



Select Committee Chairmen's Update

Thursday 23 November 2017

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>.

Children's Social Care and Learning

The Committee has continued to focus on the performance of Children's Services reviewing the quarterly performance report at their last meeting. The Committee highlighted the need to focus on the high number of repeat referrals that the service receives and the importance of closely monitoring caseload numbers and staffing. The Committee also had input into the consultation of the Early Help Services Review.

The Committee revisited the actions being taken to improve performance of the Educational Psychology Service, including the recruitment of Educational Psychologists which is an issue nationally. The Committee asked for regular reporting on levels of performance until improvements can be shown.

Members of the Committee have also shadowed various Children's Services social work teams to understand more about the valuable work they do, as well as visiting a children's residential care home and a We Do Care focus group.

Transport, Environment and Communities

The Committee agreed its Modern Slavery Inquiry Scope at their meeting on the 31st October. Evidence will be heard through both formal Committee meetings and Task and Finish Group evidence gathering sessions. The Committee will examine the Council's compliance with its responsibilities under the Modern Slavery Act 2015, and will explore approaches to understand the prevalence of modern slavery in Bucks.

The Committee will be considering a wide variety of agenda items at future meetings including the Prevent duty, Energy income generation opportunities and the Sustainable School Travel Inquiry recommendation 6 month review.

Health and Adult Social Care

At its November meeting, the Committee will hear from officers in Adult Social Care about their plans for transforming the service, as well as looking at the Care Home market in Buckinghamshire. Representatives from across the health and social care system will also attend to give a six month update on the progress of the recommendations made in the Hospital Discharge Inquiry.

The Committee will also discuss and agree the scoping document for its next Inquiry which will review how well Buckinghamshire is doing at reducing its levels of obesity amongst children in line with the Government target. Treating obesity and its consequences is currently estimated to cost the NHS £5.1bn every year and the wider costs of obesity to society are estimated to be around three times this amount. Evidence gathering will take place early in the New Year.

Committee Members continue to attend various health related events, including the forthcoming health and social care integration summit, open days, board meetings and Annual General Meetings. A number of Members visited Wycombe Hospital recently to view services and speak to health colleagues.

Finance, Performance and Resources

The Committee has considered a wide variety of issues at our recent meetings including performance management, IT and digital, income generation and LASR property review. At our December meeting, the Committee will receive an update from the Cabinet Member for Resources following the Call-in of the Bucks Sports and Social Club decision.

Members are now preparing for the Committee's Budget Scrutiny Inquiry 2018 and will receive a full briefing in December, ahead of the sessions with individual Cabinet Members in January 2018. The Budget Scrutiny meetings will, as usual, be held in public and webcast and we will invite questions from members of the public on social media.