



**Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government**

James Blythe ACMA

*Deputy Director, Local Government
Stewardship and Interventions*

**Ministry of Housing,
Communities and Local
Government**

2nd Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Deborah McLaughlin
By email

22 January 2026

Dear Deborah

I am writing to you to confirm that the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has extended your nomination as Commissioner for the purposes of the Directions made on 8 May 2025 under section 15(5) and (6) of the Local Government Act 1999, in relation to Spelthorne Borough Council.

Ministers are very grateful for the rigour and dedication that you have brought to your role supporting Spelthorne Borough Council since you were appointed on 8 May 2025. Whilst many challenges remain, the progress made to date by the Council would not have been possible without the oversight and direction provided by you and your fellow Commissioners.

You are nominated as Commissioner for the period until 31 May 2030 or such time as the Secretary of State determines, to work closely with your fellow Commissioner team to deliver improvement at the Council. As Commissioner you will continue to have the roles and responsibilities set out in the Directions, a copy of which I enclose, along with a copy of the Explanatory Memorandum. Under the Directions, Commissioners will act jointly or severally and are accountable to the Secretary of State, in that you have been nominated by them and can have your nomination withdrawn by them.

The Secretary of State also wishes to extend your appointment and would be grateful if you could confirm your acceptance of this extension by signing and returning the enclosed terms of engagement. Your appointment is made on the conditions set out in the terms of engagement.

Arrangements for your reasonable expenses will remain unchanged and you will continue to be entitled to a fee for each day you act as Commissioner. Under the terms of the Directions, it is the Council's responsibility to meet these costs. These fees are set at £1,100 per day. Fees will be payable to you up to a maximum of 150 days per annum. These limits should not be exceeded without prior approval of the Secretary of State. As to reasonable expenses, we again expect these to be in accordance with the rules for senior officers set out in the Council's staff handbook.

In your role as a public appointee, it may be necessary to disclose information on your remuneration as part of annual accounts and you will be required to consent to the disclosure of this information. By accepting the extension of your appointment, you will be indicating you consent to this.

The Secretary of State expects you to continue to take an interest in matters across the Council, beyond those functions you are exercising, given the importance of ensuring that the Council is delivering best value in all that it does. You will continue to play an important role in informing Ministers' response to the situation in Spelthorne.

You are required to exercise care in the use of information that you acquire in the course of your duties and to protect information that is held in confidence. You must declare any personal or business interests which may, or may be perceived to, influence your judgements in performing your functions. These interests include (without limitation), personal direct and indirect pecuniary interests, and any such interest of your close family members and/or of people living in the same household as you or close family members. You are expected to ensure that acceptance of gifts and hospitality can stand up to public scrutiny. Similarly, care should be taken that no extravagance is involved with working lunches and other social occasions.

In your role as public appointee, you must act appropriately and in accordance with the required standards. You are required to uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Seven Principles of Public (as amended from time to time). You will be required to demonstrate your commitment to the principles and values of public service throughout your appointment

Your appointment has the status of an office holder, and not of an employee. Nothing in this letter shall be construed as, or taken to create, a contract of service or contract for services between yourself and MHCLG, the Crown, or Spelthorne Borough Council.

Should you have any queries or issues either now or during the Directions period please contact me in the first instance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for assisting in this intervention. We are very grateful for your continued commitment to work with the Council in partnership to support focus on recovery and reform.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES BLYTHE
Deputy Director, Local Government Stewardship and Interventions

NOMINATION UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1999 (DIRECTIONS UNDER SECTION 15(5) AND (6) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1999 TO SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL, 2025)

The Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government, in exercise of powers under section 15 of the Local Government Act 1999 and in accordance with the Directions to Spelthorne Borough Council dated 8 May 2025 nominates Deborah McLaughlin as Commissioner for the period beginning on 8 May 2025 and ending on 31 May 2030 or such time the Secretary of State determines.