

Other Support for local community and Voluntary organisations

As well as direct grant funding, Spelthorne Council supports the third sector in a number other ways.

Some examples are detailed below.

1.1 Discretionary Business Rate Relief to charities and organisations

Business rates relief is available for a number of voluntary groups and 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 organisations receiving a “top up” of over £2,000 per annum. Officers may approve a “top up” of up to £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.

In the year 2020/21 a total of **£154,428.07** of discretionary rate relief was awarded by Spelthorne to qualifying organisations in the Borough

1.2 Free Accommodation – Knowle Green

Five voluntary organisations receive rent free accommodation in Knowle Green. These organisations include Action for Carers, Age UK, One to One, Crest Cancer Support and Rentstart. The breakdown of the estimated 2020/21 rental costs is detailed below.

Organisation	Feet square	Estimate Rental cost/ sq/ft (£)	Rental cost (£)	Additional costs
Action for Carers	199	12.50	£2,487.50	Additional benefits (not costed) include use of building facilities, rate relief, car parking spaces, utility costs, cleaning, common services and wi-fi.
Age UK	237	12.50	£2,962.50	
One to One	84	12.50	£1,050.00	
Crest	97	12.50	£1,212.50	
Rentstart	207	12.50	£2,587.50	
Rental Rates	824		£10,300.00	

The projected total open market rental value of the office space provided to voluntary/charitable organisations within Knowle Green for 2021/22 is **£10,300**.

1.3 Other municipal facilities with no rental income.

There are a few facilities which the Council leases to organisations at no cost. Most of these are small organisations using small halls or rooms such as Staines Brass Band, Civic Pride and The Allotment Society receive the occasional use of meeting rooms, storage and/or office time free of charge to help to deliver projects. The main facility in this category is Spelthorne Museum and archive store,

1.4 Income from municipal assets leased to charitable or community organisations

There are also a total of 36 of local community and voluntary groups located on Council land or buildings for which the Council receives a reduced rental income. Income for 2020/21 was in the region of £130,000. Given the estimated market rental value was £379,000, the Council are subsidising these organisations to the tune of **£249,000**.

1.5 Better Neighbourhood Grants (BNG)

Councillors were each originally allocated £1,000 per annum from the 2020/21 budget to make their neighbourhood better. In response to the impact of COVID-19, the Cabinet increased the provision, on a one-off basis for 2020-21 only, to £1,500 to enable councillors to respond to additional requests for support from their communities arising from the financial impacts of the pandemic. The revised total for Better Neighbourhood Grants for 2020-21 is £58,500. The budget for 2021-22 is £39,000. In some cases ward councillors put their allocations together to try to make better use of the money.