

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20 JULY 2006  
BOROUGH OF SPELTHORNE**

**AT THE MEETING OF THE SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, KNOWLE GREEN, STAINES ON THURSDAY 20 JULY AT  
7.30PM**

Amos Mrs P.C.	Grant Mrs. D.L.	Paton J.M.
Ayers F.	Hirst A.P. (Deputy Mayor)	Pinkerton Mrs. J.M.
Beardsmore I.J.	Hyams Mrs. M.	Pinkerton J.D.
Bouquet M.L.	Jaffer H.R.	Ponton Mrs J.E.
Ceaser G.S. (Leader)	James P.R.	Royer M.T (Mayor)
Chouhan K.	Leighton Mrs V.J.	Sider R.W.
Colison-Crawford R.B.	Madams Mrs. M.	Strong C.V.
Culnane E.K. (Deputy Leader)	Napper Mrs. I.	Trussler G.F.
Davies F.	O'Hara E.	Turner Mrs D.
Forsbrey G.E.	Packman J.D.	Weston Mrs P
Fullbrook J.M.		

Co-Opted Member: Mr. M. Litvak

Councillor M.T. Royer, The Mayor, in the Chair

**244/06 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss M.M. Bain, S. Bhadye, R.V. D'Sa, Mrs. C.L. Spencer and Mrs J.M. Wood-Dow

**245/06 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 22 June 2006 be approved as a correct record.

**246/06 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR**

**(a) Mayoral Announcements**

**Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to Spelthorne Civic Pride Volunteers**

The Mayor requested that as many Members as possible attend the Awards presentation ceremony by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Mrs. Sarah Goad, in the Council Chamber at Knowle Green at 7.30pm on Thursday 27th July 2006.

**247/06 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The Mayor reported that under Standing Order 12, three questions had been received from members of the public. He invited each person to put their question in turn, and for responses to be given by either the Leader or the responsible Executive Portfolio Holder. He confirmed that a written response would also be sent to the questioners.

**(a) Question from Mr Edwards:**

"Is the Council committed to change the name of Staines to Staines on Thames?  
Why and how much will this cost?"

**The Leader of the Council, Councillor G.S. Ceaser responded as follows:**

“The Council undertook a survey of residents (via the Borough Bulletin) in May 2005 about how the residents felt on the subject of changing the name Staines to Staines on Thames. 252 votes were polled with 107 saying yes and 136 saying no. This represents 42% yes and 54% no, so the results were fairly evenly balanced.

In order to make such a fundamental change, it would be necessary to do a much deeper and wider consultation as the above numbers, as a proportion of the Borough’s 90,000 residents, would not provide robust enough statistics on which to base a decision.

Therefore, the Council is not committed to change the name of Staines to Staines on Thames at this time and no additional resources have been spent on this issue. Mr Mayor, I believe this matter is of more relevance to the Business Community and I know that the Spelthorne Chamber of Commerce will be discussing this with its members in the near future”.

**(b) Question from Mrs Caroline Nichols:**

“In the national news last week, it was reported that the proposed takeover of the Homes Place leisure group by Virgin was happening in a market for fitness clubs which is now saturated.

What is Spelthorne’s experience of the demand for its leisure center services?

Specifically, for each of the two leisure centers:-

- 1) How have the overall usage figures changed in the past three years and what are the usage projections for the next three years?
- 2) What were the membership figures at each center for each of the last three years and what are the projections for the next three years?”

**The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Councillor Mrs. D.L. Grant, responded as follows:-**

“Firstly, the two leisure centres that Spelthorne has are managed on behalf of the council by Sports and Leisure Management (SLM). The Council receive a fee from SLM overall to run these facilities. The leisure centre makes a small surplus which is used to subsidise other services.

Secondly, the two leisure centres continue to have good visitor numbers and the visitor numbers for the past 3 years have been as follows:

Spelthorne	2003/04	427,805
	2004/05	505,040
	2005/06	479,552
Sunbury	2003/04	215,098
	2004/05	262,834
	2005/06	267,606

Finally, as you will appreciate, the membership and usage is a commercially sensitive area as companies do bid for leisure contracts. As such the information is owned by SLM and we therefore cannot put this information into the public domain.

When considering the bids for re-tendering, which we have recently completed, the projections were investigated by the Officers and projected targets were considered achievable.

As I am sure you will agree, joint usage figures in the region of three quarters of a million per annum is a considerable number, as is the growth of over 100,000 users since 2003/04. We anticipate further growth as a result of the major refurbishment programme for both centres over the next two years, which will cost in the region of £2.7m. Thank you Mr Mayor”

**(c) Question from Mrs Caroline Nichols:**

**Older People’s Services – The Way Forward**

“Spelthorne Council in its Borough Bulletin Special has ‘agreed the new ways of organising the way older people’s services are provided in Spelthorne’ and wants ‘to help people to live independently in their own homes for longer’.

How much extra money has been allocated to:

- 1) Extend the meals of wheels service?
- 2) Expand the Spelthorne Personal Alarm Service?  
(Please identify the two budgets separately)

How many people currently use:

- 1) Meals on Wheels
- 2) SPAN

What are the projected increases in usage for these two services as a result of the changes? What other social support services does Spelthorne offer for independent living and will these also be expanded?”

**The Portfolio Holder for Adults and Elderly Services, Councillor Mrs. V.J. Leighton, responded as follows:-**

“In relation to the Extension of the Meals on Wheels service this is £11,000 with support also from Surrey County Council of £5,000 2006/07 (half year). The County is likely to increase this amount of £5,000 next year.

In relation to the Expansion of the Spelthorne Personal Alarm Service, no further funding has been allocated to SPAN, as the expansion is the use of other technologies. Capital funding has been made available through our partnership with the public service agreement, as the costs associated with the expansion are predominately capital.

In relation to usage:-

- **Meals on Wheels**

160 meals per day

- **SPAN**

1060 per year

**The projected increases in usage for these two services as a result of the changes are:-**

- 60 Extra per week Meals on Wheels, and
- 
- 50 Extra members SPAN
- 

Clearly, the expansion of Meals on Wheels to the weekend is seen as important to those who have no family support.

It is important to say that these services are for older/frailer people to enable them to remain independent. With these people it is simply a question of numbers. The expansion of the SPAN service will provide more safety for people, allow for hospital discharges sooner and is seen as key to Independent Living for Older People.

**Finally, in relation to other social support services they are:-**

- In partnership with Age Concern the handyman scheme has been expanded.
- In partnership again with Age Concern the provision of “key safe” has been extended.
- The computer classes will be expanded for older people at the Greeno Centre and at the Fordbridge Centre and these will allow people to communicate with one another through information technology.
- The plan also includes the provision of Extracare housing which will be provided for residents in Spelthorne.
- An Information service, such as the A-Z guide is seen as important for older people and information services such as this will be expanded in partnership with other sectors.
- There is also work with the leisure centre to provide bespoke activities for older people.
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As stated at full Council in April this year, changes will take place to meet the needs of older people, especially the frailer older person, in order that they may remain independent, and will be made in partnership with others.”

**248/06 THE GAMBLING ACT 2005 – DRAFT STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY 2007-2010**

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive for approval to consult on a Draft Statement of Gambling Policy for 2007 – 2010.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2007-2010 be adopted for consultation for three months commencing 27 July 2006; and
- (2) The Officers to report to a future meeting of the Executive with advice on the appropriate time when the Council can consider a “no casinos” resolution under Section 166 of the Gambling Act 2005.

**249/06 SPELTHORNE CORPORATE PLAN 2006/2009**

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive on an amendment to the

proposed Corporate Plan by adding the phrase "putting people at the centre of our services" into both the Executive Summary and the actual Spelthorne Corporate Plan 2006/2009.

**RESOLVED** that the Corporate Plan 2006/2009, as amended by the Executive, be adopted.

#### **250/06 OUTLINE BUDGET 2007/2008 – 2010/2011**

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive on an Outline Budget covering the next four years, with the first year forming the framework for the detailed Budget for the next financial year. The approval of the Outline Budget by the Council would set a maximum expenditure level for 2007/2008 and would provide a guideline Council Tax increase.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the net budgeted expenditure for 2007/2008 be set at a maximum level of £13.623m;
2. That, in order to reach this level, the Strategic Director (Support) identify a package of options by which the budget can be balanced both in 2007/2008 and over the next 2 years of the outline;
3. That, subject to the assumptions in this report being valid, a guideline Council Tax increase be set at 5%;
4. To note how the scrutiny committees will be involved in the process of moving from the broad framework of the outline budget towards completion of the detailed budget; and
5. To note the additional information, provided on Spelthorne's level of grant per head, as compared to the English Districts average, Surrey Authorities, "nearest neighbours", and identifying those Districts receiving more than £100 per head of population.

#### **251/06 LOW CARBON MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME – SALIX FUNDING**

The Council considered the recommendations from the Executive on progress made by the Council with its Low Carbon Management Programme. Including the opportunity for funding through Spelthorne's external partners, the Carbon Trust.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That Officers be authorised to sign the fund agreement with LAEF/Salix; and
2. The Capital provision be assigned for the listed projects to the gross value of £246,500 of which the Council's net contribution would be £123,250. The Council's contribution to be funded as a Supplementary Capital Estimate from the Invest to Save, New Schemes Fund.

#### **252/06 REVIEW OF INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND CREDIT POLICY**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive seeking approval to

change the Credit Policy in the Annual Investment Strategy.

**RESOLVED** that the amendments to the Investment Strategy and counter-party credit policy, as set out in the report of the Strategic Director (Support) to the Executive, be approved.

**253/06 REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G.S. Ceaser, presented his report, which outlined the various matters the Executive had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

**254/06 IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Improvement and Development Committee, Councillor J.D. Packman, presented his report, which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

**255/06 AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Audit Committee, Councillor M.L. Bouquet, presented his report, which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

**256/06 LICENSING COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Licensing Committee, Councillor R.W. Sider, presented his report, which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting. Councillor Sider placed on record his thanks and appreciation to the Officers for preparing the draft Policy Statement for consultation.

**257/06 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor E. O'Hara, presented his report, which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

**258/06 STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Standards Committee, Mr. M. Litvak, presented the report, which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.