

Background – decision making

A report went to an Extraordinary Council on 6 June 2023 entitled “Request to ‘pause’ the Local Plan Examination hearings”. Agenda for Council on Tuesday, 6 June 2023, 7.00 pm - Spelthorne Borough Council.

In that report all councillors were asked to decide on whether or not to agree that:

“The Planning Inspector pauses the Examination Hearings for a period of four (4) months in order that the new members (councillors) can be fully instructed as to the policies of the Local Plan and the implications on the Borough.”

Immediately prior to the meeting an amended motion was put forward:

“Spelthorne Borough Council formally request the Planning Inspector to pause the Examination Hearings into the Local Plan for a period of three months to allow time for the new council to understand and review the policies and implications of the Local Plan, and after the three-month pause the Council will decide what actions may be necessary before the Local Plan examination may proceed.”

This was then debated and agreed by Council. The Planning Inspector was informed of the decision the following day (7th) and a letter was received on 8th from the Planning Inspector to confirm that in this specific circumstance a pause in the examination for a period of three months would be reasonable.

A request has since been received (15 June 2023) from four of the five political group leaders (not the Conservatives).