

Governance model Consultation

FAQS

1. What is a governance model?

A governance model determines how an authority is run. There are three models of local government.

Leader and Cabinet – Spelthorne currently uses this model. This is also the system used in national governance.

Directly elected Mayor and Cabinet – This is the model used in London where the directly elected Mayor forms their cabinet and makes decisions for the area.

Committee System – This is the proposed system for Spelthorne and is used in other local authorities, for instance Maidstone.

2. Why is it important?

A good governance model provides:

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

3. What is our current model?

Spelthorne Borough 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 and are delegated to officers, all other executive decisions are taken by the Cabinet which is made up of between 7-9 councillors selected by the Leader.

4. What will moving to a Committee model mean?

Under this system councils are divided into politically balanced committees that make the decisions. As such, these councils are not required to have an overview and scrutiny committee, though some do have one or more.

Spelthorne Council has 39 councillors:

- Conservatives hold 16 seats

- Liberal Democrats hold seven seats
- United Spelthorne Group hold six seats
- Labour hold four seats
- Green Party hold two seats
- Independent Group hold two seats
- Unaffiliated Independent hold two seats

As an example, on a committee of 13, the committee could be made up of the following numbers (N.B. this is intended as a guide and may not precisely reflect the makeup of these committees)

Conservatives – 5
 Liberal Democrats – 4
 United Spelthorne Group – 4
 Labour – 2
 Green Party – 1
 Independent Group – 1
 Unaffiliated Independent – 1

5. How do I respond to the consultation?

You can respond to the consultation online or, if you would prefer a written copy, please contact communications.marketing@spelthorne.gov.uk

Or call 01784 446432

If you want to submit a written copy, please post the consultation response to

Communications Department
 Spelthorne Borough Council
 Council Offices
 Knowle Green
 Staines-upon-Thames
 TW18 1XB

6. When does the consultation open and close?

Opens – 14 December
 Closes – 23 January

7. What will be then next step once the consultation closes?

When the consultation closes, we will collate all your responses and comments. We will take these into account as we further consider, develop and refine the proposed changes. There will be an update at the Council Meeting in February next year and

this will confirm whether an extraordinary Council Meeting will be held in March to finalise and agree the proposed changes.

8. How can I contact my local Councillor?

You can find your local Councillor by visiting this webpage:

<https://democracy.spelthorne.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1>

9. How can I keep informed?

Our website will contain up to date information about the process. You can view the latest Council news here: <https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/news>

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