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

Friday 23 October 2026

Dear Cllr Sexton

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 scheduled for 7.20 p.m., 22 October 2026, under Item 11 of the Agenda for that meeting, "Disposal of Communications House, Staines". 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.

I further require that the final terms of the disposal are subject to the approval of the Commissioners

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	Barry Scarr
Lead Commissioner	Assistant Commissioners	