



Spelthorne Local Plan: Critical Friend Support

TERMS OF REFERENCE

On the 6th June Spelthorne Borough Council agreed to pause its Local Plan Examination for three months to allow time for the new council to understand and review the policies and implications of the Local Plan. After the three month pause the Council will decide what actions may be necessary before the Local Plan examination may proceed. A report on the next steps following this will be considered by the Council at a meeting on the 14th September.

During this time, officers will be delivering a comprehensive training programme to ensure all councillors understand where the local plan process has got to and what the plan is proposing. Alongside this, the Council will be undertaking a short, focused survey of residents associations across Spelthorne on the key issues they are concerned about which will be used to inform the next steps. Residents will be asked to identify five key issues for their towns, providing some insight as to how they would like the Council to address these (through the local plan).

To complement this work, Catriona Riddell & Associates has been appointed to provide 'critical friend' support to inform the options for taking the plan process forward. Specifically, the critical friend support will focus on facilitating two Local Plan Assessment workshops for both officers and councillors on the following dates:

11th July - Session 1

This will focus on the national context, including any potential implications arising from the Government's proposed planning reforms and how other local planning authorities are responding.

16th August - Session 2

This will focus on feedback from the residents' survey and any implications, and the provisional conclusions from the critical friend review. Both will be used to inform the officers' report setting out the recommended next steps for the local plan at the meeting on the 14th.

A final report setting out the conclusions from the critical friend review will be provided by **no later than Friday 25th August.**