

Cabinet

20 February 2019



Title	Annual Revenue Grants 2019-20		
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 2019/20.• note all other support to the voluntary/charity sector.• note the development of Service Level Agreements (SLA's) for our top funded organisations		
Reason for Recommendation	The agreement to award grants for 2019/2020 will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• enable a number of charities and voluntary organisations to continue operating in the borough for the year ahead;• maintain service levels where charities provide complementary activities to Council and other public sector 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 2019/20 were opened mid October and closed mid-November 2018. Any enquiries received before these dates were noted and the organisations alerted when the applications of interest were opened. In addition, all previous applicants were contacted individually and invited to apply again.
- 1.2 The use of social media to advertise the grants was employed this year to widen the awareness of the grants process and criteria for application.
- 1.3 This year 59 applications for funding were received, compared with 34 last year, the increase possibly being attributed to the extended publicity through direct contacts and social media channels
- 1.4 Grant funding levels were maintained in 2019/20 with £209,600 made available by the Council to financially aid charities and voluntary organisations operating in the Borough.
- 1.5 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 in some cases they fund these separately.

- 1.6 Due to a decrease in services and support offered by Surrey County Council, careful allocation of grant funding to voluntary organisations is becoming more important to ensure key services are available to citizens ongoing.
- 1.7 If the voluntary sector did not provide services in certain areas it is likely that there would be even more pressure on 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.
- 1.8 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 art and culture, sporting, health and wellbeing opportunities to residents and members of the community.
- 1.9 Following the expiry of the previous Service level Agreements (SLA's) last year, the Council have developed further SLA's with enhanced monitoring requirements and outcomes for those organisations awarded grants of £15K or more. These SLA's will be in place for 3 years and include regular reporting to allow the Council to manage the relationship with the organisations and ensure the money granted is used to maintain or improve provision.

2. Options analysis and proposal

- 2.1 The Grants Panel met on the 29 November 2018 to consider the applications. Information on the grant applications was circulated in advance to panel members, allowing the process to be streamlined. The panel consisted of Cllr Tony Harman (Chair), Cllr Alfred Friday, Cllr Colin Barnard, Jayne Brownlow (Deputy Group Head, Community Wellbeing), and Mary West (Sport & Active Lifestyle Officer).
- 2.2 The top 6 funded organisations were invited to present their cases for continued funding. This also gave the panel an opportunity to question the organisations and ensure the money allocated by the Council was being used to maximum effect. Following interviews, the resulting grant support is proposed for the top 6 funded organisations.

Organisation	Primary focus	Amount proposed by grants panel for 2019/20	Amount awarded 2018/19
Rentstart	Assists homeless singles and childless couples. Key partner with the introduction of HRA (Homelessness Reduction Act)	£45,000	£45,000
Citizens' Advice,	Impartial advice on debt, housing, divorce, benefits, family matters etc.	£40,000	£40,000

(Runnymede & Spelthorne)			
AgeUK Surrey	Advice & Information for older people and befriending service	£30,000	£30,000
Voluntary Support North Surrey (VSNS)	Voluntary sector infrastructure advice	£30,000	£30,000
HomeStart	Family support organisation	£15,000	£15,000
Shopmobility	Assists those with mobility problems to access facilities	£15,000	£15,000
Total		£175,000	£175,000

- 2.3 Again this year it was agreed to provide reduced funding to Citizens Advice (CA). Citizens Advice requested £75K in grant funding, but due to case data indicating that the bulk of the CA work was in the Housing area (particularly with the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) and Universal Credit), top up funding will be provided from Council budgets for targeted advice in these areas to address a projected increase in demand for housing, debt and welfare support advice. As in 2018/19, the overall package for CA is anticipated to maintain their level of funding at £75K.
- 2.4 The relationship and close working between the Council and Rentstart was noted, particularly with the introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act (HRA) and the role of the Council in assisting young single persons through referrals to Rentstart. The relationship has also strengthened over the use of private landlords both by the Council and Rentstart. This was demonstrated by a joint Landlord Forum being held in May 2018.
- 2.5 Following the interviews of the top funded organisations, subsequent consideration was given to the other grant applications. The resulting grant support is proposed.

Organisation	Primary focus	Amount proposed by grants panel 2019/20	Amount awarded 2018/19
One to One	Running Costs - Social activities for adults with learning disabilities	£2,000	£2,000
The Mulberry Centre	Cancer information and support	£3,000	£3,000
North Surrey Domestic Abuse	Community Outreach	£1,000	£3,000
Crossroads	Respite breaks for unpaid carers	£3,000	£3,000
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	£2,000
Browns Community Services CIC	The rebuild project – support to families of children at risk of child sexual exploitation	£1,000	£1,000
CREST Cancer support	Providing complementary therapies	£2,000	£1,000
Talk Surrey CIO	Support for those with communication difficulty after a stroke	£1,000	£1,000
SCAN	Improve access awareness for people with disabilities	£500	£500
Total		£20,300	

2.6 The budget for the 2019/20 grants allocations was set at £209,600. During the overall review process, a total of £195,300 of grant money was assigned.

3. Financial implications

3.1 The grant funding awarded to date from applications received for funding in 2019/20 is £195,300 out of £209,600 available. This leaves a surplus of £18,300 (including a carry forward from 2018/19 of £4,000). This will be ring-fenced for projects which arise during the course of the year 2019/20.

3.2 Funding position summary

	£
Total grant allocation available for 2019/20	209,600
Carry forward unallocated grant funding from 2018/19	4,000
Less currently allocated funding 2019/20	195,300
Remaining for 2019/20 (available for in year grant allocation)	18,300

3.3 The overall cost to Spelthorne for 'support in kind' for 2019/20 is difficult to estimate due to the upcoming changes to accommodation arrangements at Knowle Green for 5 of our Voluntary sector partners (Rentstart, One to One, AgeUK, Action for Carers and CREST Cancer support). As a comparator, the overall cost to Spelthorne for support in kind was £84K in 2018/19. Due to the decrease in office space occupied by the above charities an estimate for 2019/20 is £76.5K. This includes:

- i) a Spelthorne contribution to Business Rates and Rate Relief,
- ii) free use of facilities, both at Knowle Green and other locations in the borough eg CA at Sunbury Library and VSNS at Staines

Library and is based on the cost of the amount of office space used if let commercially

- 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, arts, 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 2019
- 5.3 The ring-fenced surplus funding (£18,300) will be paid out by the grants panel as applications are received and evaluated during the course of the financial year 2019/20.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Other support for charities & community organisations