



**Spelthorne
Borough Council**

Council Meeting
Thursday, 27 July 2023



19 July 2023

Please reply to:

Contact: Karen Wyeth

Direct line: 01784 446337

E-mail: k.wyeth@spelthorne.gov.uk

To the Councillors of Spelthorne Borough Council

I hereby summon you to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at The Council's Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames on **Thursday, 27 July 2023** commencing at **6.30 pm** for the transaction of the following business.

Daniel Mouawad
Chief Executive

Councillors are encouraged to wear their badge of past office at the Council meeting.

For those Councillors wishing to participate, prayers will be said in the Mayor's office, starting at 6.45pm. Please email mayor@spelthorne.gov.uk if you wish to attend.

Councillors are reminded to notify Committee Services of any Gifts and Hospitality offered to you since the last Council meeting so that these may be entered in the Gifts and Hospitality Declaration book.

AGENDA

Description Page nos.

1. Apologies for absence

To receive any apologies for non-attendance.

2. Disclosures of Interest

To receive any disclosures of interest from Councillors in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

3. Afghan Bridging Hotel Closure

As a result of the Home Office's approach to closing bridging hotels for Afghan families in August including the Mercure Hotel in Staines-upon-Thames, the Council needs to make urgent decisions about procurement of temporary accommodation of families. The Home Office imposed deadline is the 16th August and we anticipate that approximately 20 of the 27 families in the hotel may present themselves to the Council, at least initially, as homeless.

The policy framework and support on offer from the Home Office is very fluid, so whilst the Veterans Minister made an announcement yesterday (18th July) about providing some support for families with matched funding, the Home Office is still finalising its policy guidance and it is not yet clear whether there would be sufficient financial support.

The ECM report for consideration, detailing the varying options for how this authority needs to procure roughly 20 properties or circa 62 rooms in hotels with an associated gross cost of procuring for up to six months could exceed £1m, hence why the decision needs to be taken by full Council.

The imperative of this decision regrettably has triggered the need for members to be called to an Extraordinary Council Meeting to take place next week on Thursday 27th commencing at 6:30pm.

Please note that the speed of action within a Home Office funding policy vacuum translates as the biggest single challenge that our housing colleagues have faced in many-a-year, and every effort is being given to shoring up costed options as soon as is practicable into a report for members to consider. I am sure that members will commend the work that colleagues are endeavouring to undertake in support of our Afghan community.

Full Report to follow

This item is exempt as it contains exempt information within the meaning of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972,

as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and by the Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) Order 2006 Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information because, disclosure to the public would prejudice the financial position of the authority in any lease, contract or other type of negotiation with the tenant or developer, who could then know the position of the Council.