

# Cabinet

24 February 2016



<b>Title</b>	Spelthorne Sustainability Strategy		
<b>Purpose of the report</b>	To make a decision		
<b>Report Author</b>	Mark Rachwal		
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Maureen Attewell	<b>Confidential</b>	No
<b>Corporate Priority</b>	Value for money Council		
<b>Cabinet Values</b>	Community and Self-Reliance		
<b>Recommendations</b>	Cabinet is asked to endorse the updated Spelthorne Sustainability Strategy (2016-2019) as a whole along with the action plans.		

## 1. Key issues

- 1.1 A Spelthorne Sustainability Strategy was developed in 2009.
- 1.2 As this strategy reached the end of life an updated version has been developed which offers a framework to ensure value for money of the Council's operations and to fulfil our role as a community leader in relation to sustainability.
- 1.3 Sustainability needs to be incorporated into all aspects of work and business so that we can prepare ourselves, our communities, local businesses and residents from volatile economic conditions whilst also protecting our environment and social resources. This is of significant importance in the current economic climate.
- 1.4 The Spelthorne Sustainability Strategy stresses the urgency and importance of ensuring ambitions set at national, regional and local level are realised at Spelthorne Borough Council and sets out the Council's actions over the next four years.
- 1.5 Nine target areas are identified which form the focus and structure of the Action Plan: Energy efficiency; Water efficiency; Waste and pollution; Sustainable procurement; Sustainable planning, housing and regeneration; Sustainable transport and travel; Biodiversity and open spaces; Awareness and engagement; Risks and adaptation.
- 1.6 To help embed these priorities it is important for this strategy to be adopted.

## **2. Options analysis and proposal**

- 2.1 Spelthorne Sustainability Strategy is offered for adoption. This will enable the Council to respond to Government sustainability targets, continue to meet statutory requirements and meet the needs and expectations of residents in respect to sustainability issues such as the economy, waste, energy and water. The strategy will help embed sustainable principles into other areas of the Council and stakeholders' activities.

## **3. Financial implications**

- 3.1 Financial implications will fall under individual projects, although there may be a need for more resource in order to tackle all actions between now and 2019. This will be examined separately and linked to national indicator requirements. Overall the strategy will enable more robust development and financial commitments and therefore strengthen our economic position.

## **4. Other considerations**

- 4.1 Not adopting the strategy could result in some negative publicity and may demonstrate a lack of commitment and initiative in an area currently topping many political agendas.
- 4.2 The strategy does have a strong emphasis on adapting to climate change to help reduce and mitigate the risk of environmental disasters such as flooding, as well as minimising the economic risk and strengthening the social sustainability of the borough. As the action plans do inter-link it is necessary for complete 'buy-in' from all stakeholders and 'responsible people' to ensure progress. Not adopting the strategy could leave the Borough more open to these risks.

## **5. Timetable for implementation**

Report to Cabinet – 24 Feb 2016

Adoption of Sustainability Strategy – March 2016

Some individual projects are already underway. Current progress can be seen in the Action Plans

**Background papers:** None

### **Appendices:**

Spelthorne Sustainability Strategy 2016 - 2019