

Article 6 – Overview and Scrutiny Committees

6.1 Terms of reference

The Council will appoint the overview and scrutiny committees set out in the left hand column of the table below, to discharge the functions conferred by section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 or regulations under section 32 of the Local Government Act 2000, in relation to the matters set out in the right hand column of the same table.

Committee	Scope
Improvement and Development	To discharge the function of overview and scrutiny in relation to the development of policies and strategies to meet local needs.
Performance Management and Review	To discharge the function of overview and scrutiny in relation to service delivery and performance management.

6.2 General role

The general role of overview and scrutiny is to deliver measurable outcomes, which benefit the effectiveness of the Council and the community and within their terms of reference, overview and scrutiny committees will:

- (i) review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;
- (ii) make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council and/or the Executive in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- (iii) consider any matter affecting Spelthorne or its inhabitants; and
- (iv) exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Executive.

6.3 Specific functions

(a) Policy development and review

Overview and scrutiny committees may:

- (i) assist the Council and the Executive in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
- (ii) conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;

- (iii) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
- (iv) question members of the Executive and/or committees and the Chief Executive, Directors or Heads of Service about their views on issues and proposals affecting Spelthorne; and
- (v) 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.

(b) Scrutiny

Overview and scrutiny committees may:

- (i) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Executive and/or committees and council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time;
- (ii) review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
- (iii) question members of the Executive and/or committees and the Chief Executive, Directors or Heads of Service about 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;
- (iv) make recommendations to the Executive and/or appropriate committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
- (v) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in Spelthorne and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the overview and scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance; and
- (vi) question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).

(c) Finance

Overview and scrutiny committees may exercise overall responsibility for the finances made available to them.

(d) Reports

The Chairmen of overview and scrutiny committees will report to full Council on the workings of their committees.

(e) Work Programme

Overview and scrutiny committees will decide their own work programme and working arrangements subject to any directions by the Council.

6.4 Proceedings of overview and scrutiny committees

Overview and scrutiny committees will conduct their proceedings in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.