

### Other Support for local community and Voluntary organisations

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

<b>Business rate relief categories</b>	<b>Examples of organisations</b>
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 2021/22 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. In terms of the estimated rental value for the office space in Knowle Green a cost of £19.00 per sq ft has been estimated by the Assets team, based upon comparable lettings completed in the last 12 months in other Surrey towns.

The breakdown of the estimated 2022/23 rental costs is detailed below.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Feet square</b>	<b>Estimate Rental cost/ sq/ft (£)</b>	<b>Rental cost (£)</b>	<b>Additional costs</b>
Action for Carers	199	£19.00	£3,781.00	Additional benefits include use of building facilities, rate relief, car parking spaces, utility costs, cleaning, common services and wi-fi.
Age UK	237	£19.00	£4,503.00	
One to One	84	£19.00	£1,596.00	
Crest	97	£19.00	£1,843.00	
Rentstart	207	£19.00	£3,933.00	
<b>Rental Rates</b>	<b>824</b>		<b>£15,656.00</b>	

The projected total open market rental value of the office space provided to voluntary/charitable organisations within Knowle Green for 2021/22 is **£15,656**.

### **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 their archive store,

### **1.4 Income from municipal assets leased to charitable or community organisations**

There are a total of 48 local community and voluntary groups located on Council land or buildings for which the Council receives no or a reduced rental income. These include scout huts and pavilions which are difficult to put an estimated rental value on as comparable evidence is not widely available. Whilst it may be possible to let these buildings to commercial occupiers the Council is unlikely to go down this route especially with the Community Letting Policy in place. Income for 2021/22 was in the region of £134,240.

### **1.5 Better Neighbourhood Grants (BNG)**

Councillors are normally allocated £1,000 per annum to award to local groups or organisations to make their neighbourhood better. This year, in response to the climate change crisis, Councillor's funding was increased to £2,000. This money will be ringfenced for green and climate change activities and projects within Councillors' wards. This proposal provides a chance for 'bottom up' initiatives from residents to tackle climate change and allows for the development of a wider set of proposals at grassroot level to meet carbon reduction targets.

The revised total for Better Neighbourhood Grants for 2021-22 is £78,000, £39,00 for general use and £39,000 for green initiatives.

### **1.6 Covid related support**

Since the start of the pandemic, the Council have provided financial support to our community organisations. Examples of this include business support grants to bodies such as Shopmobility and Staines Bowls club, donations to our foodbanks to allow them to step up to demand, funding to Citizens Advice to provide an advisor in two of our foodbanks, a hardship fund administered by VSNS (Voluntary Support North Surrey) and most recently a Household Support Fund scheme to assist households who are in food or fuel poverty