



## Select Committee Structure

Thursday 18 May 2017

Report from Rachael Shimmin, Chief Executive

### Report Context

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, this report sets out the proposed structure of Select Committees for the forthcoming year. No changes are envisaged to the remits and number of the Council's Select Committees.

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.

Each Select Committee is anticipated to meet at least six times a year, in accordance with current practice. 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.

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 Select Committee to take lead responsibility for approving the set-up of any inquiry and follow-up.

**Table 1: Select Committee Remits**

### **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.*

### Recommendation

**That Council agrees the proposed structure & remit for Select Committees for the municipal year 2017/18 in order to discharge the Council's statutory overview and scrutiny functions.**

**RACHAEL SHIMMIN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

