



Spelthorne Borough Council

Extraordinary Council Meeting
Thursday, 7 August 2025



30 July 2025

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, 7 August 2025** commencing at **7.00 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.

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. Motion - Stanwell Hotel To consider the motion from Councillors in accordance with Standing Order 16.	5 - 10

Motion for Extraordinary Council Meeting 07 August 2025

Proposer - Councillor Sexton

Seconded - Councillor Bateson

The Council call upon the Homes Office to:

1. Immediately reconsider its plans to utilise the Stanwell Hotel to house adult male only asylum seekers,
2. Actively consult and work with the Local Authority,
3. Continue engaging with key stakeholders and support the existing client group of families and single female asylum seekers at the Stanwell Hotel; and
4. Give due regard to public concerns, local services and the local community

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Cllr Joanne Sexton
Spelthorne Borough Council
Knowle Green
Staines upon Thames
TW18 1XB

25 July 2025

To: The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Secretary of State

RE: Home Office Asylum Accommodation Stanwell Hotel 171 Town Lane, Staines TW19 7PW

I am writing as Leader of Spelthorne Borough Council to raise issues regarding the proposed change of use for the Stanwell Hotel.

Spelthorne has played its part in helping the Government fulfil its responsibilities to asylum seekers and refugees. We hosted an Afghan Bridging Hotel and successfully moved all the residents on to settled accommodation. On a regular basis we assist homeless households from dispersed accommodation and the Stanwell Hotel. Our Resettlement Team and Homes for Ukraine Officer work to help new arrivals integrate.

We are used to being consulted with when there is a proposal to acquire more dispersed accommodation and appreciate that our voice is heard.

The Stanwell Hotel was one of those marked for a change of management from Clearsprings. We attended a handover meeting and were informed of a recommendation to move single males out of the hotel and for it to be a family and single female only hotel. We were asked for our opinion and agreed it was a good idea.

We have now found out the proposal is in fact move all families and women and make it male only. I cannot express strongly enough what a shock this news is and that our feedback has been disregarded.

We are extremely concerned that this adult male intensification of Stanwell Hotel will have an adverse impact on Stanwell Village and its community. The current arrangements had been effective and the existing cohort of families had already been integrating well within the Stanwell Village community. We are determined to avoid circumstances that could lead to civil unrest.

Given the heightened political sensitivities around this issue, I would expect the consultation process to be more robust with assurances about how risk would be managed and what support the Local Authority and partners could expect to receive. Instead, we have had the exact opposite. No consultation and no assurances.

Spelthorne Borough Council, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames, TW18 1XB
www.spelthorne.gov.uk customer.services@spelthorne.gov.uk 01784 451499

Local residents in this family orientated village are alarmed having heard about the proposals and are contacting Council Members to express their concerns. As we have not been properly briefed, we cannot adequately respond to these concerns.

I would like to formally place on record that we do not accept the proposals and request a formal meeting to consult on the way forward. In the meantime, we ask that any transition towards making the accommodation male only is put on hold.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Joanne Sexton
Independent Spelthorne Group,
Leader of Spelthorne Borough Council

Spelthorne raises urgent concerns over Home Office plans for Stanwell Hotel

29 July 2025: Spelthorne Borough Council has formally expressed strong opposition to the Home Office's proposed changes to the use of the Stanwell Hotel, citing a lack of meaningful engagement and collaboration

In a letter to the Secretary of State, the Leader of Spelthorne Borough Council, Cllr Joanne Sexton, raised serious concerns regarding the Home Office's intention to change the client group at the existing facility at Stanwell Hotel on Town Lane to provide only for male asylum seekers, contrary to previous discussions.

The Council had been informed that the site, previously managed by Clearsprings, would transition to accommodate families and single women only - a plan the Council had supported as appropriate and in-line with local community dynamics. However, it has since emerged that the current proposal involves relocating all women and families and replacing them with single adult males.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Joanne Sexton, said:

"This unexpected reversal has come as a shock and has caused significant concern within the local community. It appears that our input was disregarded, and there has been a complete lack of meaningful engagement and thorough consideration of public concerns and the impact on the local services.

"The current arrangements at the Stanwell Hotel were working. The families placed there were integrating well and building community ties. This abrupt change risks undermining all of that.

"I am alarmed about the potential consequences of the proposed changes and the impact they will have. Residents are very concerned and have begun contacting their local councillors for clarity, which they're unable to provide due to the lack of official briefing."

Cllr Sexton's letter formally rejects the current proposals and is calling for:

- An immediate pause to any changes that would alter the current occupancy arrangements at this facility
- A formal consultation meeting with the Secretary of State and Home Office representatives
- Full disclosure of plans and assurances regarding community safety, resourcing and long-term arrangements

Spelthorne has a history of supporting asylum seekers and refugees, including successfully managing an Afghan bridging hotel and assisting vulnerable households into settled accommodation. The Council emphasised that while it is committed to helping those in need, it expects to be properly consulted and involved in decisions that significantly impact the local area.

Spelthorne Borough Council is urging the Government to listen to the concerns of the local authority and community, and calls upon the Home Office to immediately reconsider and consult on the way forward.

To date we have not received a response from the Home Secretary and the urgency of the matter has led the Group Administration to call for an Extraordinary Council meeting on 7 August to discuss the matter further.