

Appendix A – Background information

Spelthorne Council supports the voluntary sector in a number of ways and detailed below are some examples

1.1 Other Support to Voluntary / Charity organisations

- Rate / Business rate relief to charities / voluntary organisations.
- Free accommodation
- Facilities with no rent
- In kind support
- Better Neighbourhood Grants

1.2 Rate / Business Rate Relief

There is a range of relief on rates / business rates for charities. Many organisations are entitled to mandatory relief of 80% but the Council has the authority to offer discretionary rate relief of up to 20%. Cabinet approval is required for any organisations receiving a “top up” of over £2,000 per annum and officers may approve a “top up” of up to £2,000.

1.3 The Council also has the ability to offer discretionary rate relief (need to meet the criteria). Again, Cabinet agree discretionary awards over £2,000 and officer under £2,000

1.4 Examples of organisations who receive the following

- Top up on mandatory over £2,000 e.g. Leisure Centres / Art Galleries.
- Top up on mandatory under £2,000 e.g. Scout Hut.
- Discretionary under £2,000 e.g. Village Halls / Sports clubs.
- Discretionary under £2,000 e.g. Sailing Halls / Sports clubs.

1.5 The value of the discretionary rate relief for 2016/16 is £46,000

1.6 Free Accommodation

The following organisations receive free accommodation in Knowle Green.

- Age UK Runnymede and Spelthorne
- Carers Support
- Crest
- Crossroads
- One to One
- Rentstart

1.7 The rent value of this area (117.89sq m) is £27,916 per annum.

1.8 Facilities with no rent

There are a few facilities which the Council leases to organisations at no cost. The key facilities are

- Riverside Arts Centre Sunbury
- Spelthorne Museum and archive store

1.9 The facilities above provide service for residents of the Borough. The facilities are extensively used by the community and are operated by volunteers. The rental values are as follows

- Riverside Arts Centre £44,000 per annum
- Spelthorne Museum £9,500 per annum

There is also a number of uniformed groups located on Council land for which the Council receives a ground rent.

Spelthorne Council also makes a grant to Surrey County Council, to cover the lease of space and service charge at Sunbury Library occupied by Citizens' Advice. This is projected to be around £6700 for 2016/17.

1.10 **Leisure Grants**

Leisure Services has formerly administered grants to sports / play and arts organisations and individuals. For 2016-17 a minimum of £3,800 will be awarded to sports and arts associations and will be included in the annual grants allocation (see 1.4). The £4,800 administered by Spelthorne Community Arts Association and Spelthorne Sport Council will be included in the annual grants allocation for 2016/17.

1.11 **In Kind Support**

Organisations such as Civic Pride, The Allotment Society and the Free Wades receive meeting rooms free of charge, storage and help to deliver projects.

1.12 **Better Neighbourhood Grants**

Councillors will be each allocated £1,000 per annum from 2016-2017, to make their neighbourhood better, a total of £39,000. In some cases ward councillors put their allocations together to try to make better use of the money.

1.13 The Leader allocates any residual money at the end of the financial year.