renovating the kitchen, remodelling and refurbishing the toilet and creating a children's room.</p>	<p>Promoting bio-diversity – 4% Responding to climate change – 0% Promoting sustainable living – 0% Protecting and enhancing parks, gardens and open spaces – 4% Protecting and enhancing the built environment – 4%</p> <p><u>The recommended rent support for this element is 12%.</u></p>
<p>Sustain and grow Cheltenham's economic and cultural vitality. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping people into employment • Helping businesses to get established • Supporting cultural activity • Providing advice and information 	<p>The organisation supports some cultural activity on the site. Besides fulfilling its role as a place of worship, Lynworth Hall is a community hall used for local group activities, including regular community activity sessions, such as two University of the Third Age clubs which use the hall weekly for music sessions.</p>	<p>Helping people into employment – 0% Helping businesses to get established – 0% Supporting cultural activity – 4% Providing advice and information – 2% Supporting tourist activities – 0%</p> <p><u>The recommended rent support grant for this</u></p>

Rent Support outcomes	Submission	Proposed score against the sub-elements (up to a maximum of 20% per outcome) element is 6%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting tourist activities 		<u>element is 6%</u>
<p>People live in strong and safe communities. This could include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling local residents to meet together and socialise Engaging residents in positive social networks Enabling local residents to contribute their time and efforts into community activity Enabling local residents to feel safer in their communities A place for young people to meet and feel safe 	<p>As a place of worship, the Christian gatherings in Lynworth Hall cater for all ages, from Sunday School for children to refreshments for older people before the Sunday service. Parents and adults of working age socialise after the service and lunch is regularly provided to extend the time for people to get to know each other.</p> <p>The primary weekday community user of the hall is University of the Third Age, through which 2 sessions a week are provided for people no longer in full time work to come together to learn for fun, volunteer and stay active, which is integral to promoting health and wellbeing in older age.</p>	<p>Enabling local residents to meet together and socialise – 4% Engaging residents in positive social networks – 4% Enabling local residents to contribute their time and efforts into community activity – 4% Enabling local residents to feel safer in their communities – 4% A place for young people to meet and feel safe – 4%</p> <p><u>The recommended rent support grant for this element is 20%.</u></p>
<p>We will work to strengthen the emotional and physical wellbeing of all Cheltenham residents This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling local people to be active Helping local people make healthy lifestyle choices Reducing the harm caused by alcohol Improving mental health Improving health & wellbeing into older age 	<p>At the Sunday services in Lynworth Hall, the church minister prioritises messages that aid people’s ability to establish and improve their mental health and emotional wellbeing. Counsel is also regularly included to enable people to confidently make informed healthy lifestyle choices. This guidance and counsel reaches across the age ranges from young adults, through parents of young children, to men and women in old age. The result is that those who regularly attend church gatherings in the hall report enjoying having healthy lifestyles with very few serious problems related to physical or mental health.</p> <p>Cheltenham CAP (Christians Against Poverty) also uses Lynworth Hall for client consultations on an adhoc basis to meet people seeking help locally with their finances to reduce debt and poverty.</p>	<p>Enabling local people to be active – 4% Helping local people make healthy lifestyle choices – 4% Reducing the harm caused by alcohol – 0% Improving mental health – 4% Improving health & wellbeing into older age - 4%</p> <p><u>The recommended rent support grant for this element is 16%</u></p>
<p>Summary and recommended rent support grant</p>	<p>The recommended rent support grant is 54% of market rent. This will give the organisation time to increase their income before the 5 yearly rent review.</p>	

Financial considerations	Panel assessment
<p>Will the grant award will support the financial viability of the operation of the building?</p>	<p>In the last financial year (2021-22), income was £15,000, expenses £13,700 and the end of year balance was £5,900. This financial year included an exceptional, one-off gift, and projected income for 2022-23 is £11,000, expenses £12,000, and an end of year balance of £5,000.</p> <p>Without the rent support grant, they would struggle to continue to operate from the building as the small amount raised from community groups would not sustain in the long term the amount of rent set under the new lease.</p>
<p>Has the organisation got reasonable longer-term plans to sustain activities being delivered from the building beyond the term of the grant?</p>	<p>The organisation has plans to better promote the facilities on offer to community groups in the area, for use during the week. The hire charge income from these sessions would help make it possible to sustain activities delivered from the building.</p>