

Select Committee Report

The following provides a brief overview of the work currently being undertaken by Select Committees.

Children Social Care and Learning:

The CSC&L Select Committee is at the mid-point of its Inquiry into the prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation in the county and aims to make its final report to Cabinet on the subject in the winter. The Ofsted improvement plan has remained a focus and work is currently programmed to ensure that schools and school improvement stays high on the Select Committee agenda.

Finance, Performance and Resources:

At its July meeting the FPR Committee held a value for money discussion around prudential borrowing which included the Corporate Director of Resources from Milton Keynes Council. The Committee heard that Milton Keynes had used prudential borrowing to invest in their Transport Infrastructure. This topic will be discussed further at the September meeting. Other items include an update on the Connected Counties High Speed Broadband roll out across Buckinghamshire, an update on Strategic Options Appraisal and organisational development.

Finance, Performance and Resources - Rent In Advance Inquiry:

This Inquiry is looking specifically at the issue around accessing funds to cover rent-in-advance for vulnerable people and those on low income. The report is due to be presented to the FPR Select Committee in October, following a number of evidence gathering sessions with key stakeholders including the district council housing officers, housing providers and other partner agencies. The report will be submitted to Cabinet in November.

Health and Adult Social Care:

The HASC Select Committee has recently completed its inquiry into 15 minute Care Visits in Buckinghamshire. The purpose of the Inquiry was to assess whether the Council's use of 15 minute visits is appropriate, ensuring that the care needs, dignity and wellbeing of service users is being met. The HASC Inquiry Group concluded that '15 minute visits can have a place as part of a person's overall care package with care being delivered in a dignified manner...' and that 'over the past six to 12 months the Council has taken appropriate steps to safeguard the dignity and care of service users'. Findings and recommendations from the Inquiry were presented to Cabinet on 7th September.

Transport, Environment and Communities:

The Committee's Flooding Inquiry is now underway – in August Members visited areas of Marlow, Hughenden Valley and Aylesbury that had been flooded in 2013-14 and on 8th September the Committee held a meeting hearing from residents groups and partner agencies such as the Environment Agency, Thames Water, Bucks Fire and Rescue and the District Councils which was very informative. The Committee is now working on our report to take to Cabinet later in the Autumn. Members are also looking forward to discussing important topics at our October meeting including the Local Transport Plan 4 and a further update on Legal Highs.

**CHAIRMEN
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