

# Spelthorne Together

## Assembly 2009

### Report



**Local  
Spelthorne  
Partnership**

Together, improving Spelthorne.

**21 September 2009**



## Contents

	<b>Page</b>
Executive Summary	3
Introduction	4
Overview of the LSP	4-5
The Day Itself	5-8
- Aim	
- Management	
- Delegates	
- Proceedings	
Evaluation	8
<b>Appendices</b>	
Appendix A – List of delegates/organisations	
Appendix B – Spelthorne Together programme	
Appendix C – Partners at marketplace	
Appendix D – Evaluation of event	
Appendix E – Assembly programme	
Appendix F – Workshop priorities and quick wins	

## Spelthorne Together Assembly 2009

### Executive summary

This report summarises the issues raised at the Spelthorne Together Assembly on 21 September 2009. Detailed information from the day is included in the appendices.

Over 130 people attended the Assembly. *A list of delegates and their organisations is attached at Appendix A.* They were mixed in terms of sector, age, gender, ethnicity and disabilities.

For the first time, delegates were sent a comprehensive programme in advance, which included the agenda but more importantly reports on progress over the past 12 months (September 08 – September 09) on

- Stanwell New Start
- Housing Strategy
- Review of Spelthorne Together
- Each of the five themes
- Regeneration initiatives in the five geographical areas of the borough
- Further information on Spelthorne Together

*(Appendix B)*

Delegates were able to ask questions on each of the topics above during. They were also able to visit a wide range of around 20 market stalls representing various partners working in the borough – including Surrey NHS, Surrey Police and a number of the local organisations from the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector. *Full list of exhibitors – Appendix C*

The chairman, Chief Superintendent Steve Rodhouse, explained a new priority for the Spelthorne Together Executive which related to National Indicator 4 – NI4 – the % of people who feel they are able to influence decisions in their locality. This is a key initiative for all public sector organisations.

The final sessions were in workshop format with delegates able to visit and express their views on priorities for Spelthorne Together over the next 1 to 2 years, on each of the five themes.

Feedback suggested that delegates were generally satisfied with the day and the different format. *(Appendix D)*



## **Introduction**

Every year the wider body of Spelthorne Together (Assembly) meets to discuss partnership issues. This includes looking back at achievements over the previous year and looking forward to priorities for the coming year.

This report summarises the proceedings of the day as well as the key outputs. The PowerPoint slides on the new Housing Strategy from the day are available to download from Spelthorne Together's website [www.spelweb.com](http://www.spelweb.com).

## **Overview of the LSP**

Spelthorne Together is the local strategic partnership for the Borough. It acts as the “partnership of partnerships”, bringing together much of the joint work that happens in the area. Spelthorne Together is made up of representatives from across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors.

The focus of Spelthorne Together's work is the Spelthorne Community Plan 2005-2015 updated 2008, which sets out how partners intend to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of Spelthorne. The Plan as currently written has targets relating to the following six themes:

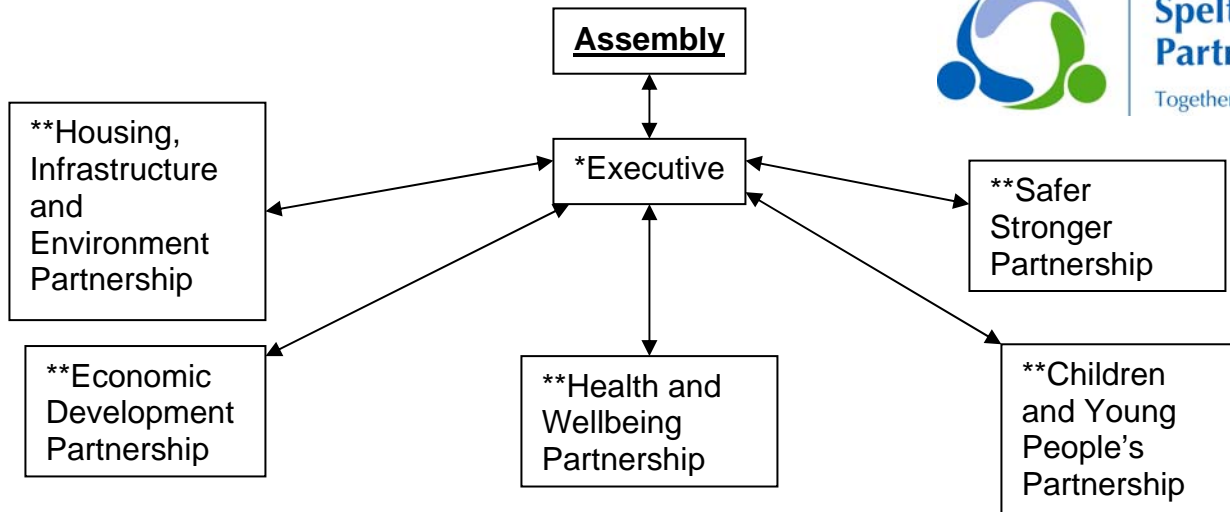
- Safer Spelthorne
- Young People's Spelthorne
- Getting Around Spelthorne
- Healthy Spelthorne
- Thriving Spelthorne
- Learning Spelthorne

The targets in the Plan are intended to fulfil the LSP's vision, which is “to make Spelthorne a safe, healthy, inclusive, prosperous and sustainable community”

During 2008 the themes were reduced from the above six to five as follows:

- Safer Stronger
- Children & Young People
- Health & Well Being
- Economic Development
- Housing, Infrastructure & Environment

The reason for this change was to align Spelthorne's themes to the five themes of the county-wide Surrey Sustainable Community Strategy.



The structure of the LSP has three main components:

\*The Executive – this group consists of representatives from around 25 organisations, who monitor overall progress on the Community Plan.

\*\*Thematic Partnerships – these are each responsible for developing and monitoring an action plan dealing with a particular theme of the Community Plan. These are:

- Safer Stronger Partnership
- Children and Young People's Partnership
- Health and Wellbeing Partnership
- Economic Development Partnership
- Health, Infrastructure and Environment Partnership

**The Assembly** – this is a wider body that meets every year to discuss partnership issues, such as ideas for future projects, and monitors overall progress and success.

### **Aim of the day**

The day was intended to fulfil four main purposes. The first was to provide information to delegates on the partnership work that is currently happening in Spelthorne and to give them the opportunity to question what is happening. The second was to give the wider community of those living and working in the Borough the opportunity to contribute to the work being done on the priorities of the five themes over the next 1 to 2 years. The third purpose of the day was to provide the opportunity for networking and improved communication between people working in the local area and finally to visit the key local “partners” at the marketplace in order to understand work being undertaken in Spelthorne.

### **Management of the day**

The Assembly was coordinated by Spelthorne Borough Council with staff from a number of local organisations helping on the day. The facilitator was again Geoff Chilton, former Interim Chief Executive of Spelthorne Borough Council.



The chairman was Chief Supt Steve Rodhouse of Surrey Police.

Eighteen organisations exhibited their work including Surrey Association of Disabled People, Voluntary Action in Spelthorne (VAIS), CAB, and Spelthorne Together. A full list of exhibitors is set out in *Appendix C*.

### **Delegates**

It is important that the Assembly is as representative as possible of the wider Spelthorne community.

Approximately 132 people from public, private, voluntary and community organisations attended the event. This was 22% higher than the previous year (September 2008) when 108 people attended.

More than 50 different organisations were represented (see Appendix A for a full list of delegates) as follows:

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Proportion of individual delegates</b>
Public	48%
Private	14%
Voluntary	31%
Residents	7%

Table 1: Sectors represented

An equality form was issued but returns were so small that the information was not regarded as statistically valid.

The Spelthorne Together Executive will consider how this information can be obtained in the future.

### **Proceedings of the day**

The LSP Assembly 2009 took place on Monday 21 September at Spelthorne Leisure Centre, Staines.

#### Information provided in advance

Delegates were sent a programme in advance of the day, to provide background information so as to allow more time on the day looking at the future. The document included an update on progress and achievements

- made under the LSP priorities – Stanwell, new Housing Strategy and a review of Spelthorne Together;
- made under each of the five Community Plan themes;
- in the five geographical areas – Ashford, Shepperton, Staines, Stanwell, Sunbury.

#### Agenda - Outline

The full agenda for the day is given in *Appendix E*.

The key sessions during the day were:

- Questions from the audience on the LSP priorities, the five themes and the five geographical areas

- Networking and visiting the 18 marketplace stands
- Presentation on NI4
- Workshops on the 5 key themes looking at future priorities



### Agenda – In Detail:

- a) The event was opened by Chief Superintendent Steve Rodhouse, Chair of Spelthorne Together, who emphasised the importance of partnership working, and this assembly in particular, in achieving improvements for the Spelthorne community.
- b) Prior to the event a comprehensive programme was sent out to all delegates, which included background information on progress in the past 12 months on
  - Stanwell New Start
  - New Housing Strategy
  - Review of Spelthorne Together
  - Each of the five themes
  - Regeneration initiatives in the five geographical areas of the borough

The programme also included the agenda of the Assembly plus further information about Spelthorne Together

- c) Short presentations were given on the three priorities update – Stanwell New Start, Housing Strategy and Spelthorne Together and the five themes
  - Safer Stronger
  - Children and Young People
  - Health and Well Being
  - Economic Development
  - Housing, Infrastructure and Environment

Delegates were then able to ask questions about these issues and the five geographical areas – Ashford, Shepperton, Staines, Stanwell, Sunbury.

Following that, delegates were able to visit the market stalls stands which included various local organisations – see *Appendix C* for full list.

- d) Following the marketplace and networking Steve Rodhouse led a discussion on the proposed new priority for Spelthorne Together Executive – National Indicator 4 (NI4). This concerns “the % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality” and is a key measure for public sector organisations.  
The assembly accepted this as a priority for the Spelthorne Together Assembly.
- e) The final two sessions were in the form of workshops as participants worked within each of the five theme groups, considering the draft priorities and quick wins for each theme (*Appendix F*) Suggestions from the groups were subsequently referred back to the partnership theme groups to determine if there should be any revisions to the priorities and quick wins. Any changes would be reflected in the revised Community Plan.

- f) An updated Community Plan will be published showing these new priorities



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## **Evaluation of the Event**

At the end delegates were asked to complete an evaluation form capturing their views. Appendix E sets out the issues covered. The key points were as follows:

- Most people felt the format worked well and that they were given the opportunity to contribute.
- Mixture between need for more time for questions and answers and more workshop time

It does seem that the way information is captured needs to be reviewed. Only about 19% completed the evaluation form and 19% the equal opportunities monitoring questionnaire. If nothing else, the 2 forms should be combined.

Brian Harris  
Spelthorne Together.