

As well as direct grant funding, Spelthorne Council supports the voluntary sector in a number other ways. Some examples are detailed below.

1.1 Rate / Business Rate Relief to charities and organisations

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 additional discretionary rate relief of up to 20%. In order to apply this, Cabinet approval is required for any organisations receiving a “top up” of over £2,000 per annum. Officers may approve a “top up” of up to £2,000.

The Council also has the ability to offer discretionary rate relief, provided the criteria are met. Again, Cabinet agree discretionary awards over £2,000 and officer under £2,000

Examples of organisations who receive relief include

Business rate relief categories	Examples of organisations
Top up on mandatory over £2,000	Leisure Centres / Art Galleries
Top up on mandatory under £2,000	Scout Huts
Discretionary over £2,000	Sailing clubs / Sports clubs
Discretionary under £2,000	Village Halls / Sports clubs.

1.2 In Kind Support

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

1.3 Free Accommodation

A number of voluntary organisations receive free accommodation in Knowle Green. As a result of the current office space reorganisation they will be required to move offices in 2019/20 and occupy a smaller space overall. The breakdown of the estimated 2019/20 rental costs are detailed below.

Organisation	m2	Rental cost/ m2 (£)	Rental cost (£)	Additional costs
Action for Carers	20.9	189.00	£3,950	Additional benefits (not costed) include use of building facilities, rate relief, car parking spaces, utility costs, wi-fi etc.
Age UK	18.2	189.00	£3,440	
One to One	7.7	189.00	£1,455	
Crest	12.6	189.00	£2,381	
Rentstart	19.2	189.00	£3,629	
Rental Rates	78.6		£14,855.00	

The projected total open market rental value of the office space provided to voluntary/charitable organisations within Knowle Green for 2019/20 is £14,855 a nominal saving of £ 7,447 per annum on previous years.

1.4 Facilities with no rent or rental income of ground rent only.

There are a few facilities which the Council leases to organisations at no cost. The main facilities are Riverside Arts Centre Sunbury and Spelthorne Museum and archive store. The facilities above provide service for residents of the Borough and are extensively used by the community. They are operated by volunteers. The values associated with these spaces are as follows:

- Riverside Arts Centre £44,000 per annum (open market rental value)
- Spelthorne Museum £11,000 per annum (put aside to cover utilities, business rates & other charges)

There are 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.

1.5 Better Neighbourhood Grants (BNG)

Councillors are expected to each be allocated £1,000 per annum from the 2019/20 budget to make their neighbourhood better. This equates to a total of £39,000. In some cases ward councillors put their allocations together to try to make better use of the money.