

**NOTICE OF AN URGENT DECISION OUTSIDE THE ACCESS TO
INFORMATION RULES AS LAID OUT IN THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION
AND OUTSIDE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR HOLDING A PRIVATE
MEETING**

**MATTER – Reopening of the Spelthorne Leisure Centres – request for
funding**

As Chief Executive of Spelthorne Borough Council, and in accordance with the Council's Constitution, I hereby give you, as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, formal notice that a key decision is to be made on 22 July 2020 to decide on level of any financial support to Sports and Leisure Management to enable the opening of the Spelthorne and Sunbury Leisure Centres.

This involves a decision which has not met the requirement for advance notice of the decision to be publicised on the Council's Forward Plan 28 days prior to the decision being made. In addition, this key decision has not met the requirement to give 28 days' public notice prior to a meeting being held in private.

The decision is as follows:

To decide on level of any financial support to Sports and Leisure Management to enable the opening of the Spelthorne and Sunbury Leisure Centres. There are six options being presented to Cabinet.

General Exception Notice (Councils Constitution (section 15 of the Access to Information Rule, Part 4 (f))

In accordance with the above, I am required to notify you of our intention to make a key decision in advance of it being published on the Forward Plan for 28 clear days. There is no requirement to seek your agreement on this as the report will be made available and the General Exception Notice will be placed on the Council's website at least five clear working days before the decision is made together with reasons why the requirement cannot be met.

Exempt urgency - Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 paragraph 5.(6).

In accordance with the above, I need to seek your agreement to hold a meeting in private in advance of Notice being given 28 days prior to that meeting. In so doing I need to set out why the matter is urgent and why it cannot be reasonably deferred.

Reason for urgency

The Government announcements of the releasing of lockdown measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are being released at short notice. The date for the reopening of the leisure centres was announced on the 9th July. SLM have indicated a requirement for financial funding for the re-opening of the centres. As the Government guidance on how the leisure centres will be operating (e.g. the uncertainty of whether a 2 metre distancing or 1m + would apply) are changing on a daily basis and these measures all have an impact on the operation of the centres and the potential income thereof, SLM have only been able to provide financial details in the last week and there is still some ongoing work and discussions around these. There was not a 28 day period between the notification by government of the opening of the centres and the date required for a decision to open the centres as soon as possible for the public to use.

The intention is to take this matter to the Cabinet meeting on 22 July 2020 for a decision. I am therefore notifying you of these arrangements, and requesting your agreement that the meeting is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.

Signed:



Cllr Vivienne Leighton

Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 14 Jul 2020