

Cabinet

21 February 2018



Title	Annual Grants 2018-19		
Purpose of the report	To make a Key Decision		
Report Author	Jayne Brownlow		
Cabinet Member	Councillor Tony Harman	Confidential	No
Corporate Priority	This item is not in the current list of Corporate priorities but still requires a Cabinet decision		
Recommendations	Cabinet is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• agree the grants awards for 2018/19.• note all other support to the voluntary/charity sector.• note the development of SLA's for our top funded organisations		
Reason for Recommendation	The agreement to award grants for 2018-19 will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• enable a number of charities to continue operating in the borough for the year ahead;• maintain service levels where charities provide complementary activities to Council frontline services;• enable new charities and community groups to begin working in the borough, or expand their operations		

1. Key issues

- 1.1 Applications for the grants programme for 2018/19 was opened in October 2017 and closed mid-November 2017. Any enquiries received before this date were noted and the organisations alerted when the applications opened. In addition, all previous applicants were contacted individually and invited to apply again. This year 34 applications for funding were received, compared with 37 last year.
- 1.2 Grant funding levels were maintained in 2018/19 with £209,600 made available by the Council to aid charities and voluntary organisations operating in the Borough.
- 1.3 The voluntary sector is seen as a key driver of services to address unmet need so financial support for this sector is essential to complement Council services. Other public bodies such as the North West Surrey CCG and Surrey County Council also see the voluntary sector as important providers of certain complementary services and fund separately in some cases.
- 1.4 If the voluntary sector did not provide services in certain areas it is likely that there would be even more pressure on boroughs such as Spelthorne to

provide services. It is widely acknowledged that for every pound spent by a local authority in grant aid, six pounds of value is received.

- 1.5 As well as funding charities and voluntary organisations, provision is made for annual grants to arts, sports and cultural bodies. A proportion of the allocation of the overall funding is dedicated to these sectors to provide sporting, health and wellbeing opportunities to residents and members of the community.

2. Options analysis and proposal

- 2.1 The Grants Panel met on the 30 November and the 1 December 2017 to consider the applications from our top 6 funded voluntary organisations. The panel consisted of Cllr Tony Harman (Chair), Cllr Alfred Friday, Cllr Colin Barnard, Cllr Rose Chandler, Deborah Ashman (Joint Group Head, Community Wellbeing), Jayne Brownlow (Deputy Group Head, Community Wellbeing), and Mary West (Sport & Active Lifestyle Officer).

- 2.2 Following interviews, the resulting grant support is proposed.

Organisation	Primary focus	Amount proposed 2018/19	Amount awarded 2017/18
Rentstart	Assists homeless singles and childless couples. Key partner with the introduction of HRA (Homelessness Reduction Act)	£45,000	£30,000
Citizens' Advice, (Runnymede & Spelthorne)	Impartial advice on debt, housing, divorce, benefits, family matters etc.	£40,000	£75,000
AgeUK Surrey	Advice & Information for older people and befriending service	£30,000	£24,000
Voluntary Support North Surrey (VSNS)	Voluntary sector infrastructure advice	£30,000	£15,000
HomeStart	Family support organisation	£15,000	£15,000
Shopmobility	Assists those with mobility problems to access facilities	£15,000	£15,000
Total		£175,000	£174,000

- 2.3 The panel acknowledged the good work undertaken by VSNS (Voluntary Support North Surrey) in their first year of working in Spelthorne. Their role of coordinating, training and encouraging volunteers has greatly improved the service compared to previous years, in particular with organising voluntary sector events.

- 2.4 The amount of grant funding allocated to Citizens Advice this year has been reduced. A reengineered package of funding will be offered encompassing proposals to move them from Sunbury Library back to the Knowle Green offices, reduced grant funding of £40,000 and a top up amount funded from Council budgets for specific advice provided to address a projected increase

in demand for areas such as housing, debt and welfare support advice. The overall package is anticipated to maintain their level of funding.

2.5 A subsequent meeting took place on the 7 December 2017 to consider the other grant applications. Following consideration, the resulting grant support is proposed.

Organisation	Primary focus	Amount proposed 2018/19	Amount awarded 2017/18
The Mulberry Centre	Cancer information and support	£3,000	£3,000
North Surrey Domestic Abuse	Independent, confidential, impartial advice	£3,000	£3,000
Crossroads	Respite breaks for unpaid carers	£3,000	£3,500
Spelthorne Community & Arts Association	Administers small grants to Community and Arts associations	£2,400	£2,400
Spelthorne Sports Council	Administers small grants to local Sports Organisations and individuals	£2,400	£2,400
Cruse Bereavement Care	Support, advice, information for bereaved	£2,000	new
Daybreak	Day respite care, older people	£2,000	£2,000
One to One	Social activities for adults with learning disabilities	£2,000	£1,000
London Irish Amateur Ladies	Encouraging female participation in the sport. Support for coaching, kit and physio for players.	£2,000	new
Browns Community Services	Support for vulnerable adults with complex needs	£1,000	£1,000
Talk	Support for those with communication difficulty after a stroke	£1,000	£1,000
SCAN	Improve access awareness for people with disabilities	£500	£500
Skiff & Punt Club	Teaching punting and encouraging participation for all abilities	£2,500	new
Total		£26,800	£16,800

2.6 The budget for the 2018/19 grants allocations was set at £209,600. During the review process, a total of £201,800 of grant money was assigned. Allocations were based on the assumption that the additional residual funding (detailed in 2.7a) is still available to be carried forward from the 2017/18 funding pot.

- 2.7 A number of additional one off grant funding streams were made available during 2017/18. As a result of this we have been able to support more charities and organisations over the year across a wider spectrum.

These additional one off funding streams included:

- (a) Due to additional revenue grant funding from the Better Neighbourhood Grant of £8,696, £9,696 currently remains unallocated from the residual 2017/18 grant provision. This surplus can be taken forward into next year's allocations.
 - (b) A virement of £25,000 from the Surrey County Council's suspended Community Buildings Fund (for capital projects only). To date a total of £21,900 of this has been spent in 2017/18, leaving £3,100 to spend between now and the end of the current year, or carry forward into next year
- 2.8 The Terms of Reference for the Grants panel states that any organisations receiving in excess of £15,000 should enter into a service level agreement (SLA) to ensure that the Council is receiving value for money. This currently applies to our top 6 funded organisations, enabling us to ensure they effectively help support local need and the Council's priorities
- 2.9 The current 3 year SLA terms expire on 1 April 2018. The Council are working on developing more robust and organisation specific agreements with clear requirements and outcomes.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1 The grant funding awarded to date from applications received for funding in 2018/19 is £201,800 out of £219,296 available. This leaves a surplus of £17,496 which will be ring-fenced for projects which arise during the course of the year 2018/19.

Funding position summary

	£
2018/19 grant allocation	209,600
Carry forward from 2017/18	9,696
Total grant allocation available for 2018/9	219,296
Less currently allocated funding 2018/19	201,800
Remaining for 2018/19 (for in year grant allocation)	17,496

- 3.2 In addition a one off amount of £3,100 is available for applications for capital funding.
- 3.3 The support in kind for 2018/19 is projected to be as follows.

Item	Amount	Description
Business Rates	£6,683	Spelthorne contribution
Rate Relief	£41,600	Spelthorne contribution

Free facilities (excluding Knowle Green)	£13,451	Community/charity organisations that SBC receive an income from.
Accommodation (Knowle Green)	£22,302	Open market rental costs
Total	£84,036	

3.4 In addition to the above, a number of other forms of funding in kind are attributable to the voluntary and charity sector. These are outlined in Appendix A – Other support for charities and community organisations.

4. Other considerations

4.1 The Voluntary Sector offers services to a wide range of communities in Spelthorne. The value of the sector shows itself in its involvement with a cross section of residents from across the borough. It can deliver outcomes the public sector finds hard to deliver on its own, such as one-to-one support, dedication to a specific group or cause; expert guidance and advice and non-statutory services. Some providers represent or advocate for minority groups, user groups and faith communities.

4.2 The sector's activities enhance aspects of health and wellbeing, self-reliance, community resilience and social cohesion.

4.3 The grants panel aim to support a cross section of voluntary organisations to ensure a presence is maintained in all aspects of the third sector including voluntary, sporting, and charitable organisations.

5. Timetable for implementation

5.1 Following agreement by Cabinet, letters will be sent to applicants advising them of the outcome of their applications by late February

5.2 All qualifying grants will be paid in April 2018.

5.3 The ring-fenced surplus funding (£17,496 revenue and £3,100 capital) will be paid out by the grants panel as applications are received and evaluated during the course of the financial year 2018/19.

Appendices: Appendix A – Other support for charities & community organisations