

Ethical Property Foundation: Charity Property Matters Survey 2014

Antonia Swinson – Director

Ruth Thompson – Property Advice
Manager

Who are we?

- Nationwide property advice for charities and community groups - providing free and paid for solutions
- Input via in-house property advice team and Register of Property Professionals
- Free property resource guide via our website
- www.ethicalproperty.org.uk

Charity Property Matters 2014

- Update to survey carried out in 2012
- Partnership with Charity Commission
- Online survey – responses across country
- Summary of main issues gives focus to the work of the Foundation and illustrates the need across the sector – plus what funders / local authorities can do

Summary of findings

- 45% of charities think property is the greatest risk to their long term survival – up 4% on 2012.
- A third of charities paid for commercial property advice in the last three years.
- A further 40% rely on informal advice from friends and contacts.
- Over 40% experience difficulty in obtaining core funding to cover premises costs.
- 47% would consider sharing space to reduce costs.
- Half the charities surveyed felt their local authority was broadly supportive of the role of the voluntary sector. However over 80% felt there was insufficient opportunity to be involved in strategic planning on provision of premises.

1 – Obtaining advice and support

- Many charities do not obtain adequate advice and support on property.
- Reasons include fears over costs, accessibility, communication, prioritising other areas
- Allowing for professional fee costs in funding is very helpful – emphasising need for independent advice

2 – Funding for core costs

- Remains a challenge for the sector, especially for management of premises, but this is a crucial part of effective running of services
- Poor property management puts services at risk – third have experienced unforeseen costs
- Helping to ensure this is provided for and prioritised



3 – Saving money

- As with previous survey - 47% would consider sharing space to reduce costs, but less than 10% are actively seeking to share premises
- Can be effective way to save costs, issues to be considered
- Need for support and information sharing

Recent work

- The Foundation works with grant funders and local authorities to provide support for grantees and local charity sector
- Examples include: training and Local Property Events, support and mentoring, CAT processes and engagement with local sector





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Any questions?

