

MINUTES OF THE SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting of Spelthorne Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames on Thursday, 7 April 2016 at 7.30 pm

Present:

Councillors:

M.M. Attewell	C.M. Frazer	A.J. Mitchell
C.B. Barnard	A.E. Friday	S.C. Mooney
R.O. Barratt	N.J. Gething	J.M. Pinkerton OBE
I.J. Beardsmore	A.L. Griffiths	O. Rybinski
S. Capes	A.C. Harman	R.W. Sider BEM
R. Chandler	I.T.E. Harvey	R.A. Smith-Ainsley
C.A. Davis	N. Islam	B.B. Spoor
S.M. Doran	A.T. Jones	H.A. Thomson
S.A. Dunn	J.G. Kavanagh	H.R.D. Williams
Q.R. Edgington	V.J. Leighton	
T.J.M. Evans	M.J. Madams	

Councillor M.P.C. Francis, The Mayor, in the Chair

Apologies: Apologies were received from Councillors S.J. Burkmar, K. Flurry, P.C. Forbes-Forsyth, D. Patel, D. Saliagopoulos and J.R. Sexton, Mr Murray Litvak and Miss Sue Faulkner, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee.

82/16 Disclosures of Interest

Councillor R.A. Smith-Ainsley declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item before the Council, due to his position as a representative on the A2Dominion Customer Service Board and on the basis that A2Dominion is the main social housing provider for the Council.

There were no other interests.

83/16 Request for Supplementary Capital Estimate for property acquisition

The Council considered a report on a request for a supplementary Capital estimate for property acquisitions in the Borough, to provide much needed affordable housing as well as income and capital growth. The Leader addressed the Council as follows:

“The report before you this evening is asking Council to agree to increase the amount of capital provision that it has available to spend on acquiring additional properties in the borough, and in so doing increase our asset base. It is important to understand the reasons why this is being asked for. There is an increasing need to provide both affordable housing and emergency accommodation for homeless families. A lot of our hard working residents (whose jobs support the local economy) are simply not able to afford to buy their own homes due to rapidly increasing house prices. The intention is to use this additional capital to buy properties which can house those families. We will also look at ways of ensuring that an on-going rental income stream comes to the Council.

It may also be spent on providing emergency temporary accommodation (Bed and Breakfast) which will not only help reduce our costs but ensure that families have a better chance of being housed in the borough (which presents less challenges and is better for the residents with respect to proximity to family support networks etc).

In the future it may also be spent on buying properties for social and economic regeneration within our town centres, both to support growth and bring in an income stream to help support the Council’s budget. However, as a Council we will only look to buy properties where it makes business sense to do so. It is not necessarily the case that all the capital which is being asked for will be spent.

If the extra capital is agreed by Council, a Cabinet meeting will follow immediately after this meeting to consider whether we acquire two properties in the borough designed to help meet the need for affordable housing and temporary emergency accommodation. It is the role of Cabinet to review and consider the report in detail, and to make a decision on whether to proceed with the purchases.

I therefore move that Council:

- Approves the request for supplementary capital expenditure for property acquisitions of up to £29m for 2016/17 (for service provision – specifically for affordable housing and emergency accommodation, economic and social regeneration or to generate an on-going income stream) and
- Agrees the revised set of prudential indicators which include the operational boundary and authorised limit for external debt.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor A.C. Harman and in accordance with Standing Order 22.4, he called for a recorded vote to be taken on the motion before the Council.

The voting was as follows:

FOR (29)	Councillors I.T.E. Harvey (Leader); A.C. Harman (Deputy Leader); M.M. Attewell; C. Barnard; R.O. Barratt; I.J. Beardsmore; S. Capes; R. Chandler; C.A. Davis; S.M. Doran; S.A. Dunn; T. Evans; C.M. Frazer, N. Gething; A. Griffiths; N. Islam; A. Jones; J.G. Kavanagh; V.J. Leighton; M.J. Madams; A.J. Mitchell; S.C. Mooney; J.M. Pinkerton; O. Rybinski; R.W. Sider; R.A. Smith-Ainsley, B. Spoor, H.A. Thomson and H.R. Williams.
ABSTAIN (1)	Councillor Edgington

The Motion was carried.

Resolved that Council:

1. Approves the request for supplementary capital expenditure for property acquisitions of up to £29m for 2016/17 (for service provision – specifically for affordable housing and emergency accommodation, economic and social regeneration or to generate an on-going income stream); and
2. Agrees the revised set of prudential indicators, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report, which include the operational boundary and authorised limit for external debt.