

MINUTES OF THE SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Spelthorne Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames on Thursday, 6 August 2026 at 7.00 pm

Present:

Councillor S.A. Dunn, The Mayor, in the Chair

Councillors:

M. Gibson	J.P. Caplin	G. Neall
M.M. Attewell	J.T.F. Doran	L. E. Nichols
C. Bateson	S.M. Doran	K.E. Rutherford
S.N. Beatty	R.V. Geach	D. Saliagopoulos
M. Beecher	K.M. Grant	J.R. Sexton
S. Bhadye	S. Gyawali	J.A. Turner
M. Bing Dong	K. Howkins	B. Weerasinghe
M. Buck	N. Islam	H.R.D. Williams
T. Burrell	M.J. Lee	P.N. Woodward
J.R. Boughtflower	A. Mathur	
J. Button	S.C. Mooney	

Apologies: Apologies were received from Councillors M. Arnold, L. Barker, H.S. Boparai, L.H. Brennan, R. Chandler, D.C. Clarke and D.L. Geraci

83/26 Disclosures of Interest

Councillors Attewell, Mooney, Sexton and Weerasinghe advised they were also Surrey County Councillors.

Councillors Attewell, Bateson, Mooney, and Sexton advised they were also West Surrey Councillors.

84/26 Disposal of Commercial Asset A

Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee to

1. Approve the proposed disposal on the terms set out in the report; and
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer and Group Head of Assets, in consultation with Chair and Vice-Chair of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee to agree minor variations to the Heads of Terms and adjustments to the sale price; and

3. Delegate authority to Group Head of Corporate Governance to enter into a transfer to complete the disposal and any ancillary legal documentation required in relation to the proposed disposal.

A recorded vote was requested by Councillor Williams, and the results were as follows:

For (21):	M Attewell, C Bateson, S Beatty, M Beecher, T Burrell, J Button, J Caplin, J Doran, S Doran, S Dunn, R Geach, M Gibson, K Grant, S Gyawali, S Mooney, G Neall, L Nichols, K Rutherford, J Sexton, J Turner, B Weerasinghe
Against (8):	S Bhadye, J Boughtflower, M Buck, K Howkins, N Islam, M Lee, D Saliagopoulos, P Woodward
Abstain (3):	M Bing Dong, A Mathur, H Williams

Council **RESOLVED** to:

1. Approve the proposed disposal on the terms set out in the report;
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer and Group Head of Assets, in consultation with Chair and Vice-Chair of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee to agree minor variations to the Heads of Terms and adjustments to the sale price; and
3. Delegate authority to Group Head of Corporate Governance to enter into a transfer to complete the disposal and any ancillary legal documentation required in relation to the proposed disposal.

85/26 Disposal of Commercial Asset B

Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee to **not** recommend that Council:

1. Approve the proposed disposal on the terms set out in the report;
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer and Group Head of Assets, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee to agree minor variations to the Heads of Terms and adjustments to the sale price; and
3. Delegate authority to the Group Head of Corporate Governance to enter into a transfer to complete the disposal and any ancillary legal documentation required in relation to the proposed disposal.

Councillor Beatty left the Chamber at 19:58 and returned at 20:01

Councillor Sexton left the Chamber at 20:18 and returned at 20:21

Councillor Attewell left the Chamber at 20:27 and returned at 20:30

Councillor Saliagopoulos left the meeting at 20:29 and returned at 20:38

Councillor Bing Dong left the Chamber at 20:37 and returned at 20:41

Councillor Bhadye left the Chamber at 20:37 and returned at 20:40

Meeting adjourned at 20:43

Meeting reconvened at 21:05

It was proposed by Councillor Boughtflower, seconded by Councillor Williams and **resolved** to exclude the public and press for part of the discussion due to

the likely disclosure of exempt information under the relevant paragraphs in part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

It was proposed by Councillor Bateson, and seconded by Councillor Nichols to suspend standing orders for the meeting to continue beyond 10pm. The motion **FELL** as a majority of councillors voted against extending the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Boughtflower and seconded by Councillor Mooney that the motion be amended to: “the item is deferred until the views of the West Surrey Shadow Executive have been sought and brought to this Council given that the new authority will inherit the financial consequences of this disposal.”

In accordance with Standing Order 17 (i), Councillor Williams requested that the question now be put.

A recorded vote on the amendment was requested by Councillor Boughtflower and the results were as follows:

For (20):	M Attewell, S Beatty, M Beecher, S Bhadye, M Bing Dong, J Boughtflower, M Buck, T Burrell, R Geach, K Howkins, N Islam, M Lee, A Mathur, S Mooney, K Rutherford, D Saliagopoulos, J Sexton, B Weerasinghe, H Williams, P Woodward
Against (12):	C Bateson, J Button, J Caplin, J Doran, S Doran, S Dunn, M Gibson, K Grant, S Gyawali, G Neall, K Rutherford, J Turner
Abstain (0):	

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the amended motion.

The meeting re-entered public session.

Council **RESOLVED** to defer the item until the views of the West Surrey Shadow Executive have been sought and brought to this Council given that the new authority will inherit the financial consequences of this disposal.

N.B. Subsequent to the meeting, on 7 August 2026, the Council received Instructions under Powers Provided by the Best Value Directions from Spelthorne’s Commissioners requiring the Council to carry out the recommendations of the report. (*attached*)

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The Commissioners
Spelthorne Borough Council
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Cllr Greg Neall
Leader, Spelthorne Borough Council
Knowle Green
Staines-upon-Thames
TW18 1XB
By email

Friday 7 August 2026

Dear Cllr Neall

Instruction under powers provided by the Best Value Directions

As you know, the current Directions imposed by the Secretary of State on Spelthorne Borough Council on 8 May 2025 require the Council (at Annex A, 1 c) to develop “a comprehensive and strict debt reduction plan”, and (at Annex A, 1 i) to develop “a plan for a comprehensive commercial strategy... including exit strategies for the commercial investments”. The Directions also contain provisions to enable Commissioners to exercise specific functions of the Council. In particular, Annex B, paragraph 4 of the Directions provide that the Commissioners shall exercise “All functions associated with commercial decision-making, regeneration, property management, procurement and the management of commercial activity by the Authority.”

In accordance with this latter provision, I am writing to require that the Council carry out the recommendations of the report taken by the Council at its meeting of 7 p.m., 6 August 2026, under Item 4 of the Agenda for that meeting, “Disposal of Commercial Asset B”. I note that this matter was considered after the exclusion of the press and public, in view of the likely disclosure of 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.

Commissioners are making this instruction because the recommendations of the above report:

- are in line with the directions issued to the Council by the Secretary of State on 8 May 2025;

- are in line with the principle of asset rationalisation agreed by Council on 17 November 2025; and
- support the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the sustainability of West Surrey Council and therefore reduce the risk to West Surrey residents of future cuts to services

This Instruction will be published on the Spelthorne Borough Council Commissioners web pages, and you may also want to report it to Members. Commissioners will keep this matter under review and will update this Instruction as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Seary

Deborah McLaughlin Mervyn Greer Barry Scarr

Lead Commissioner

Assistant Commissioners