



Lee Rowley MP  
Minister of State for Housing, Planning and  
Building Safety  
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Please reply to:

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Our ref: JS/dr  
Your ref: Our reference: MC2023/05753  
Date: 2 February 2024

Dear Lee Rowley MP

Thank you for your letter of 26 January 2024. I am very pleased to hear you agree with me that we all have a common goal of getting a Local Plan in place as soon as possible and would like to take this opportunity to re-iterate that from our perspective it is critical that our plan ensures development is of the right type and quality and in the right place. Your appreciation of the challenges that we face is welcomed, and you clearly understand preparing our local plan is complex, and both technically and politically challenging due to our significant environmental constraints.

We, as a team at Spelthorne (councillors, officers, and our critical friend), have been considering the implications of the National Planning Policy Framework which was issued just prior to Christmas, as we said we would back on 14 September 2023. We are moving towards a position where we can put options on our next steps to councillors, so they can make a fully informed decision. An Extraordinary Environment and Sustainability Committee is currently pencilled in for 29 February, with a Full Council meeting to follow on 14 March. I trust this demonstrates the collective effort being undertaken by Spelthorne to move our Local Plan forwards.

We are regularly engaging with departmental officials to keep them advised of progress and will continue to do so. My offer of a meeting still stands, and we can keep you updated at key stages as we progress if you so desire.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Joanne Sexton  
Leader of the Council