

TO THE MEMBERS OF SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO MEETING

You are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Spelthorne to be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines on Thursday 22nd February, 2001, beginning at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the business specified in the Agenda set out on the next page.

MICHAEL TAYLOR
Chief Executive

Please Note:-

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE - THE LIFT MUST NOT BE USED.

In the event of an emergency the building must be evacuated. All Members and Officers should assemble on the Green adjacent to Broome Lodge. Members of the Public present should accompany the Officers to this point and remain there until the Senior Officer present has accounted for all persons known to be on the premises.

PUBLIC SPEAKING AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

(1) Question Time

Public "Question Time" at Council meetings is now at the start of meetings. This is an opportunity for any person to ask the Leader of the Council a question about the Council's activities or issues which affect the Borough.

A written copy of a question from a member of the public must be submitted to the Chief Executive's office before Noon on the day of the meeting.

(2) Representations on Committee Recommendations

When the Council is considering a recommendation made by a committee any resident can put their views on the issues involved by making representations to the Council for three minutes before the Council discusses the recommendation and makes a decision.

Any one wishing to make representations on a committee recommendation must notify the Chief Executive's office before Noon on the day of the meeting.

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 14th December, 2000. (Attached at APPENDIX 1 [pages 4-13])

3. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Leader or his nominee to answer questions raised by members of the public (provided questions have been submitted in writing to the Chief Executive's office before Noon on the day of the meeting).

4. THE AWARD OF BEACON STATUS

To receive a report from the Chief Executive (Attached at APPENDIX 2 [pages 14-15]) and to make a presentation in respect of the recent award to the Borough Council of Beacon Status for Independent Living for Older People.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(a) Pursuant to Section 94 of the Local Government Act, 1972 and Standing Orders 41(1) and (2), to receive declarations from any Members who have interests in any matters to be considered at this meeting; and

(b) Pursuant to Standing Order 41(1), to consider inviting Members declaring their interests under (a) above to remain at the meeting during the discussion of the items concerned.

6. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor to make any announcements.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

To consider the recommendations of the Executive (Attached at APPENDIX 3 [pages 16-22]) on the following:-

1. Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2001/2002

To consider the recommendations of the Executive on the Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2001/2002 and to set the Council Tax to be levied for the Borough for the financial year ending 31st March, 2002.

(Attached under separate cover is the revised Budget Book (green cover) reflecting the decisions and recommendations made by the Executive on 6th February, 2001.)

(Also attached separately is a report from the Director of Resources with details of the Precepts which have now been received from the Surrey County Council and the Surrey Police.)

- 2. Total Borrowing Requirement 2001/2002**
- 3 Surrey Pension Fund Deficit**
- 4. Spelthorne Borough Local Plan**
- 5. A Pay and Reward Strategy for Spelthorne**
- 6. Approved Duty - Travelling Expenses - Attendance at Regional Sports Bodies**
- 7 Concessionary Fares**
- 8 Terms of Reference - Amendment by the Executive**
- 9. Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) 2001/2002**

(This matter will be considered at a special meeting of the Executive on 21st February, 2001 and the Agenda for that meeting is being circulated to all Members on 15th February. The recommendations from the Executive and any amendments to the draft BVPP will be tabled at the Council Meeting.)

Note: Members of the public may make representations not exceeding 3 minutes on individual recommendations before they are discussed (provided notice of their wish to do so has been given to the Chief Executive's office before Noon on the day of the meeting).

8. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

To consider the recommendations of the Standards Committee on an Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy. (Attached at APPENDIX 4 [page 23])

9. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

To receive Notice of Motions submitted under Standing Order 11.

10. REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMEN OF THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEES

To receive reports from the Leader on the work of the Executive and from other Chairmen of Committees on the work of their Committee. (Attached at APPENDICES 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 [pages 24-35])

11. QUESTIONS ON WARD ISSUES

The Leader or his nominee to answer questions from Members on issues in their Ward (provided questions have been submitted in writing to the Chief Executive's office before Noon on the day of the meeting).

12. GENERAL QUESTIONS

The Leader or his nominee or relevant Committee Chairman to answer questions from Members on matters affecting the Borough or for which their committee has responsibility (provided questions have been submitted in writing to the Chief Executive's office before Noon on the day of the meeting).

13. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES (Minute 530/00 (b), (c) and (d))

(a) St. Mary's C. of E. Junior School, Clare Road, Stanwell

To appoint a Representative to serve on the Governing Body of St. Mary's C. of E. Junior School, Stanwell, until 22nd February, 2005, in place of the existing representative Mrs. Lynne Dyson who has resigned. The Chairman of the School Governors has made a particular request that the Council seek to appoint a Representative with business experience to bring to the management of the School.

(b) Ashford Park Primary School, Station Crescent, Ashford

To appoint a Representative to serve on the Governing Body of Ashford Park Primary School, Ashford, until 22nd February, 2005, in place of the existing representative Mrs. Kathy Mackey who has resigned.

(c) Shortwood Infant School, Stanwell New Road, Staines

To appoint a Representative to serve on the Governing Body of Shortwood Infant School, Staines, until 22nd February, 2005, in place of the existing representative Mr. Malcolm Royer who has resigned.

(d) The Ashford (Middlesex) Sick or Needy Charity

The Council's appointments of Mrs. G.E. Wall of 66 Fordbridge Road, Ashford and Mr. A.S. Hatchman of 41A Fordbridge Road, Ashford as trustees expire on 20th February, 2001. Two replacement trustees are now needed for the four year period until 22nd February, 2005. Both Mrs. Wall and Mr. Hatchman are willing to continue in Office.

14. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any urgent business.

15. EXEMPT BUSINESS

To move the exclusion of the press/public for the following item, in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

16. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS - EXEMPT

To consider any recommendations or answers to questions which relate to exempt business.

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14TH DECEMBER, 2000

BOROUGH OF SPELTHORNE

At the Meeting of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH of SPELTHORNE, held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines on Thursday 14th December, 2000 at 7.30 pm

Present:-

Agarwal V	Forsbrey G E	Paton J M
Amos Mrs P C	Grant Mrs D L	Ponton Mrs J E
Appleyard M A	Hermes A W	Read E I J
Ayers F	Hirst A P	Searancke E J
Beardsmore I J	Hyams Mrs M	Smith J E H
Blampied G G	James P R	Smith Mrs P A
Ceaser G S	Leedham Ms A	Smith-Ainsley R A
Crabb T W	Mellett Mrs H E L	Stubbs T
Culnane E K	Napper Mrs I	Trussler G F
Davies F (Leader)	Norcross Mrs G A	Watkins R
Drinkwater H V (Deputy Mayor)	O'Hara E	Weston Mrs P
Fisher C M	Packman J D (Deputy Leader)	Wood-Dow Mrs J M (Mayor)

Councillor Mrs J M Wood-Dow, Mayor, in the Chair

510/00 INTRODUCTIONS

At the commencement of the meeting The Mayor, Councillor Mrs Wood-Dow, welcomed and introduced Mr Murray Litvak one of the two independent members on the Standards Committee and the Chairman of that Committee. She informed the meeting that under item 7 on the agenda (minute 522/00), Mr Murray Litvak would be speaking in support of the recommendations of the Standards Committee.

The Mayor also welcomed representatives of the Spelthorne Student Council who were in attendance at the meeting, in particular the recently appointed chairman of the Spelthorne Student Council, Natalie Kempton. The Mayor reported that the first meeting of the Student Council had taken place on Monday 11th December, 2000 and was a great success.

511/00 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors L J W Burrell, Mrs M Hartley, Mrs M J Martin and R W Sider.

512/00 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th October, 2000 were approved as a correct record.

513/00 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- 1) Under Standing Order 17 Mr V.F. Wroth asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Frank Davies, the following question relating to the level of Council Tax.

"During past years I have had correspondence with Spelthorne Councillors Paton, James, Murray and Hartley and also N.W. Skellett of Surrey County Council and the Chief Constable of the Surrey Police - and all of this because the ultimate charge to Spelthorne Council Taxpayers derives from a combination of demands from each of these authorities on whose committees I understand Spelthorne has had a representative.

My complaint arises from the increases in Council Tax seriously, totally failing to match the inflation rate when the workforce and employers are constantly exhorted by the media and politicians to have wage increases at or preferably below inflation. It has appeared to me that 'The Fight Against Inflation' is specifically for workforce but does not become a discipline on those responsible for demands to finance their civic operations. The conditioned reflex reaction to my enquiry is that 'the Government has reduced our Grant'. The thought that consequently (we) therefore cannot do everything we want and must work within reduced income seems to raise tiresome unnecessary complications.

How one puts these concerns into a single question is a challenge. I really want to know which of our representatives has as their first concern - the Taxpayer - and is ready to instil a firm discipline on the spenders? So my question is:

Why is it not a fundamental discipline on council tax charges (including demands from the Police and Surrey County Council or reductions in government grants - against which I have no record of refusal complaint or dispute) that these shall not be above or be closely related to the rate of inflation and in this the council only spend what is consequently available in line with exhortations to taxpayers to not seek wage increases above inflation.

I attach a graph for your attention and information which shows increases in tax demands running generally at twice the inflation rate. Which representative is prepared to protect the voter and taxpayer?"

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Frank Davies, replied, as follows:-

"Thank you for your question Mr Wroth. It raises a number of topical issues and is very timely as we have just received our annual grant settlement from the Government.

May I first of all say that I agree with the sentiments of your question, and for the past two years this Council has increased its part of the Council Tax by just inflation - as is clearly shown in your graph. Unfortunately less than 30% of our income comes from the Council Tax, the rest is received in Government grant plus a small proportion of the business rate we collect which we are allocated by the Government. In Spelthorne's case this leaves a very large gap, around 4 million, between our total expenditure on services and income from the Council Tax and grant. This gap is made up by taking money from the Council's reserves, either directly or from interest earnings. Clearly, the Council's reserves will not last for ever and a reasonable balance needs to be struck. For next year, with inflation and new legislation the Government

estimate we need to spend around 520,000 more, but has increased our grant by just 212,000. The balance has to be met from the Council Tax and our own reserves. In fact, the Government admits it is effectively forcing Councils to increase the council tax by around 6% because it is deducting the equivalent of that amount of grant from every Council in the country. Spelthorne will lose 213,000 for this reason alone next year. We are already spending as much from our own reserves as from the council tax, with serious implications for when the reserves run out, so local councillors have the options of cutting back on services or increasing the council tax. Not an easy choice, and whatever we do we won't please everybody. But we know the services we provide are valued by the majority of residents and there are times when it is necessary to strike the correct balance on who pays for those services.

One final point is that getting on for 90% of the council tax we collect is on behalf of the County Council and the Surrey Police. We have no discretion here and are legally obliged to add their amounts to the bill we send out.

Back to where we started Mr Wroth. We have great sympathy with what you are saying but we have to live in a world where hard decisions have to be made and where only some of the factors are within our control. We have to take those decisions in the interest of the majority of our residents and will continue to do our best to strike a fair balance between the provision of good quality services and restricting the amount we ask for from our council taxpayers."

- 2) Under Standing Order 17 Mr T H Simpson asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Frank Davies, the following question relating to the possible closure of the Staines Day Centre.

"I would like to bring to the attention of all the Councillors and Officers the great concern of the users of Staines Day Centre at the news that the Centre is to close in March 2001.

It is regarded as a lifeline to many of the elderly people who use it regularly and its position in the centre of town is of particular value to them. They can shop, get their pension and use the library easily from there.

The visiting chiropodist and hairdresser are both very well patronised and would be greatly missed. However the greatest loss would be the companionship they obtain from each other.

There was talk on Monday 11th December 2000 when it would seem the bad news was broken to them that a temporary venue was being considered, St Martins Court in Ashford was suggested. It is in a Sheltered Housing Complex tucked away in a back street, hardly convenient for a trip to Staines.

I do think it is very remiss of Spelthorne Council (who have been so good at providing Day Centres) not to have given more thought to this matter before selling this site.

They should have seen to it that a new purpose built centre, was up and running for its older residents. After all you have been relieved of 'a white elephant' that was a drain on council tax payers and you haven't given the lessee the right to use it for free have you.?"

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Frank Davies, replied as follows:

"I am very grateful to Mr Simpson for raising the concerns of the users of the Day Centre.

The Executive at a recent meeting considered as part of the proposals to redevelop Memorial Gardens and the disposal of the Old Town Hall, options for the future of the Staines Day Centre. There was no proposal considered to close the Staines Day Centre. The Committee would be looking at options for the relocation of the Day Centre in Staines, possibly with its provision being in a new format, for example, a 'pop-in' centre. There would be no break in the service provision with a natural progression from the current site to the new location. To date it has been agreed to pursue options for the relocation of the Staines Day Centre and its replacement by an alternative provision in Staines. I am ignorant of the reference by Mr Simpson that a temporary venue for the day centre was being considered at St Martins Court in Ashford, this has certainly not been considered by Members. Obviously we will be consulting the users of the Day Centre for their views."

- 3) Under Standing Order 17 Mr M Rule asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Frank Davies, the following question relating to the Old Town Hall.

"Having handed the job of evaluating the bids for the Town Hall to estate agents and outside 'management consultants' - a responsibility which should rightly be performed by you the Councillors."

"Will the people of Spelthorne - who have paid hugely for this work - be allowed to see these evaluations before the Town Hall is handed over to the publicans."

The Leader nominated the Deputy Leader, Councillor J. D. Packman to respond to the question.

"When the Council is disposing of land or buildings there is a requirement to obtain the best possible price which needs to be certified by the District Valuer. In view of this statutory requirement Healey and Baker were appointed as the Council's Advisers at an approximate cost of 8,000. The Council prepared a planning brief and the scheme went out for public consultation. Out of the bids received Eldridge Pope was the only company that complied with all the requirements of the Planning Brief. Details of the evaluation and financial bids received from the various companies are confidential and will remain confidential."

- 4) Under Standing Order 17 County Councillor K Hartley asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Frank Davies, the following questions on various issues affecting the Borough.

- a. What action can the Council take to ensure the wishes of people in Spelthorne to restore 'THE SWIMMERS' to its rightful place in the Elmsleigh Centre?
- b. Traffic chaos in Staines still prevail despite numerous complaints - what action is the Council taking?

- c. Why was there a lack of consultation with owners of cab firms - regarding the new laws for taxis?
- d. Does the Council know why the Staines and Laleham Forum was so poorly attended?
- e. Why haven't the public been informed of the result of enquiries made by Police into irregularities by a small number of Council Officers.
- f. What are the numbers employed by the Council over the last three years?
- g. Despite many complaints over several months regarding No. 77, Stanwell New Road, all the rubbish has not been cleared away - indeed more has been added. Also old cars are now being dumped at the rear of the premises. I was informed that the Council intended to prosecute the owners - has this been done?
- h. Will Staines get a new Day Centre - as in Stanwell and other parts of the Borough?
- i. Council Tax in 1997/98 was 653.51 for Class 'D' properties. It is likely to rise three times the rate of inflation to 800.00. Can the public expect value for money?
- j. What was the total cost of computers and training supplied to Councillors?

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Frank Davies, responded to the above questions from County Councillor K Hartley as follows:

- (i) "This question was raised at the last Council meeting held on 12th October and I would refer County Councillor Hartley to the agenda for tonight's meeting, which contains a copy of the minutes of the last Council meeting. Contained within those minutes is my detailed response on the current position regarding the sculpture of the five swimmers formerly sited in the Elmsleigh Shopping Centre. I would be happy to send a copy of the Council minutes to County Councillor Hartley if he wishes?"
- (ii) "I am pleased to report that the communication problems that initially prevented the Urban Traffic Control (UTC) system from functioning correctly have now been resolved. As you may recall Surrey County Council's officers designed the traffic signals in the town centre, we have therefore been working closely with County colleagues to improve the performance of the signals wherever possible.

A further very productive meeting has recently been held with Surrey County Council's Traffic Signal Section. We now have in place proposals that have resulted in alterations to the Thames Street/Elmsleigh Road signals, which in turn may considerably reduce the delay at the Laleham Road junction. These changes were made at the end of November and survey work is currently being undertaken to determine their effect.

At the Traffic Management Liaison Meeting held on 16th November 2000 it was also agreed that 'KEEP CLEAR' markings be placed at the Thames Street/South Street junction to prevent vehicles blocking the ahead movements from Laleham Road and Thames Street. These marking were placed on 12th December 2000.

We continue to work to reduce delays in the town centre. The initiatives outlined together with other minor alterations being pursued will, I feel sure, soon benefit all town centre users.

I would further add for record purposes that the Council received 27 complaints."

- (iii) "The Council issued a press release in February followed by the Byelaws being advertised in the local press in April. Letters were sent to all known operators with an information pack offering operators the chance to pre-register in June.

A second letter was sent to all known operators two weeks later giving further information and included the comment that the Council would appreciate any comments that members of the taxi/ private hire trade had in relation to the licensing proposals envisaged for the Borough as part of our ongoing consultation process.

A further press release was issued in October, an article placed in the Borough Bulletin in November and letters sent to all operators regarding the appointment of the Taxi Licensing Officer employed by this authority.

Since his appointment the Taxi Licensing Officer has visited every known operator in the Borough to discuss the proposals which mirror the procedures for licensing adopted in neighbouring Boroughs.

I do not accept there has been a lack of consultation and the operators have been kept informed throughout."

- (iv) "People just did not turn up to the Area Forum meeting." In relation to who chairs such meetings this is up to this authority and not up to a County Councillor."
- (v) "The initial investigation carried out by the Police at the request of the Council resulted in three Engineers being arrested and interviewed by the Police over a 10 month period. There was no case to answer where the Police were concerned.

The Police investigation was dropped in March, 1999 and since that time the matter has been dealt with through the Council's disciplinary procedures.

Under our disciplinary procedures the staff have the right of appeal on any decision taken, initially to the Chief Executive or his representative and subsequently to Members. They are currently exercising this right the outcome of which will be made public once the appeal process has been exhausted."

- (vi) "I am pleased to report that in 1998/99 this authority employed 329 people - in 1999/2000 this authority employed 329 people and this year the number of employees totalled 331, which gives an increase by 2 members of staff since 1998. To give a comparison the County Council employed 16,206 people in 1998/99 15,740 people in 1999/2000 and this year the number of staff employed totals 15,918."
- (vii) "In February, 2000 the Council served a Section 215 Notice on the owner of this former builders yard requiring steps to be taken to tidy it up, and this resulted in some improvement on the site. On 13th September, 2000 planning permission was granted for the redevelopment of the site by the erection of 5 houses. It was hoped that the early implementation of this permission would resolve the problems occurring on the site. Whilst the Council were informed building work would commence in November 2000 this has not happened and the site is now being used for the storage of and salvage of cars. The Council's Enforcement Officer has instructed the owner to remove the cars from the site by 5th January. The situation is being reported to the Council's Planning Committee on 3rd January to seek authority to serve an Enforcement Notice requiring the cessation of the use of the site for car storage and a breakers yard."
- (viii) "I believe the County Councillors question relating to Staines Day Centre has already been covered in the response I gave to Mr Simpson."
- (ix) "The overall increase in Council Taxes for Spelthorne for 1997/98 was 85.25 and for 2000/01 was 101.03 this gives an increase of 15.78 or 18.5%. I would like to compare this with Surrey County Council for 1997/98 - 488.52 and for 2000/2001 619.83 which show an increase of 131.31 (16.9%)."
- (x) "The one off Capital cost was 55,141 with the running cost per annum being 36,600."

514/00 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs Judith Wood-Dow, thanked those Members who had helped with her wine tasting event held in aid of the Mayors Charity.

The Mayor reminded Members of the following Mayoral events:

28th January, 2001 Burns lunch
3rd March, 2001 Mayors Ball to be held at Kempton Park

Full details of the above events would be circulated to Members in the near future.

515/00 OLD TOWN HALL AND ENVIRONS - MEMORIAL GARDENS STAINES

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive on the budget required to progress the redevelopment of Memorial Gardens/Riverside Car Park.

RESOLVED that approval be given to:

- a. the sum of 1.6 million for the redevelopment of Memorial Gardens to be funded from the New Schemes Fund;
- b. the sum of 230,000 to cover the cost of appointing Consultants to be funded from the New Schemes Fund; and
- c. the Revenue Budget for future years being increased by 27,000 to cover the annual maintenance of the new gardens.

516/00 RIVERSIDE CAR PARK / MEMORIAL GARDENS, STAINES - REPAIR TO RIVERBANK

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive on funding required for essential repairs to the riverbank.

RESOLVED that:

- a. approval, in principle, be given to the carrying out of remedial works to the Riverbank adjacent to Memorial Gardens and Riverside Car Park, as part of the redevelopment proposal for the area, subject to the Director of Community Services reporting further to the Executive on the number of additional mooring facilities to be provided and the likely increase in boats and river cruises stopping at Staines;
- b. subject to (a) above, a provisional budget of 500,000 to be funded from the New Schemes Fund for the construction of the works;
- c. a further report be submitted on the agreed remedial works to be carried out, together with their costings, to a future meeting of the Executive; and
- d. approval be given to a budget of 30,000, to be funded from the New Schemes Fund, to progress the design to tender stage.

517/00 PROPOSALS FOR NEW EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive on the need to establish the Democracy Working Party as a Committee to consider and develop proposals for executive arrangements under the Local Government Act 2000.

RESOLVED to agree that:

- a. the Democracy Working Party be constituted as a Committee with the same terms of reference and that Standing Orders 55(8) and 57(6) be waived in relation to the Committee;
- b. the proposals for Executive arrangements under the Local Government Act 2000 be developed with a view to the Council adopting proposals and submitting them to the Secretary of State in early May, 2001 and operating them from the next AGM; and
- c. a special Council meeting be held on 10th May, 2001 to consider adopting Executive arrangements and the AGM be postponed until 31st May, 2001.

518/00 OUTLINE BUDGET 2001/2002 - 2004/2005

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive on revenue expenditure and financing projections for the four year period from 1st April, 2001 to 31st March, 2005.

RESOLVED that:

- a. maximum revenue expenditure for 2001/2002 be set at 13.377 million;
- b. an amount not exceeding 1.797 million be taken from general reserves in support of spending in 2001/2002;
- c. a provisional Council Tax increase of 4 % for 2001/2002 be approved as a basis for further detailed discussions after receipt of updated information from the Director of Resources on the Government's Final Revenue Support Grant (RSG) settlement for next year and on the outcome of the discussions with the actuary mentioned at (d) below; and
- d. a further report be made to the Executive on 9th January, 2001 on the outcome of discussions with the pension fund actuary regarding repayment of the pension fund deficit.

519/00 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2001/2002 - 2004/2005

RESOLVED as recommended by the Executive that the Capital Programme as set out at Appendix A to the report of the Director of Resources to the Executive on 28th November, 2000, be approved, subject to an amendment to Appendix A to add the 160,000 approved by the Council for 2000/2001 for longer term improvements to the Pool at Spelthorne Leisure Centre.

520/00 COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR TAX SETTING

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive based on the statutory requirement for the Council to approve the Tax base which would be used to calculate Spelthorne's entitlement to Revenue Support Grant and the level of Council Tax for the year 2001/2002.

RESOLVED that, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount calculated by Spelthorne Borough Council as its tax base for 2001/2002 be set at 38,543.

521/00 REFERENCE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - PROPOSED EXTENSION TO THE COUNCIL'S SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO OFFICERS

RESOLVED that as recommended by the Executive the Council approve an extension to the Council's Scheme of Delegation to Officers to include certain routine planning applications, this extension to be for a trial period of 12 months, as set out in paragraphs 56-65 of the report of the Director of Community Services to the Environment Committee on 21st November, 2000.

522/00 ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ALLOWANCES

The Chairman of the Standards Committee, Mr Murray Litvak, presented the recommendations of the Committee on measures that could be taken to enhance the transparency and accountability of Members for the allowances they receive.

RESOLVED that:

- a. the Council should publish at the end of each financial year a report by each Member on their activities as a Councillor during that year and their contribution to the operation of the Council;
- b. the reports should follow a standard format covering areas such as attendance at Council and Committee meetings, activities at Ward level, involvement with outside organisations, training undertaken and any other key activities or achievements a Member wished to include;
- c. Members should complete a report every six months, with the option of doing so more frequently if they wish;
- d. the individual annual reports be made available on the Council's website and at the Council Offices and their existence referred to in the Borough Bulletin;
- e. to assist Members a standard report form be prepared and made available to Members and a draft of this be considered by the Committee at its next meeting; and
- f. the Council agree to adopt the description of key responsibilities attributable to Members as Councillors and the particular additional responsibilities of those Members receiving Special Responsibility Allowances, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report of the Monitoring Officer to the Standards Committee.

523/00 THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 - FUNDING FOR THE CONSULTATION ON EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Council considered the recommendations of the Democracy Working Party on the need for a supplementary estimate of 13,000 towards the cost of consulting on new executive arrangements.

In considering the recommendation it was noted that the form of consultation would include a residents panel survey, information and a reply slip in the Winter/Spring edition of the Borough Bulletin, contacting stakeholders and Council staff, information on the Council's website, special interest panels and discussion groups, the Student Council, a public exhibition and special meetings of the 5 Area Forums.

RESOLVED that a supplementary estimate of 3,000 be approved to assist with the cost of the consultation exercise.

524/00 EXECUTIVE

The Leader of the Council, Councillor F. Davies, presented his report which outlined the various matters the Executive had dealt with since the last Council meeting and responded to a number of questions from Members.

The Leader went on to report that the Council had been notified this week that the Council Tax and Benefits Team had their Chartermark renewed for a further 3 years. The Independent Judging Panel concluded that the Council continued to provide an

exceptionally high quality of service for our residents. The Leader quoted the following from the letter received from the Panel: "As a previous winner you know that this is not an award that is easily achieved, and winning again is a tribute to your organisation." In the page which summarized suggestions for further improvements it analysed over ten categories, of which eight categories had no suggestions to make at all.

The Leader, on behalf of all Members of the Council, placed on record his congratulations and thanks to Mary Tam and her team for their excellent achievement and the credit that they bring to Spelthorne.

The Leader also placed on record his thanks and appreciation to all those who had helped local residents in the recent flooding in the Borough.

525/00 COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

In the absence of the Chairman of the Community Committee, the Vice-Chairman, Councillor J.W. Paton, presented the report which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

526/00 ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Economic Committee, Councillor Mrs D.L. Grant, presented her report which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

527/00 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Environment Committee, Councillor G.E. Forsbrey, presented his report which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

528/00 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor G.S. Ceaser, presented his report which outlined planning matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting and responded to a number of questions raised by Members.

529/00 GENERAL QUESTIONS

Under Standing Order 13 Councillor P.R. James asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Frank Davies, the following question in relation to the computerisation of the drainage system.

"Can the Council be updated on the computerisation of the Drainage System. A few examples of the problems found and rectified. When will the Council get a full report on the Borough's Drainage as previously promised in the latter half of 1999, to be given in this year."

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Frank Davies, replied, as follows:-

"Since August 1999 we have repaired in excess of 50 gully connections and undertaken approximately 20 successful larger drainage improvements. These include works at Stainash Parade, Station Crescent, Shepperton, Church Square, Shepperton and Charlton Lane where a solution proved to be particularly difficult.

The work carried out has brought about real improvements which have been maintained even during the current weather conditions. There is still a great deal of work to be done but the general view is we have achieved a great deal since August 1999.

Surveys of all our gullies and drainage systems continue, desk top studies computerised and verification work continues. This is identifying the physical work required to our piped water courses which will feed into a proposed programme of remedial works.

It was intended to bring a report to Members early in the New Year, however I understand the recent persistent flooding which is inevitably stretching our resources has delayed process."

530/00 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

- a. St Ignatius School, Green Street, Sunbury - Appointment of School Governor

RESOLVED that Mr Kevin Ashman of 15 Queensway, Sunbury-on-Thames be appointed to serve on the Governing Body of St. Ignatius School, Sunbury until 14th December, 2004.

- b. St Mary's C of E Junior School, Clare Road, Stanwell

RESOLVED that the appointment of a replacement Council representative to serve on the Governing Body of St Mary's C of E Junior School, Stanwell, until 14th December, 2004 be deferred until the meeting of the Council to be held on 22nd February, 2001.

- c. Ashford Park Primary School, Station Crescent, Ashford

RESOLVED that the appointment of a replacement Council representative to serve on the Governing Body of Ashford Park Primary School, Ashford, until 14th December, 2004 be deferred until the meeting of the Council to be held on 22nd February, 2001.

- d. Shortwood Infant School, Stanwell New Road, Staines

RESOLVED that the appointment of a replacement Council representative to serve on the Governing Body of Shortwood Infant School, Staines, until 14th December, 2004 be deferred until the meeting of the Council to be held on 22nd February, 2001.

THE AWARD OF BEACON STATUS

Report of the Chief Executive

Purpose of Report

1. To advise members of the background to the award of Beacon Status to the Council under the theme of Independent Living for Older People and to discuss the implications of this.

Background

2. The purpose of the Government's Beacon Council scheme is to recognise high performing councils by awarding them Beacon Status and then to use those councils to help spread best practice. Essentially the aim of the scheme is to involve all councils either by being Beacons, visiting Beacons or participating in activities with Beacons to help spread best practice. Councils who have Beacon status hold the award for one year, but can display the logo for two years.
3. In March 2000 the Government announced the themes for the second year of the Beacon Status schemes and these were as follows:
 - Community Safety - reducing and preventing vehicle crime;
 - Competitiveness and Enterprise - better regulation of business;
 - Education - increasing the attainment of underachieving groups;
 - Health - effective local strategies to tackle the wider causes of ill-health;
 - Local Environmental Quality - maintaining a high quality environment;
 - Making the most of Culture, Sport and Tourism - stimulating economic and social regeneration through culture, sport and tourism;
 - Modern Service Delivery - good access to council services;
 - Older Peoples issues - supporting independent living for older people;
 - Planning - town centre regeneration;
 - Social Services - improving standards for children in foster care;
 - Younger People's issues - tackling drug misuse.
4. In order to be awarded Beacon Status, councils had to be able to demonstrate excellence in the particular theme, but also good general performance and effective plans for dissemination of the good practice.
5. Members will be aware that we submitted two applications; the other one was for Town Centre Regeneration for which we did not receive a short- list.
6. In all for this round there were 173 applications for Beacon Status across all the themes and these were narrowed down to 72 councils at the short-list stage. The theme of "Independent Living for Older People" was focused on ensuring that older people have active, independent and secure lives. In completing the application we had to demonstrate that our provision goes beyond Health and Social Care Services, into areas such as Housing, Transport, Culture and Sporting activities, Education and Training Assessment Process

7. In order to apply for Beacon Status we had to complete a detailed application covering a set range of questions and Ian Murray, Sue Sturgeon and Brian Harris completed this. We also had to provide a lot of supporting information to demonstrate good overall performance including details of surveys, consultation, performance indicator data and also the results from the Improvement and Development Review. Once short-listed we gave two presentations. The first one at Spelthorne was to the DETR and IDEA Beacon officers and at that we involved a number of our key partners in a presentation- Alan Walker (Apex Housing), Sandra Chisholm (Health Authority) Sarah Clarke (VAIS) Bob Moore (SCC Partnership Officer), Wyn Pockett (SCAN and Shop Mobility), as well as Ian Murray, Sue Sturgeon and Brian Harris. The second presentation in London was given to members of the Advisory Panel who were set up to advise the Government on the applications, and was given by myself with Ian Murray, Sue Sturgeon, Sandra Chisholm and Sarah Clarke answering questions.
8. On 6th February, 2001 the Government announced that it had made 43 Beacon awards to 39 councils. For our theme, 4 awards have been made; the others are to the London Borough of Camden, Leeds City Council and Manchester City Council. Of all the awards made only 5 are to Districts with a further 2 being part of a joint bid.

Dissemination

9. Members will recall that a critique of our application was sent out last week, and does indicate the particular strengths in our application.
10. We are now required to hold a number of events to spread our Best Practice. This includes a showcase event at Bristol on the 7th March at which we will present two workshops and run an exhibition. We will also run two open days between April and July at Spelthorne and publish brochures, fact sheets etc.
11. In order to run the dissemination effectively, a group of officers has been set up, these include Ian Murray, Sue Sturgeon, Brian Harris, Viv Clarke and Collette Crow. Other people such as Sarah Clarke will be co-opted in, as necessary.
12. We will receive a grant of approximately £40,000 from the Government to assist us with our dissemination costs. Some of this money must be used to pay a co-ordinator; in our case we will use our current staff, but bring in temporary staff to cover day-to-day work. A part of the money, approximately, £3,500, must be paid to the IDEA to cover some of their costs of marketing and arranging the showcase events. The rest will be used to defray the other expenses of printing and any ancillary costs.

Contact: Michael Taylor (01784 446250)

Background Papers: There are none.

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RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE**1. REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2001/2002**

- 1.1 The Executive have considered a report on the Council's detailed Revenue Budget for 2001/2002 for consideration in the context of overall spending and the Council Tax for next year. The Total Net Expenditure set for the Council in the Budget for 2001/2002 was now £12,486,670. The final Revenue Support Grant (RSG) notification had just been received which confirmed Spelthorne's Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) at £8.881 million, providing a grant figure of £5.359 million which was £10,000 less than at provisional settlement stage and was a decrease by £29,000 on the Outline Budget.
- 1.2 The report explained that the contribution from general reserves needed to achieve a provisional Council Tax increase of 4½%, as recommended to the Council by the Executive on 28th November 2000, was £1,797,000. This contribution would now be revised to £1,707,400 to take account of the final Revenue Support Grant settlement referred to above and the recommendations or decisions by the Executive in Minute 59/01 on A Pay and Reward Strategy for Spelthorne, in Minute 60/01 on Grant Applications, in Minute 69/01 on Concessionary Fares and the estimated increased income of £70,000 in 2001/2002 from Housing Benefit Fraud Recovery initiatives.
- 1.3 The Executive considered the Revenue Budget for 2001/2002 which, together with the covering report, has been circulated to all Members on 24th January, 2001. More detailed budgets for each individual service had been circulated to Members of the Executive and had been made available in the Members' Room. The Revenue Budget has been prepared on the basis of maintaining existing Services and service levels, except where variations had previously been approved by the Council. The Outline Budget was based on pay and price levels at November 2000 with an allowance of 2 % for inflation. These had now been amended to take account of the proposals contained within the recommendations, later in this report, on A Pay and Reward Strategy for Spelthorne, and also to reflect changes to binding contract inflation.
- 1.4 On the basis of the approach recommended to Council by the Executive on 28th November, 2000, i.e. a provisional Council Tax increase of 4½% for 2001/2002, Spelthorne's Band D Council Tax would be £105.57. The report indicated that the Council would need to add to this the Precepts from the Surrey County Council and the Surrey Police. It was anticipated that Surrey County Council's precept would be a 4½% increase on last year and that from the Surrey Police about a 4.6% increase. Details of both the Surrey County Council and the Surrey Police Precepts have been circulated under separate cover with this Council Agenda.
- 1.5 The Executive also noted a preliminary report on the tendering exercise on the Council's Insurance Renewals from 1st April, 2001 and on discussions with the Council's Brokers which had revealed potential significant insurance premium increases. A report with further details on this matter would be submitted to the next Executive on 6th March, 2001.
- 1.6 The Executive recommends that:

1. The Revenue Estimates as set out in the report of the Director of Resources is approved.
2. The Director of Resource's preliminary report on sharp premium increases for the Council's Insurance Renewals for 2001/2002 be noted, and he be requested to report with further details on this matter to the next Executive on 6th March, 2001.
3. Amounts not exceeding £1,707,400 from general reserves and £208,470 from earmarked reserves, as set out in the report of the Director of Resources, be appropriated in aid of Spelthorne's local Council Tax for 2001/2002.
4. It be noted that the council tax base for the year 2001/2002 is 38,543, calculated in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 as amended made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
5. The following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2001/2002 in accordance with Sections 32 and 33 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

a	£33,622,260	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act
b	£24,140,200	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act
c	£9,482,060	being the amount by which the aggregate at 5(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 5(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year
d	£5,413,080	being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant or additional grant, increased by the sum which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Council Tax Surplus) and increased by the sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) Directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 made on 7th February, 1994(Community

		Charge surplus).
e	£105.57	being the sum at 5(c) above less the amount at 5(d) above, all divided by the amount at 4 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.

6. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2001/2002 in accordance with Section 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
70.38	82.11	93.84	105.57	129.03	152.49	175.95	211.14

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 5(e) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band 'D', calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

7. That the precepts to be issued by the Surrey County Council and the Surrey Police in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1992 for each category of dwelling be reported to the meeting of the Borough Council on 22nd February, 2001 and be aggregated with the amounts shown at paragraph 6 above in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Act 1992 to set the Council Tax for the year 2001/2002.

2. TOTAL BORROWING REQUIREMENT 2001/2002

- 2.1 The Executive have considered a report on the need for Spelthorne to meet the statutory provisions under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requiring the Borough Council to authorise the total borrowing Requirement for the coming financial year 2001/2002.

- 2.2 The Executive recommends:

that the Council agree to the maximum borrowing for the year 2001/2002 being £7,000,000, all of which would be short-term, with 100% of interest payable at variable rates.

3. SURREY PENSION FUND DEFICIT

- 3.1 The Executive have considered a report on the latest position with regard to repayment of the Pension Fund deficit and a recommendation that a repayment by Spelthorne of a capital payment, of up to the maximum certified by the Surrey Fund Actuary, be made to the Surrey County Council Pension Fund to remove the Spelthorne element of the Surrey Pension Fund deficit before 31st March, 2001. The

report explained that the only sustainable basis for paying off the deficit was if it was in the best overall financial interest of the Council, in both the short and long term. In light of recent meetings with the Fund Actuary and subsequent correspondence from him, the Executive felt that paying off the deficit on this basis was the best way forward for Spelthorne.

3.2 As agreed by the Executive, a press release has been issued to explain Spelthorne's position in relation to paying off this deficit and to make it clear to local residents that the deficit had arisen through circumstances outside the control of the Borough Council.

3.3 The Executive recommends:

- (1) That the letter dated 20th December, 2000 from the Surrey Pension Fund Actuary, tabled at the Cabinet meeting by the Director of Resources, setting out the figure of £13.4 million as the approximate repayment required to remove the Spelthorne element of the Surrey Pension Fund deficit, be noted.
- (2) That the Fund Actuary be requested to provide a formal certificate of the Spelthorne proportion of the Pension Fund Deficit, as required by the Secretary of State for the Environment.
- (3) That approval of the Secretary of State for the Environment be sought to repay up to the full amount certified by the Fund Actuary as referred to in (2) above.
- (4) That a capital payment of up to the maximum certified by the Fund Actuary be made to the Surrey County Council Pension Fund to remove the Spelthorne element of the Surrey Pension Fund deficit (currently estimated at £13.4 million).
- (5) That the Director of Resources be authorised to carry out such transactions and negotiate such terms as he sees necessary to complete the transaction.

4. SPELTHORNE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN

4.1 The Executive have considered a report on the need to agree a further modification to Policy H6 on Affordable Housing in order to secure the removal of the Secretary of State's Direction and the adoption of the Spelthorne Borough Local Plan. The background to this was that the Borough Council was unsuccessful in its Judicial Review of the Secretary of State's Direction on the wording of Policy H6.

4.2 The Executive were disappointed that the Council now had to accept the Secretary of State's Direction requiring a modification to Policy H6 on Affordable Housing, as they felt this did not take account of the urban nature of this Borough and would reduce the amount of Affordable Housing within new developments.

4.3 The Executive recommends:

- (1) That Policy H6 be modified by deleting from the second sentence "0.1 hectares or above" and inserting "15 or more dwellings or 0.5 hectares irrespective of the number of dwellings".

- (2) That the Secretary of State be asked to agree to the above modification and to lift his Direction.
- (3) That, subject to the lifting of the Direction by the Secretary of State, the modification be publicised as required and, if no valid objections are received within the statutory period, a notice of intention to adopt the Local Plan be published as soon as possible.
- (4) That if any valid objections to the modification are received these be reported to the Executive at the earliest opportunity prior to any resolution to proceed to adopt the Local Plan.

5. A PAY AND REWARD STRATEGY FOR SPELTHORNE

- 5.1 The Executive have considered a report on proposals for the introduction of local pay determination and various initiatives towards a flexible workforce, including changes to annual leave and the accelerated increments scheme, as part of a consolidated Pay and Reward Strategy for Spelthorne. Various reports regarding staffing issues had been considered by the Executive over the last 12 months, including the Improvement Agency recommendations, statistics showing Spelthorne's high turnover and high sickness levels and the staff matters arising from the Best Value reviews undertaken to date.
- 5.2 The most recent report on 31st October, 2000, had set out a number of factors both internal and external, all of which affected the Council and its ability to attract and retain high quality staff. Staff of this calibre was needed in order to carry out the wide modernisation programme and to continue to provide excellent services, as recognised by a series of prestigious awards received by Spelthorne, for example, Beacon Status, Chartermarks, and Investors in People.
- 5.3 Research indicated that Spelthorne needed to address the question of a reward strategy for its staff, including pay and flexible working in order to recruit and retain key staff, as work on benchmarking for Best Value had shown that Spelthorne salaries were often lower than those for equivalent or similar posts in other Surrey Districts. It was clear that Spelthorne needed to be much closer to its local pay market and to achieve this it was recommended that local pay be introduced based on local pay survey information and various economic indicators. In addition, the introduction of state of the art Information, Communications and Technology systems (IC & T) and flexible working arrangements within a modern building were also essential to recruiting and retaining high quality staff.
- 5.4 A letter from UNISON setting out their initial views on the proposals was tabled at the meeting and was noted by Members.
- 5.5 The Executive recommends that:
 - (1) Spelthorne local pay (SLP) be introduced with effect from 1st April, 2001.
 - (2) SLP be determined using the indicators and timetable set out in paragraph 25 of the Chief Executive's report.

- (3) National pay awards be used as the baseline for SLP for 2 further settlements (2002 and 2003), and that local pay then be reviewed.
- (4) A review be undertaken on the same basis as previous Biennial reviews with any changes effective from 1st April, 2001.
- (5) The salary ranges and benefits for grades M1-SM1 be reviewed with a report back to the Management Team by the end of March 2001.
- (6) The salary grades and conditions of service of 2nd Tier posts be reviewed with a report back to the Management Team by the end of March 2001.
- (7) A reward strategy be produced and reported back to the Management Team by the end of September 2001.
- (8) The pay award date for the Chief Executive, Directors and 2nd Tier Officers on Joint National Council (JNC) conditions be brought forward to 1st April each year.
- (9) The 'local' 2001 pay award for all staff, including the Chief Executive, Directors and 2nd Tier Officers on JNC conditions, be 1½% above the national 2001 pay award agreed for Local Government Services and be effective from 1st April, 2001, at an additional cost of approximately £129,000.
- (10) The proposals on annual leave as set out at paragraph 49 of the Chief Executive's report be approved.
- (11) The proposals on the accelerated increments scheme as set out at paragraph 50 of the Chief Executive's report be approved.
- (12) The approach on flexible working arrangements as set out in paragraphs 51 and 52 of the Chief Executive's report be approved, on the basis that the Management Team continue to monitor and encourage such arrangements, but only where they are maintaining or improving service delivery.
- (13) The need for consultation with the Staff Side be endorsed.

6. APPROVED DUTY - TRAVELLING EXPENSES - ATTENDANCE AT REGIONAL SPORTS BODIES

- 6.1 The Executive have considered a report on the need for the appointment(s) of Councillor Ceaser on various Regional Sports Bodies, in his role as the Council's duly appointed Representative, being deemed "Approved Duties" under Section 175 of the Local Government Act 1972 for the payment of travelling expenses incurred in attending meetings of those Bodies. The criteria in Section 175 of the Act was met as the appointment of Councillor Ceaser on the Regional Sports Bodies specified was of benefit both to the Borough of Spelthorne and to the County of Surrey as a whole.
- 6.2 The Executive recommends that:

The Council confirm that the appointment(s) of Councillor Ceaser on various Regional Sports Bodies, as detailed in the report of the Chief

Executive, as the Council's duly appointed Representative, be deemed "Approved Duties" under Section 175 of the Local Government Act 1972 for the payment of travelling expenses incurred in attending meetings of those Bodies.

7. CONCESSIONARY FARES

- 7.1 The Executive have considered a report on the recent decision of Surrey County Council to withdraw most of its subsidy to concessionary fares. The County would now provide a contribution of only £370,000 instead of the previous £1.74 million, but would still co-ordinate a Countywide scheme and employ staff at its expense to run it. The Executive were concerned to note the implications of the County's decision, in particular that a scheme with a flat fare of 50p was no longer possible, in view of the reduced funding provision from Surrey County Council. Members felt that representations should be made to the County about the need for more funding in light of the County's Local Transport Plan (LTP) settlement for 2001/2002.
- 7.2 A co-ordinated Countywide scheme still appeared the best option for bus users and local authorities, although the proposed scheme would now be the basic statutory scheme which had been in operation in Spelthorne for the last two years. The cost to Spelthorne would be £168,200, index linked over the three-year period, compared with a budget provision in 2001/2002 of £200,000, giving a reduction of £31,800 per annum.
- 7.3 The Executive recommends that:
- (1) The previous decision by the Executive on 28th November, 2000 (Minutes 477/00 and 489/00 refer) to support a County-wide Concessionary Fares Scheme be confirmed;
 - (2) The change to a half-fare scheme be agreed;
 - (3) The term of the formal Agreement between Surrey County Council and the eleven Surrey Districts be reduced from nine to three years; and
 - (4) The Director of Resources writes to the County asking them to reconsider their decision to reduce funding for the Concessionary Fares Scheme from £1.74 million to £370,000, in light of the recent Local Transport Plan (LTP) settlement awarded to the County for 2001/2002, and copies his letter to all other Surrey Districts.

8. TERMS OF REFERENCE - AMENDMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE

- 8.1 The Executive have considered a report on the need to resolve an anomaly in the Terms of Reference for the Executive, concerning financial thresholds for the approval of Supplementary Estimates. The Council approved revised Financial Regulations last year and the Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee were subsequently reviewed and amended. A difference between the two documents had recently been noted in that revised financial thresholds for the approval of Supplementary Estimates contained in Financial Regulations (paragraph 7.4.3) were not reflected in the Terms of Reference for the Executive.
- 8.2 The Executive recommends:

that the Council approve the amendments to the Executive Terms of Reference, as detailed in the report of the Director of Resources, in relation to financial thresholds for the approval of Supplementary Estimates to reflect the same wording as in Financial Regulations (paragraph 7.4.3).

9. BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN (BVPP) 2001/2002

SPECIAL NOTE:

This matter will be considered at a special meeting of the Executive on 21st February, 2001 and the Agenda for that meeting is being circulated to all Members on 15th February. The recommendations from the Executive and any amendments to the draft BVPP will be tabled at the Council Meeting.

COUNCILLOR FRANK DAVIES

Chairman of the Executive 15th February, 2001

[-Council 22 Feb 01](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1. ANTI FRAUD AND CORRUPTION STRATEGY

1.1 The Standards Committee have considered the report of the Director Of Resources on the need to implement the external audit recommendations in relation to the Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy. The refinement to the Strategy relates to fraud by contractors' employees and those involved in agency work and to the Benefit Fraud Investigation team's role in cracking down on benefit fraud.

1.2 The Standards Committee recommends:

that the section on Detection and Investigation in the Council's Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy be amended to incorporate the following as paragraphs 16 and 17:

"In the event that fraud is suspected on the part of contractors' employees or internally, by staff involved in agency or contract work on behalf of other bodies, procedures and responsibilities for reporting and initial investigation are the same as for staff. The Council will inform and involve employing contractors or agencies when appropriate.

Given the significance of benefit fraud in national and local statistics, the Council recognises the important role of its Benefit Fraud Investigation team in preventing and detecting benefit fraud. The Council will continue to support this function where working methods, resources and participation in national initiatives are under constant review.

MURRAY LITVAK

Chairman of the Standards Committee 15th February, 2001

[-Council 22 Feb 01](#)

REPORT OF THE LEADER ON THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Executive has met twice since the last Council meeting and this is an overview of the key matters we have considered. We have made detailed recommendations to the Council on 8 separate issues and these appeared earlier on tonight's agenda. The recommendations from the special meeting on 21st February will be tabled at the Council meeting.

I set out below a brief summary of some of the key issues we have been discussing:-

Democracy/Modernisation Issues

Borough Council Awarded Beacon Council Status for Elderly Services: "Independent Living for Older People" - We have placed on record thanks to those Council staff involved with their sterling work towards achieving the award of Beacon Status for the Services to the Elderly provided by the Borough Council. I have also written to those staff thanking them personally for their commitment in working so diligently and achieving this prestigious award for Spelthorne. The report of the Chief Executive on this appears earlier on tonight's agenda.

Area Forums - We have agreed that the existing dates and venues arranged for the Spring round of Area Forums be cancelled and be brought forward to the dates and venues in February and March, so as to allow discussion of new political management arrangements for the Council.

Surrey County Council Consultation Paper on Community Planning and Area Committees - We have considered a response to a County Consultation Paper covering new arrangements for Community Planning, the Role of the Local County Member and Area Political Management Arrangements. We have authorised the Chief Executive to send a response to the County Consultation paper seeking clarification of the issues identified in paragraphs 8 (a) to (f) of his report and seeking an early meeting with County Councillors Munro and Smith.

Council Buildings

Progress Report and Urgent Action - New Council Depot - We have endorsed urgent action taken to settle part of the Contractor's claim on the New Depot contract involving the making of a Certified Payment in the sum of £57,552 and noted the progress on the new Depot and negotiations taking place with the Contractor.

Staines Town Centre Issues

Memorial Gardens, Staines - We have approved the updated Riverside Park Scheme for Memorial Gardens, Staines, as submitted by Derek Lovejoy and Partners (DLP) and as shown on DLP's Landscape Masterplan and described in their Preliminary Landscape Report, subject to any action needed on comments from other Members of the Council received by 14th February, being dealt with by the Director of Community Services, in consultation with myself.

High Street, Staines - Permanent Pedestrianisation Scheme - We have agreed the outline Design Brief for the appointment of Consultants to carry out the design and consultation process, the contract document preparation and co-ordination of statutory undertakers works. We have also approved the approach to be adopted for

an initial public consultation by the Council, including a leaflet to emphasise the exciting developments taking place in Staines Town Centre, and have noted the likely programme of works.

Tilly's Lane, Staines - We have granted an urgent request from MEPC Developments Limited for the consent of the Council to dispose of their land at Tilly's Lane, Staines on the terms and on the basis set out in the Chief Executive's report.

Provision of Photobooth - Elmsleigh Centre, Staines - We have granted Photo-Me International plc a new Licence for use within the Elmsleigh Centre, Staines for 5 years, subject to valuation advice being obtained.

Financial Issues

Local Government Provisional Finance Settlement 2001/2002 - We have noted the Provisional Revenue Support Grant Settlement and details of the final Settlement are contained in the Executive's Budget recommendations earlier on tonight's Agenda.

Minor Works and Services Programme 2001/2002 - We have approved the Minor Works and Services and agreed that the Director of Community Services undertakes detailed investigations into the six schemes raised by Members and submits reports on them to future meetings of the Executive.

Fees and Charges 2001/2002 - We have approved the revised Fees and Charges for 2001/2002.

Discretionary Rate Relief - Under the Local Government Finance Act 1988 the Council has responsibility for considering applications for Discretionary Rate Relief from registered Charities and non profit-making bodies. We have agreed that, in accordance with the Council's policy, relief be granted to all those organisations set out in Appendix B to the report of the Director of Resources at an approximate cost for 2001/2002 of £24,916.89.

Items Recommended for Write-Off - We have agreed that the debts reported totalling £26,058.75, relating to various accounts where it has not been possible to recover the sums involved, be written off as irrecoverable.

Assistance to Local Organisations

Revenue Grants 2001/2002 - We have again this year made grants to a whole range of local community-based organisations to assist them with their continuing work for the benefit of local residents and to assist with funding of various projects, like the purchase of specialist equipment, and some of the key grants made are Relate £5,700, Surrey Family Mediation Service £1,000, Spelthorne Farm for the Education of Handicapped Children £7,500, Voluntary Association for Surrey Disabled £3,800, Spelthorne Crossroads £2,500, Rentstart £18,000, Spelthorne CAB £62,500 (plus rental assistance), Spelthorne Community Arts Association £3,800.

Millennium Grants - Final Outturn - We have noted details of the local groups who have been awarded Millennium grants and that the final amount awarded for Millennium activities totals £27,100. We have agreed that the balance of Millennium funds remaining, totalling £12,900, be placed back into the Council's New Schemes Fund.

Arts, Culture, Heritage and Leisure Issues

Halliford School - Request for Financial Assistance - We have awarded Halliford School 30,000 from the Capital Partnership Fund towards the purchase of specialist sound and lighting equipment for their theatre, subject to the Club giving assurances on community access to use their facilities and use by other local schools of the facilities.

Staines Bowling Club - Request for Financial Support for Pavilion Extension - We have awarded Staines Bowling Club a sum not exceeding £58,000, on the basis that the Club contribute a minimum of 10% of the overall cost themselves, to enable an extension of the Staines Park Pavilion to proceed, subject to the Club giving assurances on community access to use their facilities.

Ashford Sports Club Limited - Request for Financial Assistance - We have awarded Ashford Sports Club Limited from the Capital Partnership Fund a grant of £25,000 towards the hockey facilities and a grant of £25,000 for other facilities, subject to the Club giving assurances on community access, as set out in their application, to use their hockey pitch and other facilities.

Indoor Tennis Centre at Spelthorne College - Employment of Architect - We have approved a Supplementary Estimate from the New Schemes Fund of £5,400 for the preparation of a planning application submission for the Indoor Tennis Centre project, subject to a full financial appraisal of the project being undertaken to confirm its financial viability.

Highways and Transport Issues

Local Transport Plan - Review of Minor Improvement Schemes 2001/2002 - We have agreed the list of prioritised Minor Improvement Schemes shown in Appendix B to the report of the Director of Community Services for submission to Surrey County Council for possible inclusion in their Construction Programme for 2001/2002. On Scheme 27 - Green Lane/Manygate Lane/Govett Avenue, Shepperton - Junction Improvement shown at Appendix B we have also agreed that this be considered by the Director for funding under the Safe Routes to Schools budget.

Review of Car Parking Charges - We have agreed to increase car parking charges in the Staines Town Centre car parks, as set out in the report of the Director of Community Services, including the amendment from the Economic Committee to increase the proposed 1 year special licence charge from £365 to £500. The last review by the Council of these car parking charges was back in 1998.

Housing Issues

Draft Regional Planning Guidance for the South East : Consultation on Proposed Housing Distribution - We have agreed a proposed formal response from Spelthorne to a Government Consultation on the proposed distribution of housing development within the South East, as proposed to be contained within the Draft Revised Regional Planning Guidance. In particular, we have expressed concern that the consultation proposals and measures are inadequate in relation to securing affordable housing in Surrey and for securing "key worker" housing and this has been reflected in the response by making strong objections to GOSE about the overall RPG proposals.

Planning Issues

Review of Parking Standards - We have agreed the draft Parking Standards set out at Appendix A to the report of the Director of Community Services for public consultation and for taking into account in the consideration of development proposals.

Proposed Alterations to Public Speaking Procedures at Planning Committee – We have generally supported proposals by the Planning Committee regarding suggested alterations to Public Speaking Procedures at Planning Committee meetings.

References from Other Committees

Economic Committee - We have supported in particular the recommendations from the Economic Committee on the review of Fees and Charges and review of Car Parking Charges

COUNCILLOR FRANK DAVIES

Chairman of the Executive 15th February, 2001

– [Council 22 Feb 01](#)

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The Community Committee met on 11th January and we welcomed Members from Basingstoke and Dean Council, who attended the meeting to observe the Overview and Scrutiny role of Spelthorne's new Business System.

Housing Partnership Working

We had one major item to scrutinise at this meeting which was the partnership arrangements which exist in the field of Housing and Community Care in Spelthorne. We paid particular attention to Apex Housing Group, as they are our main partners and we also looked at the Care and Repair Services managed by this Group.

In January 1996, the Council transferred all of its housing stock, together with leasehold properties, to Spelthorne Housing Association. The principal aim was to enable substantial investment in the stock in order to improve and modernise them and bring them up to a good state of repair. The second main aim was to create a substantial new housing programme from the capital receipt received for the stock. The Council's target was to produce 500 new affordable homes over a 5-year period. In fact, over 570 have been produced in less than 5 years and new development initiatives are still being generated. As part of the Transfer Agreement, the Council retains nomination rights to vacancies occurring in the association's stock, to fulfil its housing responsibilities towards homeless persons and families.

Apex Housing Group had been formed in order to create subsidiary organisations to specialise in other locations and areas of work. Spelthorne Housing Association remained the main social landlord, retaining its identity with the Borough.

The Council currently supported and funded three other mainstream housing associations; Airways Housing Society, Thames Valley Housing Association and Threshold Tenant Trust. These associations had been chosen in conjunction with the Housing Corporation through a bidding process associated with 'joint commissioning', a protocol agreed with the Corporation for the combined funding with them of a 3-year rolling housing development programme which is monitored by the Corporation.

Members asked a wide range of questions on all aspects of the issues involved, covering the Council's work with the differing housing associations such as; the funding of schemes; allocation of tenancies and monitoring; rent levels; housing unit costs; the Council's relationship with the Housing Corporation and housing for key workers.

The Care and Repair service provides practical advice and assistance to elderly and disabled persons in adaptations or improvements to their homes, both public and private. Such services are run directly by Local Authorities or by voluntary bodies on their behalf. A service had been established 4 years ago by Spelthorne Housing Association (SHA) when a bid had been made to West Surrey Health Authority for 'Joint Finance', supported by the Council and Surrey County Council Social Services.

The majority of work undertaken had been recommended by Social Services Occupational Therapists for elderly and disabled persons who qualified for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG).

SHA had expressed concern that the Joint Finance tapering reduction in funding meant they would be in deficit on the scheme and had asked the Council to consider increasing its funding. There was also the possibility of applying directly to the Government for grant aid. However this was match funding only and the application had to come from a Local Authority.

The issues for the Council to resolve relate to the level and nature of service needed and which we might wish to provide in the wider community. Each gives rise to a separate level of funding support. At the basic level it is necessary to deal with the issue of DFGs as these are mandatory. If SHA cannot provide this service then the Council's Environmental Health Service will have to undertake this work. At a secondary level is the issue of a Care & Repair service to the wider community of elderly persons who would benefit, but where mandatory DFGs do not apply. Meetings are being held between Council Officers and Senior Apex/SHA staff to explore these issues. In the meantime, on the assumption Social Services will continue funding, the Council could assist SHA in the application to Government for match funding grants. This should sustain the service into the new financial year and enable further study of the underlying issues enabling a more detailed report to be submitted to this Committee and any funding consequences to be reported to the Executive.

The Council will be holding an in-house seminar on 19th March to update this Committee and Executive Members on the Council's current housing policies and a review of those policies for the future, with particular reference to the future Capital Programme.

The Committee noted the report.

Licensing Functions of the Borough Council

Arising from a request by Members, a presentation on the Licensing functions of the Borough Council was given by the Head of Environmental Services.

She gave a Powerpoint presentation with details of the purposes of the Council's powers to control various activities that included Pet Shops, Wild Animals and Animal Boarding Establishments; Ear Piercing; Late Night Refreshments; Scrap Metal Dealers; Caravan Sites; Butchers; Cement Works, Paint Works, Paper Works and Petrol Storage; Charity Collection; Premises with two or less Gaming Machines; Taxis, Hackney Carriage, Private Hire cars and Drivers; Street Traders; Public Entertainment and Door Supervisors. Licence Fees were fixed annually and administration costs were charged where outside professional services were required, such as a Vet. In addition, the Government proposed to transfer the Licensing of premises to sell alcohol from the Magistrates Court to Local Authorities.

Members then asked questions on the licenses and licensing requirements and conditions.

We thanked the Head of Environmental Health Services for her presentation.

Appointment of Representative on North West Surrey Community Health Council

We appointed Councillor Mrs I. Napper to serve on the North West Surrey Community Health Council until 31st August 2002 in place of Mr B.P. Miles who had resigned.

Issues for Future Meetings

We asked for reports to be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on Day Centres and the Meals on Wheels Service and Drugline Spelthorne.

COUNCILLOR LAURIE BURRELL

Chairman of the Community Committee 15th February, 2001

■ [Council 22 Feb 01](#)

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON THE WORK OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

The Economic Committee has met once since the last Council meeting and this report gives an overview of the key issues considered by the Committee. Some of the issues had been referred onto the Executive with recommendations from my Committee.

Taking into account that this Council meeting would be setting the Revenue Budget and the level of Council Tax for next year, I agreed that the meeting of my Committee should focus on financial issues.

The meeting started with a presentation on the Council's financial position and budget processes and were made by Pauline Adams the Head of Financial Services and Peter Harding the Director of Resources. Members noted that the Council has a healthy financial position with total cash reserves of 55m of which 11.4m could be used to support the Council Tax. Members then took the opportunity to raise questions on the position of the outline budget for next year and on the monitoring of expenditure.

REVENUE BUDGET

My Committee considered details of the total net Revenue Expenditure Budget for 2001/2002 prior to the matter being considered by the Executive on 6th February.

We noted that the Executive had previously recommended, for discussion purposes, that the Revenue Expenditure for 2001/2002 be set at £13.377 million and that the Council's proportion of the Council Tax could be increased by 4½% with contribution from reserves being £1,797 million.

To assist us in considering the issues and to understand how the Executive had approached the preparation for next years budget and the options that had been considered, I invited the Chairman of the Executive, Councillor Frank Davies, to attend the meeting to answer questions and to participate in the debate.

FEES AND CHARGES

My Committee considered and recommended to the Executive that the Fees and Charges for 2001/2002 should be as set out in the report of the Director of Resources subject to incorporating minor amendments to proposed charges for Food Hygiene Courses and increasing Refresher Courses. We noted that in the majority of cases the increases in charges had been based on inflation of 2.5% with appropriate roundings.

During the debate on this matter my Committee requested information on the total additional income, which would be generated by the changes. This was circulated, directly after the meeting, and we were advised the estimated increase would generate an extra £63,900 for next year.

The Executive at its meeting on 6th February agreed the changes recommended by my Committee.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET MONITORING

We considered a monitoring report on the actual revenue expenditure against the original budget for the period April to December, 2000 and noted that there was a potential underspend of £137,4000 on the profiled gross budget.

FIVE YEAR MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

We considered the progress made with the programme of refurbishment, redecoration and service maintenance for Council owned properties. The work identified in year one of the programme would be completed by the end of April, 2001, with the works identified in the year two programme commencing in April, 2001.

One area that caused us some concern was why the tenders received for the works on the disabled toilets had substantially exceeded the budget provision and we have asked for a further report on this.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2000/2001

Consideration was given to an interim report on the Council's activities in the borrowing and investment markets for the period 1st April to 30th September, 2000. My Committee identified two issues which could affect the Council's investment procedures. The first being Best Value and the second being the possibility of paying off all or part of the Council's proportion of the Surrey Pension Fund deficit. My Committee noted that if this action was pursued, part of the Council's investments would need to be recalled to meet the payment, which could be over £13 million.

REVIEW OF CAR PARKING CHARGES

My Committee reviewed car parking charges for Staines Town Centre -the first review for three years. In considering the charges we took into account the effect the dualling works in the town and the opening of the Two Rivers shopping complex had on drivers coming into the town. Given the length of time since the last review we felt some increases were appropriate.

We note the current years car-parking income was estimated at £913,000.

My Committee recommended increases in both short stay and long stay parking fees and for season ticket holders and licences, which were subsequently approved by the Executive.

During the debate my Committee clarified the difference between annual licences and season tickets. It appeared the annual licences relate to 28 specific designated spaces in Elmsleigh Road and South Street. For season ticket holders there is no specific allocated space but they will only be valid in Tothill car park from 1st April 2001 instead of Bridge Street and Kingston Road.

COUNCILLOR MRS DENISE GRANT

Chairman of the Economic Committee 15th February, 2001

[-Council 22 Feb 01](#)

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON THE WORK OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Environment Committee met on the 23rd February, and we also hosted Members from Basingstoke and Deane Council who were attending the meeting to observe the Overview and Scrutiny role of Spelthorne's new Business system, and our environment Committee in particular.

This report gives an overview of the key issues considered by the Committee at our meeting.

Presentation by the Environment Agency

We welcomed Tony Proud, Customer Liaison Officer who gave a slide presentation on the work of the Environment Agency (EA) and Trevor Odell, Flood Defence Engineer who answered questions from Members on flooding.

Tony Proud explained that the EA had been created in April 1996 when it took over the functions of the NRA. Its vision is for a better environment and sustainable future. The EA was divided into eight regions based on river catchment areas. The Thames Region was based at Reading with an Area Office at Frimley. One of its aims is to develop a better-informed public and business through education.

Its functions include navigation on the Thames; monitoring high and low flows; boat registration and the licensing of moorings and landing stages. It promoted recreational activities on both its land and water, such as the Thames Path, and fishing. The EA advised on fisheries - stock, feeding management and other advice. It worked with the Salmon Trust to encourage support and sustain the return of Salmon to the Thames. One of its leading functions was the conservation of wildlife, habitat improvement and creation.

In the field of Flood Defence its aim is to protect people and property. It operates the Thames Flood Barrier to protect London from tides affected by the lunar cycle and from surge tides. Protecting the flood plains by a regular programme of maintenance of weirs, locks, channels and banks is another key role of the EA.

Water quality, which has been improving, is another key function that links in with the work of the Council's Environmental Health Service and the monitoring of industrial discharges. It also licenses and controls water abstraction and oversees waste disposal regulation.

The EA and the Council have worked closely together on the River Ash Enhancement Scheme which has received both local and National recognition. It is working with the Spelthorne Civic Pride Group to restore Laleham Pond and had worked with the developers in creating the Two Rivers scheme and had created a spawning Channel at Penton Hook.

Next year the Agency will be commencing work on the flood alleviation scheme for Stanwell.

The EA has been working with the Council and will continue to develop links and will be a participant in the development of its Community Strategy. Other areas of liaison include contaminated land remediation.

Trevor Odell, Flood Defence Engineer then answered questions from Members on flooding and the role of the EA in monitoring water levels and creating flood defences. During this session, Members noted from responses that should further development be permitted within any of the flood plain areas in the Borough, for each additional building potentially there was a risk of increased flooding as a result of more buildings on a flood plain area.

The Director of Community Services also replied to Members questions on Spelthorne's response to recent flooding in the Borough.

The Committee thanked Tony Proud and Trevor Odell for attending the meeting and their informative presentation.

Air Quality - Update (284/00)

Following consultation with the public, the Executive resolved to declare the whole of the Borough an AQMA and an order to this effect had been drawn up and had now come into force.

Detailed work on the production of an action plan for consultation by December 2001, to ensure that levels of nitrogen dioxide throughout the Borough will be reduced to below that of the National limit by 2005, has now begun. In addition there is a requirement to carry out a further review and assessment of air quality within the next 12 months.

In order to make progress in reducing pollutant levels, our Officers are working closely with neighbouring Surrey and London authorities.

We noted the report.

Items for Future Meetings

The council had invited representatives from the National Radiological Protection Board to give a presentation to a future meeting of this Committee on the Dangers Associated with Magnetic Fields Emanating from Overhead Power Cables and Mobile Phone Masts. However, the Board had declined, as they did not have the resources. As an alternative source of expertise Royal Holloway College had been asked if they had a research student who was working in this field that could talk to us and a reply is awaited.

Members also requested reports on Waste Recycling and turning Waste to Energy (Sheffield Scheme). Our next meeting will be considering National Airport Policy.

COUNCILLOR GERRY FORSBREY

Chairman of the Environment Committee 15th February, 2001

■ [Council 22 Feb 01](#)

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON THE WORK OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Planning Committee has met three times since my last report to Council and this report is for consideration at Council on 22nd February 2001. This report gives an overview of the key applications considered by the Planning Committee at its meetings on 6th December, 3rd January and 31st January. It also gives a brief update on other related matters.

1. The Committee on 6th December 2000 dealt with 17 items although four of the items were deferred without debate due to the need to undertake further consultation or because late amendments had been submitted. The applicant prior to the Committee meeting withdrew a further application. Members agreed all remaining 12 items as per the officer recommendations.

Public speaking took place on one item only with a total of one person taking the opportunity to address the Committee. The only approvals of particular significance related to:-

- (i) erection of new factory building at Rodd Industrial Estate, Govett Avenue, Shepperton, and
- (ii) erection of distribution warehouse at Blackburn Trading Estate, Stanwell

There were no refusals on the agenda.

2. The Committee on 3rd January 2001 dealt with 20 items although the applicants prior to the Committee meeting withdrew two of the items. Members deferred one item in order for officers to seek suitable amendments. Members agreed all remaining 17 items as per the officer recommendations.

Public speaking took place on 5 items with a total of 7 people taking the opportunity to address the Committee.

The significant approvals on the agenda related to:-

- (i) mixed use development comprising 19,447 sq metres of floorspace (including offices, residential and retail etc) at Majestic House, High Street/London Road, Staines. The Committee resolved to grant permission subject to conditions and a Legal Agreement.
- (ii) erection of 800 sq metres of office floorspace at 12 Fairfield Avenue, Staines. Permission granted subject to conditions/legal agreement.
- (iii) erection of 8 no. 2-bed and 2 no. 1-bed flats at 457-459 Staines Road West, Ashford. Permission granted subject to conditions.

Although two items were refused neither schemes were of particular note.

3. The Committee on 31st January 2001 dealt with 21 items in total, although 1 item was deferred by Members to allow officers to consider a number of details raised in a late letter of representation. All remaining 20 items were agreed by Members as per the officer recommendations.

Public speaking took place on 6 items with a total of 6 people taking the opportunity to address the Committee.

The most significant items on the agenda related to:-

- (i) Use of premises for hostel for the homeless at Harper House, Fordbridge Road, Ashford. Members resolved to refuse permission. Report of the Chairman on the Work of the Planning Committee
- (ii) Erection of 44 units of sheltered housing units at the former Astoria Cinema site, Church Road, Ashford. Members resolved to grant permission, subject to conditions and a legal agreement.
- (iii) Erection of 5 detached chalet bungalows at Reeds Place Business Park, Shepperton. Approved subject to conditions/ legal agreement.
- (iv) Erection of four storey office building at Shepperton Studios. Approved subject to conditions.

4 .Other Matters of Interest

Performance Figures

The performance figures against the 8 week period remain high as follows:-

	Householder	Overall
December	100%	75%
January	82%	68%

The figures for the full quarter October-December 2000 are as follows:-

Householder 91% (compared with 80% for the July-Sept quarter) Overall 78% (compared with 71% for the July-Sept quarter)

COUNCILLOR GERRY CEASER

Chairman of the Planning Committee 15th February, 2001

[-Council 22 Feb 01](#)