



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE SPELTHORNE

LOCAL COMMITTEE PROTOCOL

8TH OCTOBER 2007

KEY ISSUE

At the last meeting the Local Committee approved the Local Protocol for Public engagement which set out the agreed deviations from the Council's Constitution. As a result of the changes in the Council's Constitution members of the public asking a question under the Public Questions item of the agenda are entitled to ask one supplementary question and this is no longer at the discretion of the Chairman. The protocol attached at Appendix A has been amended to reflect this.

This report also highlights for the information of the public that the Spelthorne Borough Council members of the Local Committee may participate in discussions on any agenda item but their voting rights apply only to highways and transportation and Rights of Ways matters. This does not need to be reflected in the Local Protocol.

SUMMARY

Local Committees may adopt protocols for use locally to aid public engagement at meetings. The Council's Constitution sets out Standing Orders etc for the conduct of meetings and any deviations from these must be formally agreed by the Local Committee and approved by the Council's Monitoring Officer.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee Spelthorne is asked to agree that:

- (i) The protocol attached at Appendix A be approved.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the last meeting the Local Committee approved the Local Protocol for the year. Following a change in the Council's Constitution the protocol needs to be amended to reflect the decision that residents asking Public Questions are entitled to ask one supplementary question.

2 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 There is none.

3 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The protocol extends the opportunity for local electors to engage with the Local Committee.

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 To reflect within the Local Committee's protocol the changes in the Council's Constitution.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: