

Article 8 – Overview and Scrutiny Committee

8.1 Terms of reference

The Council will appoint an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to discharge the functions conferred by section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000, regulations under section 32 of the Local Government Act 2000, Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Police and Justice Act 2006 and any other subsequent legislation in relation to the following matters:

- To act as the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee under the Local Government Act 2000; and
- To take on the responsibilities for Crime and Disorder Scrutiny under the Police and Justice Act 2006.

8.2 General role

- a) To be councillor led and discharge the function of overview and scrutiny as a critical friend in relation to the development of policies and strategies to meet local needs and in relation to service delivery and performance management;
- b) Review and / or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;
- c) Make reports and / or recommendations to the Council and / or the Cabinet in connection with the discharge of any of the functions;
- d) Question members of the Cabinet and / or committees and the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executives, or Heads of Service about their views on issues and proposals affecting Spelthorne and on their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
- e) Consider any matter affecting Spelthorne or its inhabitants; and
- f) Exercise the right to call in for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Leader /individual member of the Cabinet / the Cabinet.

8.3 Policy review and development

- a) To assist the Council and the Cabinet on policy issues generally including the initiation and development of new policies and strategies (this includes not just the Council's policies and strategies but those of other bodies which affect the well being of the Spelthorne Community);
- b) To consider and advise the Cabinet and Council on the content of the Corporate Plan;
- c) To review, consider and recommend improvements and developments in advance of the decisions of the Cabinet in relation to policy matters;

- d) Conduct research and consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- e) Consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options; and
- f) Liaise with other external organisations operating in Spelthorne, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.

8.4 Scrutiny and review

- a) To review and monitor the Council's performance management arrangements and draw attention to local residents' concerns;
- b) To review and monitor the implementation of the Corporate Plan;
- c) To review and monitor performance in meeting the Council's annual targets, national and local performance indicators, and quality of life indicators;
- d) To review and monitor how and to what effect policies and strategies are being implemented and to make reports and recommendations, including proposals for changes to policies and practices to the Council and the Cabinet (this includes not just the delivery of Council policies and strategies but those of other bodies which affect the well being of the Spelthorne community);
- e) To review and monitor performance acting as a critical friend to the Cabinet regarding the Council's budget and policy framework;
- f) To review and monitor any areas that the Committee believes is not performing, setting up task groups as required;
- g) To review and scrutinise as a critical friend the performance and decisions of the Cabinet in relation to service provision and performance management and to exercise the right of 'call in' of decision in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution;
- h) To review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in Spelthorne, in particular exercising the Council's scrutiny responsibilities arising under the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the 'Councillor Call for Action' provisions under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and invite reports from appropriate public bodies by requesting them to address the committee and local people about their activities and performance; and
- i) Question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent) to fulfil its purpose.

8.5 Finance

Overview and Scrutiny Committees may exercise overall responsibility for the finances made available to them.

8.6 Reports

The Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee will report to Council on the workings of the committee.

8.7 Work Programme

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will decide its own work programme and working arrangements subject to any directions by the Council.

8.8 Proceedings of Overview and Scrutiny committees

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will conduct its proceedings in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

