



Report to Full Council

Title:	Annual Report on Select Committee Structure
Council date:	21 May 2015
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Report Context

1. This report sets out the proposal—in accordance with the Buckinghamshire County Council Constitution—for the structure of Select Committees for the forthcoming year. Select Committees were agreed as the model to discharge the Council's overview and scrutiny functions by Council on 25 April 2013.
2. The primary role of Select Committees is to hold local decision-makers to public account, in particular providing a forum for holding Cabinet Members to account for their decisions as well as partners such as the NHS. The proposals set out below are designed to ensure that all areas of the Council's responsibilities are fully reflected within the Select Committees remits, and to best ensure that the remits of the Select Committees are structured in a way that enables them to discharge their responsibilities effectively.
3. The proposals below update the remits of the Select Committees to fully cover all Council areas of responsibility reflecting the Council's new organisational structures which went live on 1st April 2015.

Number of Select Committees

4. The Council will appoint four Select Committees to discharge the Council's statutory overview and scrutiny functions. These shall be known as:
 - I. Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee;
 - II. Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee;
 - III. Finance, Performance and Resources Select Committee;
 - IV. Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee.

Meetings of Select Committees

5. Each Select Committee is anticipated to meet at least six times a year. Formal meetings of Select Committees will be public meetings (except under specific confidential circumstances as set out in the Local Government Act 1972). Each Select Committee has the power to undertake scrutiny inquiries to investigate issues

and make recommendations to decision-makers for change in relation to areas within their remit. Evidence for these inquiries may be taken at Select Committee meetings or may be taken through additional informal inquiry sessions.

Key Changes to note in relation to Select Committee remits

- The Finance, Performance and Resources Committee's remit remains the same; however the terminology is updated to clarify that this refers to all strategic issues under the remit of the new Headquarters and Business Services Plus Business Unit within the County Council.
- The existing Environment, Transport and Localities Select Committee's remit remains largely unchanged but terminology is also updated to clarify that it has the power to scrutinise all strategic issues relating to the remit of the Transport, Economy and Environment Business Unit plus community issues/services. For clarity the title of the committee is therefore proposed to be changed to 'communities' from 'localities' to reflect the wider remit of services under its scope (e.g. libraries etc...).
- The new title of the Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee is proposed to provide greater clarity that it has the power to scrutinise strategic issues in relation to the relevant Business Unit. There are no changes to services under scope.
- No other changes or clarifications to remits are proposed.

Recommendation to Council:

- 1. To agree the proposed structure for Select Committees (as set out in Appendix 1) for the municipal year 2015/16 in order to discharge the Council's statutory overview and scrutiny functions.**

Appendix 1 – Remits of each Select Committee

Appendix 1 – Select Committee Remits 2015/16

In addition to the general functions of the Select Committees set out in the Council's Constitution, the broad remits of the four Select Committees are set out in the table below. This information is intended as an indicative guide to the remits of the Select Committees, recognising that a number of potential topics could span at least one Select Committee.

Where the lead responsibility for scrutiny is unclear the relevant Chairmen will agree how best to take forward the work, including agreeing one committee to take lead responsibility for approving the set-up of an inquiry and follow-up.

Finance, Performance and Resources Select Committee (FPR)

The role of the Finance, Performance and Resources Select Committee is to hold decision-makers to account for improving outcomes and services for Buckinghamshire.

It shall have the power to scrutinise all issues in relation to the Council's strategic performance, financial management and corporate issues. This will include all areas under the remit of the Council's Headquarters and Business Services Plus (Business Unit). This includes, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:

- The Strategic Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan
- HQ Assurance responsibilities—including scrutiny of the strategic oversight of capital
- HQ Strategy & Policy responsibilities—including the strategic commissioning of Council resources.
- HQ Enterprise—including the commissioning of services from Business Services Plus such as legal services; and ICT; and the Council's strategic approach to communications and customers.
- The overall effectiveness of the scrutiny function
- Strategic alliances and partnerships with others externally—nationally, regionally and locally.

By convention the Chairmen of the other Select Committees are invited to participate in the annual budget scrutiny inquiry, whereby the Executive's draft budget is automatically referred for scrutiny as part of the annual budget setting process.

Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee (TEC)

The role of the Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee is to hold decision-makers to account for improving outcomes and services for Buckinghamshire.

It shall have the power to scrutinise all issues in relation to the remit of the Transport, Economy, and Environment Business Unit. In addition it will also have within its remit all areas relating to Communities issues/services (currently structurally under the Communities, Health and Adult Social Care Business Unit).

This includes, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:

- Strategic business planning & commercial development
- Growth & Strategy (including economic development)
- Regeneration & Infrastructure
- Environment Services (including country parks and waste management)
- Transport Services (including highways maintenance)

Communities issues

- Localism strategy & Voluntary and community sector engagement
- Libraries
- Resilience (emergency planning)
- Crime and disorder and crime and disorder reduction partnerships (community safety partnerships)*
- Museums; Registrars & Coroners.
- Impact of Welfare Benefits Reforms.
- Local Emergency Support

** In accordance with the BCC Constitution, this Committee shall act as the designated Crime and Disorder Committee and will hold the countywide Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to account for the decisions it takes and may take part in joint reviews with District Councils of District Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.*

Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee (CSCL)

The role of the Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee is to hold decision-makers to account for improving outcomes and services for Buckinghamshire.

The Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee shall have the power to scrutinise all issues in relation to the remit of the Children's Social Care and Learning Business Unit. This will include, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:

- Nurseries and early years education
- Schools and further education
- The Bucks Learning Trust
- Quality standards and performance in education
- Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- Learning and skills
- Adult learning
- Children and family services
- Early intervention
- Child protection, safeguarding and prevention
- Children in care (looked after children)
- Children's psychology
- Children's partnerships
- Youth provision

- The Youth Offending Service

** In accordance with the BCC Constitution, this Committee shall act as the designated Committee responsible for the scrutiny of Education matters.*

Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASC)

The role of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee is to hold decision-makers to account for improving outcomes and services for Buckinghamshire.

It shall have the power to scrutinise all issues in relation to Health and Adult Social Care. This will include, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:

- Public health and wellbeing
- NHS services
- Health and social care commissioning
- GPs and medical centres
- Dental Practices
- Health and social care performance
- Private health services
- Family wellbeing
- Adult social services
- Older people
- Adult safeguarding
- Physical and sensory services
- Learning disabilities
- Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT services)

** In accordance with the BCC Constitution, this Committee shall act as the designated Committee responsible for the scrutiny of health matters holding external health partners to account.*