

Appendix A – Other support for charities & community organisations

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.

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

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 over £2,000 e.g. Sailing clubs / Sports clubs.

The value of the discretionary rate relief for 2017/18 is £50,000

1.3 Free Accommodation

The following organisations receive free accommodation in Knowle Green.

- Age UK Runnymede and Spelthorne – due to move out March 2017; talks with a possible substitute service provider in that office are ongoing
- Carers Support – service takeover might necessitate vacating the office
- Crest
- One to One
- Rentstart

The rent value of this area (117.89sq m) is £22,206.65 per annum.

1.4 **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

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

- Riverside Arts Centre £44,000 per annum (rental)
- Spelthorne Museum £11,000 per annum (utilities & other charges)

There is also a number of groups/organisations located on Council land for which the Council receives a ground rent. Of these, community/charity use brings in £13,014.50 a year.

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 £6,700 for 2017/18.

1.5 **In Kind Support**

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

1.6 **Better Neighbourhood Grants**

Councillors are expected to be each allocated £1,000 per annum from 2017-2018, 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.

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

1.7 **Leader's "windfall" grants 2017-18**

The Leader has announced a one-off sum of £20,000 per ward - £260,000 in total - being made available as a result of the Council's improved finances following the recent purchase and lease back of the BP Sunbury International Campus and other investment initiatives. The money is for councillors to use in 2017-18 for capital projects within their wards.