

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 <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/council-and-democracy/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>.

Finance, Performance & Resources (FPR)

In May 2018, the FPR Select Committee received a progress update on the delivery of Technology Service priorities, and a workforce review report from Human Resources and Organisational Development. At the request of Members, this report laid the foundation for the first FPR inquiry of 2018 on planning for effective leadership.

Led by Chairman, David Watson, an inquiry sub-committee was established for this inquiry. This sub-committee will explore the Council's current approach to recruitment, development, succession planning and retention; identify market leaders and explore best practice within both public and the private sector; and highlight good practice that the Council could learn from. The inquiry evidence-gathering session will take place in September.

At the June meeting, Members had the opportunity to conduct pre-decision scrutiny of the customer service standards review, and contributed to the process by making recommendations to the Director of Customer. They also received an update on the current status of Buckinghamshire County Council's property and assets as well as changes to the Council's Property and Assets Department. At the same meeting, David Shakespeare OBE was welcomed as the Committee's latest member, and the Chairman noted the valuable contribution of Anita Cranmer whilst a member of the Committee.

Looking ahead, the Committee's agenda for September and November includes a review of costs and savings in Children's Services and Adult Social Care; a 6-month update on Budget Scrutiny 2018 recommendations; and the implications of business rates retention changes on the Council and small businesses within Buckinghamshire.

Health & Adult Social Care

In its role as “critical friend”, the Committee recently reviewed and submitted responses to South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust’s annual report and Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust’s annual report.

At its April and May meetings, the Committee evaluated the community hubs pilot which is part of the “developing care closer to home” model and heard from representatives from the Clinical Commissioning Group and Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust. The Committee offered its support for continuing with the development of the hubs and will be reviewing their progress, along with the other components of the model, over the coming months. At its July meeting, the Committee will be reviewing the Adult Short Breaks Strategy which recently went out to consultation. They will also be receiving a progress report on Adult Social Care transformation work.

The Committee will be agreeing its draft inquiry report on how well Buckinghamshire is tackling the issue of childhood obesity at its meeting on 24 July. The report and recommendations will be presented to Cabinet in the autumn.

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

The Children’s Select Committee has recently concluded and agreed its inquiry report: ‘Working Together to Reduce Permanent Exclusions from School’. The report makes 8 recommendations designed to support officers and head teachers in their work to further reduce the number of permanent exclusions of pupils in Bucks over the coming years. It will be presented to Cabinet in September.

At its July meeting, the Committee also reviewed and responded to the Short Breaks Strategy consultation (commenced 29 June 2018) and had an update on the Early Help project.

Forthcoming items for scrutiny include the Q1 2018-19 Performance Reports for Children’s Services; the Education Service annual 2017-18 DfE data; and a follow-up on outstanding actions in implementing the recommendations of the Committee’s 2016 inquiry report ‘The Voice of the Child and Young Person’.

Transport, Environment & Communities

At its May meeting, the Committee reviewed the Buckinghamshire County Museum Trust’s key priorities and performance. Members were reassured by the planned activity around income generation opportunities and widening community engagement to ensure the long term sustainability of the County Museum for residents of and visitors to Buckinghamshire. Members also received an update on the draft Freight Strategy and examined the approach being taken to ensure the best possible protection for our local communities, while balancing the needs of the freight industry, in light of the scale of growth across the county.





Members recently reviewed progress on implementation of the recommendations from the joint Select Committee on the Council’s planning for growth in Bucks. Members were reassured by the steps being taken, but acknowledged that the

landscape is constantly evolving and that progress will be far more long term, so they may need to continue to monitor progress beyond the 12-month review point.

Looking ahead, Members have identified two key areas they would like to examine in more detail through focused Committee meetings: street lighting; and gulley cleansing and drainage systems. Both are areas of concern raised by Members and residents. These topics will be developed and examined in detail at the September and November Committee meetings respectively. The Committee will also be reviewing the 6-month progress towards the recommendations made within the modern slavery inquiry at its September meeting.

Select Committee Live Inquiry Timeline

Inquiry Title	Inquiry Chairman	Lead Officer	June 18	July 18	Aug 18	Sept 18	Oct 18	Nov 18
Budget Scrutiny 2019	David Watson	Fazeelat Bashir						
Planning for Effective Leadership	Charlie Clare	Fazeelat Bashir						
Reducing Permanent Exclusions	Dev Dhillon	Sarah Hawkswood						
Childhood Obesity	Brian Roberts	Liz Wheaton						

Key:  Scoping  Evidence Gathering  Committee Approval  Cabinet/NHS

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

SELECT COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN