

**SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL AND
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**



SPELTHORNE JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 08 OCTOBER 2018

**LEAD OFFICER: DAVID BIRLEY, HOUSING STRATEGY & POLICY MANAGER,
SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

SUBJECT: FUNDING A NEW HOMELESS HOSTEL IN SPELTHORNE

AREA(S) AFFECTED: SPELTHORNE

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

This report provides Joint Committee an update on the provision of a new homeless hostel in Spelthorne, including arrangements for ongoing revenue funding from 2020/21.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Spelthorne Joint Committee is asked:

- (i) To note that funding arrangements for short term supported housing, including those for homeless people, are to remain within Housing Benefit from 2020/21.
- (ii) To continue to support Spelthorne Borough Council's plans to build a single persons homeless hostel in Spelthorne.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

N/A

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 A paper was brought to the Joint Committee in July 2018 which highlighted the Government's consultation on changing the funding arrangements for short term supported housing, including those for homeless people, from April 2020.
- 1.2 The Joint Committee agreed:
 - To note that funding arrangements for short term supported housing, including those for homeless people, are due to change from 2020/21, with current expectations that Surrey County Council will receive an annual grant to distribute to the eleven boroughs and districts.
 - To note that Spelthorne Borough Council are actively seeking to build a hostel for single homeless people with a connection to Spelthorne.

- To agree that, based on the evidence provided, the provision of a new homeless hostel in Spelthorne is required.
 - To agree that, subject to a final decision by HM Government on the method of revenue funding from 2020/21, and subject to receiving detail on the conditions which will be attached to that grant funding, that the proposed new hostel in Spelthorne is prioritised for revenue funding.
- 1.3 Officers agreed to keep Joint Committee up to date with the Government's consultation, and plans for the new hostel. On 9 August 2018, the Government announced that a decision had been made to keep Housing Benefit in place to fund supported housing. As a result of this announcement, revenue funding for the proposed new build homelessness hostel is more secure.
- 1.4 Officers from Spelthorne Borough Council have met with the Salvation Army with a view to working together on the delivery of the hostel. The discussions are positive and progressing well. Officers hope to agree Heads of Terms for the partnership working by the end December 2018. Once these discussions conclude, Officers from Spelthorne Borough Council will approach Homes England to discuss grant funding possibilities for the project.
- 1.5 Provided that talks with the Salvation Army progress in a timely manner, and Homes England provide an acceptable level of grant funding, it is hoped that a planning application will be submitted in early 2019, with a start on site in mid-2019. A projected completion date is summer 2020.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 The announcement by Government that housing costs for short term supported housing are to remain within Housing Benefits is generally seen as positive across the sector, as it creates a more economically certain and secure environment in which to deliver new provision.
- 2.2 Whilst Spelthorne Borough Council will continue to work closely with colleagues in Surrey County Council, it will not be dependent upon it to provide revenue funding to support the rental costs. There may, however, be instances where revenue funding will need to be sought from Surrey County Council to support clients, either on an individual basis through care and support packages, or collectively for specific local support services.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 There are no options which Joint Committee are asked to consider.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 No consultation has been carried out on this issue to date. The wider project will form part of Spelthorne's Housing & Homelessness Strategy which will be drafted and consulted on in 2019.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The financial burden for this project is on Spelthorne Borough Council, however there may be a positive financial implication on Surrey County Council in terms of reduced demand on some of its core services once some of the

more complex joint clients are provided with suitable accommodation. The effect of this has not been fully investigated or analysed at this stage.

6. WIDER IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 At this stage it is difficult to fully assess the impact upon other areas of the business of either Surrey County Council or Spelthorne Borough Council, however this project is not likely to have any significant direct implications on any of the areas listed below.

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications
Equality and Diversity	No significant implications
Localism (including community involvement and impact)	No significant implications
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications
Public Health	No significant implications

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 7.1 Given the confirmed revenue funding position for supported housing from 2020/21, Officers from Spelthorne Borough Council will proceed with plans to build a single persons homeless hostel in Spelthorne.

8. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 8.1 Once the funding announcement is confirmed by the Government, a further paper will be brought to the Joint Committee to give more details on a firm proposal.

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Consulted: Spelthorne Borough Council internal departments

Annexes: None

Background papers:

“Paying for Supported Housing” Briefing Paper (House of Commons Library)
<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06080/SN06080.pdf>
Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities (2018)
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities>
MHCLG responses on supported housing consultations
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/funding-for-supported-housing-two-consultations>

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