

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

15 March 2016



Title	Proposal to form a Spelthorne Joint Committee		
Purpose of the report	To note		
Report Author	Michael Graham		
Cabinet Member	Councillor Ian Harvey	Confidential	No
Corporate Priority	Value for money Council		
Cabinet Values	Community and Accountability		
Recommendations	Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the proposals to form a Spelthorne Joint Committee in place of the Local Committee in Spelthorne and the executive and non-executive functions to be delegated to the Joint Committee.		

1. Key issues

- 1.1 Discussions between Spelthorne BC and Surrey County Council over the last few months have revealed a shared appetite for the councils to create a Joint Committee which would take the place of the current Surrey County Council Local Committee in Spelthorne.
- 1.2 Such a Joint Committee would be a true partnership between Surrey County Council and Spelthorne Borough Council with decision making delegated from both organisations. There is precedent for this in Surrey as the County Council and Woking Borough Council established a Joint Committee in 2014.
- 1.3 Through an expanded remit, the Joint Committee will help deliver the following aims:
 - Increase the involvement of residents, local communities, businesses and partners
 - Improve decision making and speed-up processes
 - Support Members in their role as community leaders and champions
 - Promote greater accountability and local scrutiny
- 1.4 The Joint Committee will aim to reduce duplication in governance arrangements within the two authorities, to simplify and speed up local decision making, and will provide a platform on which other future joint arrangements can be co-ordinated. It will provide an innovative two tier response to new central government policy initiatives such as devolution.

- 1.5 The Joint Committee will carry out Surrey County Council functions previously performed by the Spelthorne Local Committee, and will also carry out functions delegated to it by Spelthorne Borough Council.
- 1.6 The Joint Committee will operate under its own (mutually agreed) Terms of Reference and Standing Orders (as set out in Appendix 1), but the formation of the Joint Committee will require some changes to the current Council Constitution, for which Council approval is required. These changes will be included in a wider review of the Constitution as a whole and is the subject of a separate report to Cabinet in April 2016. For its part, Surrey County Council will also be taking this initiative through its own decision making process.
- 1.7 By working together, the Joint Committee will provide the opportunity to identify local solutions and seek to jointly deliver local government service improvements for the residents, businesses and visitors to Spelthorne. Both councils will be proactive in bringing issues to the Joint Committee and seeking to deliver local priorities together.
- 1.8 Meetings of the Spelthorne Joint Committee will be held in public, enabling local people to have their say and contribute directly to the decision making process.
- 1.9 The Joint Committee will determine priorities for collaborative work undertaken within the committee's remit by the councils, including working with other partners. The respective councils and the committee will keep under review those functions delegated to it, or that could be delegated to it, and it is proposed that the work and function of the Joint Committee will be reviewed after 18 months.
- 1.10 If agreed by both the County and Borough Council, it is proposed that the Spelthorne Joint Committee will be operational from 1 June 2016.

2. General Remit of the Spelthorne Joint Committee

- 2.1 The general remit of the Joint Committee is set out below and the more specific delegated functions are outlined in section 3 below.
 - a) To make decisions on local services and budgets delegated to it by either Surrey County Council or Spelthorne Borough Council.
 - b) To make comments on policy, strategy, services, priority community work, or other matters specifically referred to it by the County Council or the Borough Council under the General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2011).
 - c) To provide political oversight of key County and Borough partnership initiatives and strategies.
 - d) To discuss opportunities for a closer alignment of County and Borough services in Spelthorne.
 - e) To seek solutions to local concerns relating to Council services under the remit of the Joint Committee.
 - f) To identify and set local priorities through an annual priority setting meeting.
 - g) To build community leadership and local engagement, and encourage local community resilience plans.

- h) To ensure that services are carried out in accordance with both Surrey County Council's and Spelthorne Borough Council's core values, policies, strategies and within approved budgets.

3. Specific Delegated Functions

3.1 The County Council functions that it is proposed the Joint Committee will deal with are set out in the Draft Terms of Reference at Appendix 1. These are to be approved by the County Council Cabinet and Council.

3.2 The Borough Council functions that it is proposed the Joint Committee will deal with are also set out in the Draft Terms of Reference at Appendix 1. The following provides examples of those Borough functions that it is proposed become the responsibility of the Spelthorne Joint Committee.

- a) Oversee and determine priorities for the implementation of the Local Infrastructure Delivery Plan and agree how Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and other related receipts will be expended in Spelthorne.
- b) To oversee and agree joint priorities to inform commissioning and delivery of youth work in Spelthorne, with the aim of achieving an integrated approach from Surrey County Council and Spelthorne Borough Council.
- c) To oversee and agree joint priorities to inform commissioning and delivery of Independent Living, Older People's Services and Day Centres in Spelthorne, with the aim of achieving an integrated approach from Surrey County Council and Spelthorne Borough Council.
- d) To oversee and agree joint priorities to inform the improvement of educational attainment in Spelthorne with the aim of working closely between Surrey County Council, Spelthorne Borough Council and Spelthorne Schools Federation
- e) Oversee and determine priorities for the Family Support Programme in Spelthorne and monitor its performance.
- f) Oversee and determine priorities for the Borough based community strategy and related local plans within Spelthorne.
- g) To take the overall political lead and oversight for the Community Safety functions of the Borough
- h) To act as the local Health and Wellbeing Board for Spelthorne and oversee and set priorities for general health and wellbeing matters within the framework of Surrey's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- i) Champion the better use of public sector assets in the Borough to promote the One Public Estate approach amongst Surrey County Council, Spelthorne Borough Council and other public sector partners.

As a consequence of the above, there may be an overlap with the work of the Spelthorne Community Safety Partnership and Local Strategic Partnership. These will be reviewed to ascertain the extent to which the functions overlap with the new Joint Committee.

4. Options analysis and proposal

4.1 There is only one option being proposed: to agree to set up a Spelthorne Joint Committee in place of the current SCC Local Committee in Spelthorne.

4.2 There are no specific risks identified arising from the proposal. A more unified approach to local government through the establishment of a Joint Committee should reduce the risks of fragmented service delivery and duplication or omission.

5. Financial implications

5.1 There are no specific financial implications or new funding proposals arising from the report.

6. Other considerations

6.1 Existing County Council staff will provide administrative support to the Joint Committee. The Borough Council will provide the venue and refreshments for the meetings. There are no other considerations specifically arising from this proposal.

7. Timetable for implementation

7.1 The proposed timetable for implementation is as follows:

SCC Cabinet	26 April 2016
Spelthorne BC Cabinet	27 April 2016
Spelthorne BC Council	28 April 2016
SCC Council	17 May 2016

Background papers: There are none.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Spelthorne Joint Committee Draft Terms of Reference