



Mr J. Bridgwater
Planning Inspector
(by email)

Please reply to:
Contact: Daniel Mouawad
Chief Executive
Direct line: 01784 446350
Email: DCM.CEX@spelthorne.gov.uk
Our ref:
Date: 15 October 2024

Dear Mr Bridgwater,

Spelthorne Local Plan Examination

Following significant progress to address matters you previously raised, I am writing to you to request the resumption of the Examination in Public for Spelthorne's new Local Plan.

You have kindly provided the Council with two pauses to the examination hearings, which have allowed for our newer Members to understand more about the Local Plan, for a Critical Friend review to be undertaken and latterly to await the publication of the revised National Planning Policy Framework.

The Council have been working closely with the Environment Agency (EA) over the last 16 months and I am pleased to update that we now have a signed Statement of Common Ground with them which I attach for your information. This includes the revised wording for relevant site allocations and the proposed removal of five sites, as detailed in my letter sent to you on 23 July, in addition to the revised wording of policy E3: "Managing Flood Risk" as an appendix. The agreement of the Statement of Common Ground is a significant milestone and marks the successful conclusion of the Councils cooperation with the EA.

Following the election of the new government in May this year, a consultation on further revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework ran from 30 July to 24 September. On 17 September 2024, our neighbouring Council Elmbridge published a letter from their Planning Inspector. It is available on their website [Elmbridge draft Local Plan Examination in Public update | Elmbridge Borough Council](#)

We held a key meeting of our Environment and Sustainability Committee on 29 February this year which took three key decisions. One of these was to:

Remove all Green Belt allocations from the Local Plan with the exception of the two allocations that meet the need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show people.

Considering this new information and clear direction from the new government, we propose to take a report to a forthcoming meeting of the Council inviting our Members

to consider the latest information available and if they would like to amend any of the decisions made on Main Modifications in February, ahead of the Examination resuming. We will inform you as soon as the agenda for this meeting is published.

We would be grateful if you could let me know how you would like to proceed at your earliest convenience. We want to offer our continued assurance and commitment that Spelthorne wishes to have a Local Plan in place at the earliest opportunity and very much hope you will agree to resume the examination shortly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'MB', followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Councillor Malcolm Beecher
Chair of Environment & Sustainability Committee