

County Council



Select Committee Report

Report of the Chairmen of the Council's Select Committees

The following provides a brief overview of the work currently being undertaken by Select Committees. More detail on the work of the Committees can be found on the Council's website at www.buckscc.gov.uk/about-your-council/scrutiny. Select Committees are open to the public and are webcast live via the Council's website.

The latest Select Committee work programme and Inquiry work programme are also considered at each Cabinet meeting, and papers are available at:

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=124>.

Joint Inquiry: 'Is The Council Ready for Growth?'

The Select Committees undertook an innovative approach to their first Inquiry following the Council elections in 2017. For the first time, a joint Inquiry was undertaken by all four Select Committees, with evidence sessions being held during the first meeting of each Committee.

The report of the Committees' Inquiry 'Is the Council Ready for Growth?' identifies a number of recommendations for improvement and will be presented to Cabinet on the 25th September.

Finance, Performance & Resources

Following the May elections, the Finance, Performance and Resources Select Committee has a new membership and a new Chairman, David Watson. After attending valuable scrutiny induction training sessions, the Committee held its first meeting on 4th July, launching the evidence gathering for a cross-Select Committee Inquiry 'Is the County Council ready for Growth?' The meeting was very interesting and productive and the Committee investigated three themes around Growth – Data, Governance and Finance.

In addition, over the summer a Cabinet Member decision on the Bucks Sports and Social Club was called-in and the FPR Select Committee held a special meeting on 12th September to consider the Call-in.

Looking forward, the Committee's September agenda includes items on Performance Management, ICT and Digital and a 6 month update on Budget Scrutiny 2017 recommendations.

Health & Adult Social Care

At its September meeting, the Select Committee heard from representatives at the South Central Ambulance Service and Members will be visiting the control centre in Bicester to see the service in action in early October. The Select Committee also heard from representatives from Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust on the current status of the Community hub pilot and Members examined the key performance indicators. Members also received a briefing on the Accountable Care System

(ACS) as Buckinghamshire has recently been announced as an ACS in the first wave.

At its November meeting, the Committee will be discussing and agreeing the scoping document for its next Inquiry which is likely to be looking in more detail at childhood obesity. The evidence gathering will take place early in the New Year.

Committee Members continue to attend various health related events, including open days, annual report launches, board meetings and Annual General Meetings.

Children's Social Care & Learning

There were a number of new Members welcomed onto the Committee following the May election and at their first meeting they focused on the growth agenda within Buckinghamshire to look at what the impact might be on Children's Services.

The Committee has continued to focus on the Ofsted improvement work within Children's Social Care including reviewing the latest Ofsted monitoring letters and the improvement programme in place to address issues.

The Committee has also been scrutinising progress of implementing the recommendations made in its Voice of the Child and Young Person Inquiry to make sure children and young people can get their views heard easily. The Committee really valued the help that two young people gave them in helping with this review at their September meeting.

High levels of permanent exclusions from school remain an issue for the Council and the Committee looked at this at its last meeting. After questioning the Cabinet Member and Senior Officers, the Committee is keen to undertake an in depth review to understand more. Members of the Committee have also had an opportunity to feed into the new Education Strategy that is being developed and will be reviewing it in more detail once all the consultation responses have been received and analysed.

Some Members of the Committee have also been out and about meeting children and young people at the Child Looked After and Care Leavers Annual Celebration Event that took place in August. Over the next few months Members will also be shadowing various Children's Services teams to understand more about the valuable work that they do.

Transport, Environment & Communities

The TEC Select Committee is currently examining the Council's role, duty and responsibilities in relation to Modern Slavery, the Committee's next inquiry topic (being developed).

Future Committee items include: the impact of the National Infrastructure Commission Report in Bucks, energy schemes, the Prevent Duty, and monitoring the progress of recent inquiry recommendations (Economic Development and Sustainable School Travel).

Select Committee Inquiry Work Programme, September 2017

Inquiry Title	Inquiry Chairman	Lead Officer	Sept 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18
Finance, Performance, Resources (FPR)								
Growth In Buckinghamshire	Joint Inquiry	Kelly Sutherland	■					
Budget Scrutiny	David Watson	Kelly Sutherland			■		■	■
Children's Social Care & Learning (CSC&L)								
Growth In Buckinghamshire	Joint Inquiry	Kevin Wright	■					
Exclusions/Transitions^	Dev Dhillon	Kevin Wright		■	■	■	■	■
Health, Adult Social Care (HASC)								
Growth in Buckinghamshire	Joint Inquiry	Liz Wheaton	■					
Childhood Obesity	Brian Roberts	Liz Wheaton			■	■	■	■
Transport, Environment & Communities (TEC)								
Growth In Buckinghamshire	Joint Inquiry	Kama Wager	■					
Modern Slavery^	David Carroll	Kama Wager	■	■	■	■	■	■

Key: Scoping Evidence Gathering Committee Approval Cabinet/NHS

**DAVID WATSON
BRIAN ROBERTS
DEV DHILLON
DAVID CARROLL**

SELECT COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN