

Preliminary Statement of Common Ground between the Environment Agency and Spelthorne Borough Council - 22 May 2023

This preliminary statement of common ground between the Spelthorne BC and the Environment Agency (EA) is mainly in relation to flood risk. The EA provided comments on other matters within their remit for the Spelthorne Local Plan.

Flood Risk, drainage capacity and impact of development on water bodies has been considered throughout the preparation of the Spelthorne Local Plan. Specifically, the following studies have been used to support evidence on flood risk:

- *Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Draft Interim Report, Feb 2018*
- *Level 1 – Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, May 2022*
- *Level 2 – Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report, July 2022*
- *Spelthorne Water Cycle Study 2019*
- *Level 1 – Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Update (30 Nov 2022) (dated 2023 on website [Spelthorne Takes Shape \(spelthornelocalplan.info\)](https://spelthornelocalplan.info))*
- *Level 2 – Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Update, Feb 2023*

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 was updated and published on 30 Nov 2022 and Level 2 published in Feb 2023. The updates included:

- *Incorporating the 2022 draft updates to the Thames (Hurley to Teddington) model.*
- *Incorporating the changes made to the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) Flood Risk and Coastal Change which was updated 25 August 2022 during the Pre-Submission Local Plan consultation.*

The SFRA documents have been reviewed by the Environment Agency who provided feedback to Spelthorne and Aecom on 17 May 2023 and at a meeting on 18 May the EA and Spelthorne BC agreed to use the 2019 Thames (Hurley to Teddington) model during the Examination process as the 2022 draft flood risk model remain in draft form.

The Environment Agency and Spelthorne BC also agreed to continue to work together to ensure the SFRA - evidence base is fit for purpose in regard to flood risk management in Spelthorne Borough.

Agreed 22 May 2023
Judith Montford
Environment Agency
Thames Sustainable Places