

Report of the Chairman on the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This report gives an overview of the issues considered at the 15 March 2016 meeting.

1. Proposal to form a Spelthorne Joint Committee

- 1.1 The Committee received and noted a report outlining draft proposals to replace the current Surrey County Council Local Committee in Spelthorne with a Spelthorne Joint Committee, and the executive and non-executive functions to be delegated to the Joint Committee.
- 1.2 The Committee had before it the draft Terms of Reference and Standing Orders for the Joint Committee and noted both the general remit and the specific, proposed, County and Borough functions which would become the responsibility of the Spelthorne Joint Committee. It was envisaged that the Joint Committee would be operational from 1 June 2016.
- 1.3 The Committee clarified with the Head of Corporate Governance that this Overview and Scrutiny Committee would still have responsibility for the scrutiny of Joint Committee executive decisions which related to functions delegated by Spelthorne Borough Council only.

2. Support to Local Businesses and the unemployed

- 2.1 The Committee noted a report on the activities and opportunities offered by the Council to support local businesses and residents to enhance their economic prosperity and which had contributed to Staines-upon-Thames being identified as the number one town in the entire UK to set up and start a new business in 2015.
- 2.2 The Committee noted the constraints of the limited resources at Spelthorne (only 1.5FTE [full-time equivalent] posts in the Economic Development Team undertaking all the activities detailed in the report), compared to Woking Borough Council who had a team of 5FTE, and urged the Cabinet to continue to invest in the resources made available for Economic Development at Spelthorne
- 2.3 The Committee was concerned about inhibitors for business and economic development in Staines-upon-Thames due to existing transport infrastructure, including the provision of car parks and access by train and discussed these issues with the Economic Development Manager.
- 2.4 The Committee urged the Cabinet to support the campaign for the extension of Zone 6 to Staines-upon-Thames.

3. Leaders' task groups update

- 3.1 The Committee received updates on progress with the work of the Leader's Task Groups looking at the Towards a Sustainable Future programme and all other assets.
- 3.2 Members asked for reassurance about the review undertaken on the Towards a Sustainable Future Programme by Councillor Barnard and asked him to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss his review and conclusions of the Towards a Sustainable Future programme.

4. Committee Work Programme 2015-2016

- 4.1 The Committee noted the outstanding items identified on the work programme to be scheduled for meetings in the next municipal year and the inclusion of a report from Councillor Barnard at the next meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Alfred Friday

Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

28 April 2016