

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22ND FEBRUARY, 2001

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 22nd February, 2001 at 7.30 pm

Present:-

Agarwal V	Fisher C M	Paton J M
Amos Mrs P C	Forsbrey G E	Ponton Mrs J E
Appleyard M A	Grant Mrs D L	Read E I J
Ayers F	Hermes A W	Sider R W
Beardsmore I J	Hirst A P	Smith J E H
Blampied G G	Hyams Mrs M	Smith Mrs P A
Ceaser G S	James P R	Smith-Ainsley R A
Crabb T W	Leedham Ms A	Stubbs T
Culnane E K	Martin Mrs M J	Trussler G F
Davies F (Leader)	Napper Mrs I	Weston Mrs P
Drinkwater H V (Deputy Mayor)	Norcross Mrs G A	Wood-Dow Mrs J M (Mayor)
Packman J D (Deputy Leader)		

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

93/01 INTRODUCTION

At the commencement of the meeting The Mayor, Councillor Mrs J.M. Wood-Dow, welcomed Mr Murray Litvak, the Chairman of the Standards Committee, to the meeting who would present the recommendations of the Standards Committee later in the evening.

94/01 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L.J.W. Burrell, Mrs M. Hartley, Mrs H.E.L. Mellett, E. O'Hara, E. Searancke and R. Watkins.

95/01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th December, 2000 were approved as a correct record.

96/01 BEACON STATUS AWARD

The Mayor, Councillor Judith Wood-Dow expressed her pleasure in presenting the award to the Borough Council of Beacon Status for Independent Living for Older People.

The Award for Beacon Status was clearly a great achievement for the Borough Council. Only 39 Councils in the country had received this Award and a great many of those were larger London Boroughs, Metropolitan Districts or County. Councils. In fact, out of 238 English

District Councils only 5 had received awards in their own right and there was only one other district in the South. East which had received such an award.

The extent of Spelthorne's achievement was reflected in the fact that the other. three authorities who had received Beacon Status for services to Older People.were the London Borough of Camden and the cities of Leeds and Manchester.

There were many Agencies involved in the Borough Council's bid, including Apex.Housing, West Surrey Health Authority, Voluntary Action in Spelthorne, Surrey.County Council and local organisations such as SCAN and Shopmobility.

In terms of Spelthorne's own Officers, this was very much a team effort and recognition should be given to Day Centre Managers and also those staff involved in making the submission. However, the key players that were involved in drafting Spelthorne's submission were Ian Murray, Head of Housing and Community Care, and Sue Sturgeon and Brian Harris, two of Spelthorne's Assistant Chief Executives.

Unfortunately, Ian Murray was unable to attend the presentation and the Mayor formally presented the Beacon Status Award on behalf of the Borough Council to Sue Sturgeon and Brian Harris.

97/01 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs Judith Wood-Dow, reminded Members that the Mayor's Charity Ball would be taking place at Kempton Park on 3rd March and that tickets were still available from the Mayor's secretary.

98/01 REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2001/2002

(The Mayor, Councillor Mrs J.M. Wood-Dow, gave her consent under Standing Order 23(2), for the budget speech of each of the Group Leaders to exceed five minutes but not to exceed 10 minutes).

The Leader of the Council, Councillor F. Davies, made a statement on the Budget and Council Tax. The Leaders of the Opposition Groups, Councillors M.A.Appleyard and I.J. Beardsmore also made statements.

(Copies of the Leader's statement were made available for other Members, the Press and Public at the conclusion of the meeting).

Details of the precepts from Surrey County Council and Surrey Police had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting. Surrey County Council had set.its precept for next year at £648.00 for a Band D property. The Surrey Police precept had been set at £83.08 for a Band D property which, including the Spelthorne precept of £105.57, gave a total Band 'D' figure of £836.65.

RESOLVED :-

1. that the Revenue Estimates as set out in the report of the Director of Resources be approved.

2. that the Director of Resources'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. that amounts not exceeding £1,707,400 from general reserves and £208,740 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. that 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. that 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 it be noted that for the year 2001/2002 the Surrey County Council and Surrey Police have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 as amended of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below.

Precepting Valuation Bands

Authority	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Surrey County Council	432.00	504.00	576.00	648.00	792.00	936.00	1080.00	1296.00
Surrey Police	55.39	64.62	73.85	83.08	101.54	120.00	138.47	166.16

8. that having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 7 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2001/2002 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
557.77	650.73	743.69	836.65	1022.57	1208.49	1394.42	1673.30

99/01 TOTAL BORROWING REQUIREMENT 2001/2002

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive 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.

RESOLVED that as recommended by the Executive 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.

100/01 SURREY PENSION FUND DEFICIT

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive to make a repayment by Spelthorne of a capital payment, of up to the maximum certified by the Surrey Fund Actuary, to Surrey County Council Pension Fund to remove the Spelthorne element of the Surrey Pension Fund deficit before 31st March, 2001.

RESOLVED:-

- (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.

101/01 SPELTHORNE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive 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.

RESOLVED:-

- (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.

102/01 A PAY AND REWARD STRATEGY FOR SPELTHORNE

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive on proposals for the introduction of local pay determination and various initiatives towards a flexible workforce, as part of a consolidated Pay and Reward Strategy for Spelthorne.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) that Spelthorne local pay (SLP) be introduced with effect from 1st April, 2001.
- (2) that SLP be determined using the indicators and timetable set out in paragraph 25 of the Chief Executive's report.
- (3) that 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) that a review be undertaken on the same basis as previous Biennial reviews with any changes effective from 1st April, 2001.
- (5) that 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) that 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) that a reward strategy be produced and reported back to the Management Team by the end of September 2001.
- (8) that 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) that 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) that the proposals on annual leave as set out at paragraph 49 of the Chief Executive's report be approved.
- (11) that the proposals on the accelerated increments scheme as set out at paragraph 50 of the Chief Executive's report be approved.
- (12) that 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) that the need for consultation with the Staff Side be endorsed.

103/01 APPROVED DUTY - TRAVELLING EXPENSES - ATTENDANCE AT
REGIONAL SPORTS
BODIES

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive 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.

RESOLVED 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, to the 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.

104/01 CONCESSIONARY FARES

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive on Concessionary Fares.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) that 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) that the change to a half-fare scheme be agreed;
- (3) that the term of the formal Agreement between Surrey County Council and the eleven Surrey Districts be reduced from nine to three years; and
- (4) that 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.

105/01 TERMS OF REFERENCE - AMENDMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive on the need to resolve an anomaly in the Terms of Reference for the Executive, concerning financial thresholds for the approval of Supplementary Estimates.

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

106/01 BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN (BVPP) 2001/2002

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive on the Best Value Performance Plan Summary which must be published before 31st March, 2001.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) that the Performance Indicators for 1999/2000 and the projected results for 2000/2001 and the results of the General Household Survey and the Surveys relating to Planning and Housing Benefits be noted;
- (2) that the draft Summary Best Value Performance Plan 2001/2002, as amended at paragraphs (a) to (g) above be approved, subject to the Chief Executive confirming the actual percentage Targets to be included, as necessary;
- (3) that the draft Corporate Targets 2001/2002 be approved, subject to the Chief Executive adding an appropriate target to cover measures to deal with the increasing problem of youths congregating on street corners in the Borough and the implications for Fear of Crime and Youth Crime;
- (4) that the targets set for the Performance Indicators for 2001/2002 be approved;
- (5) that a Seminar for all Members be held at 7.00pm on Monday 14th May, 2001, on Spelthorne's performance against Corporate Targets for 2000/2001 and the Performance Indicators for 1999/2000; and
- (6) that any key issues arising from the results of the General Household Survey and the Surveys relating to Planning and Housing Benefits, be reported to the appropriate Review and Scrutiny Committee(s) for consideration.

107/01 STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Council considered the recommendations of the Standards Committee on an amendment to the Council's Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy.

RESOLVED that the section on Detection and Investigation in the Council's Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy be amended to incorporate the following as paragrapha 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 an 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."

108/01 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.

109/01 COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

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

110/01 ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

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

111/01 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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

112/01 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor G.S. Ceaser, presented his report which outlined matters the Planning Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

113/01 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

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

RESOLVED that the School be advised that the Council is unable to fill this appointment and that the Chief Executive be asked to make enquiries of the business community to ascertain if a suitably qualified volunteer can be found.

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

RESOLVED that Major Ronald Miller be appointed to serve as the Council's representative to serve on the Governing Body of Ashford Park Primary School, Ashford, until 14th December, 2004.

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

RESOLVED that the School be advised that the Council is unable to fill this appointment and that the Chief Executive be asked to confer with the School on this matter.

- d. THE ASHFORD (MIDDLESEX) SICK OR NEEDY CHARITY

RESOLVED that Mrs Wall and Mr Hatchman be appointed to serve as Trustees on the Ashford (Middlesex) Sick or Needy Charity until 22nd February, 2005.

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