

# Spelthorne Borough Council

## Public consultation on new model of governance

### What do we have now?

At present the Council operates what is known as the Cabinet model of governance. This means that apart from the decisions which legally have to be taken by the Council, the Licensing Committee and the Planning Committee, all other decisions are taken by the Cabinet which is made up of between 7-9 councillors selected by the Leader.

### What is being proposed?

At the Council meeting on 30 July 2020, Spelthorne Borough Council approved a motion as the first step of moving to a change in the governance arrangements of the Council. This means a change in how decisions are made.

What is proposed is a move to a Committee system of governance which means that the decisions which are currently taken by the Cabinet are taken by a number of Committees.

With a Committee system, more of your local councillors will be directly involved in decision making and they will gain expertise in their areas of interest. It is considered to be a more open, democratic, and transparent way of conducting Council business.

### Clear objectives

At the Council meeting of the 22 October 2020, the Councillors agreed the clear objectives they want the new system of governance to achieve :

1. **Accountability** – responsibilities and accountability about who does what should be clear, within the Council and to residents
2. **Credibility** – governance should assist good decision making, which involves proper and early scrutiny of policies and proposals
3. **Transparency** – the decision-making process should be open and transparent to councillors, officers and to the public
4. **Collaboration** - decision making should be collaborative across parties and less combative
5. **Timeliness** – decision making should be both quick and effective and, when necessary, allow for urgent decision-making

### Why are we consulting?

Engagement of the public in local democracy is at the heart of what we want to achieve and we are undertaking a public consultation exercise to ensure we understand the views of local residents and use this information to help us decide if we should move to a Committee system of governance.

## Question 1

- a) Do you agree that Spelthorne Borough Council is accountable under the current system of governance?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Comments .....

- b) Do you agree that Spelthorne Borough Council is credible under the current system of governance?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Comments .....

- c) Do you agree that Spelthorne Borough Council is transparent under the current system of governance?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Comments .....

- d) Do you agree that Spelthorne Borough Council is collaborative under the current system of governance?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Comments .....

- e) Do you agree that Spelthorne Borough Council makes timely decisions under the current system of governance?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Comments .....

## Question 2

Do you agree that the proposal to move to a Committee system of governance would improve the following?

- a) **Accountability**

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Comments .....

- b) **Credibility**

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Comments .....

- c) **Transparency**

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Comments .....

- d) **Collaboration**

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

**e) Timeliness of decisions**

Strongly agree  
Agree  
Disagree  
Strongly disagree  
Don't know

Comments .....

**Question 3**

How important do you consider the following aspects of Council governance?

**a) Accountability**

Very important  
Fairly important  
Important  
Slightly important  
Not at all important  
Don't know

Comments .....

**b) Credibility**

Very important  
Fairly important  
Important  
Slightly important  
Not at all important  
Don't know

Comments .....

**c) Transparency**

Very important  
Fairly important  
Important  
Slightly important  
Not at all important  
Don't know

Comments .....

**d) Collaboration**

Very important  
Fairly important  
Important  
Slightly important  
Not at all important  
Don't know

**e) Timeliness of decisions**

- Very important
- Fairly important
- Important
- Slightly important
- Not at all important
- Don't know

Comments .....

**Question 4**

Would you like to make any further comments or suggestions about the proposed change?

Thank you for taking part in this consultation.