

# 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](http://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?Committeed=124>.

### Health & Adult Social Care

At its October meeting, the Select Committee heard from the two GP Federations in Buckinghamshire about their challenges and plans around GP provision with input from the Deputy Chief Officer from the Clinical Commissioning Group. Members were also updated on the details in the Government's Green Paper on proposals for future funding for Adult Social Care. The Director of Public Health presented her Annual Report which focussed on growing great communities and contained a number of recommendations.

An inquiry group was set-up earlier in the year to look into how well Buckinghamshire was doing at tackling child obesity in line with the Government's 10 year action plan. The Chairman presented the report to Cabinet in October and all 11 recommendations were agreed by Cabinet (three were partially agreed).

At the end of October, a group of Committee Members held a full day of evidence gathering to look in detail at the support available for carers. The key findings will be presented to the Committee at its November meeting and the recommendations will be presented to Cabinet in the New Year.

At its November meeting, the Committee heard from health and social care representatives about the progress on the journey to integration, the progress on the Hospital Trust's vision for developing care closer to home and the plans around Winter system resilience. Committee Members continue to attend various health related events, including open days, annual report launches, board meetings and Annual General Meetings.

### Transport, Environment & Communities

In its September meeting, the Select Committee reviewed the street lighting elements of the TfB contract, with a focus on performance and the approach to programming defect repair works. Members were reassured about the recent improvements and highlighted a few simple suggestions for the Cabinet Member for Transportation to consider which they hope will help drive further improvements. The Committee also discussed with the Cabinet Member, the impact of HS2 Ltd.'s

ground work investigations, the impact on the county and its residents, and the role of the Council. As a result of this, the Committee will be arranging to speak directly to HS2 Ltd about their programme of works, information sharing, traffic management issues and public engagement.

In November the Committee will be having a detailed item on gully cleansing and drainage maintenance and will be monitoring progress towards implementation of its Modern Slavery Inquiry recommendations.

### **Finance, Performance & Resources**

In September 2018, the Select Committee received a mid-year review of costs and savings in Children's Services and Adult Social Care, as well as a 6-month update on the Budget Scrutiny 2018 recommendations. Of the 12 recommendations, it was agreed that one had been implemented to the satisfaction of the Committee, and four were on track. However, the Committee was concerned that more work would be required on seven of the 12 recommendations in order for them to be fully delivered.

The Chairman led an Inquiry Group meeting on 12 October 2018 for an initial evidence gathering session to explore the Council's current approach to recruitment, development, and succession planning. The Chairman will discuss next steps from this meeting with the Committee.

At the recent November meeting, the Committee had the opportunity to conduct pre-decision scrutiny of the draft Capital and Investment Strategy. Members also received an update on the current status of and future plans for Buckinghamshire County Council's new ICT strategy from 2018-2020, entitled the Smarter Bucks Strategy.

Following Martin Farrow's recent decision to depart from the Council, a vacancy has arisen on the Committee. The Chairman would like to thank Mr Farrow for the valuable contribution that he has made as a member of the Committee, based in particular upon his considerable knowledge and expertise in ICT.

The Committee is now preparing for Budget Scrutiny 2019 – there will be a private briefing on 11<sup>th</sup> December, ahead of the Budget Scrutiny meetings on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

### **Children's**

The Committee's 'Working Together to Reduce Permanent Exclusions from School' Inquiry report was presented to Cabinet in September. The report was well-received with seven of the eight recommendations being accepted. Members are confident that these recommendations will contribute to a continued decline in the number of permanent exclusions across the County.

At the October meeting, the Select Committee reviewed the Q1 performance report for Children's Services, investigating areas of poor performance and gaining reassurance that actions were being taken to improve these metrics. The Committee also heard that an outstanding recommendation of 'The Voice of the Child and Young Person' Inquiry had been successfully implemented; resulting in an attractive and engaging web-based platform to enable young people to share their views with the Council.

Members of the Committee have recently undertaken a visit to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in Aylesbury, to begin to seek opinions from crucial front-line staff. We will visit a range of front-line staff to gain a well-rounded view, including social workers and other professionals involved directly in the delivery of the Children’s social care service. The Committee will use staff feedback to help inform our future work programme. At our November meeting we will be considering the Home to School Transport Consultation and the Ofsted Improvement Plan - Phase 2.

### Select Committee Live Inquiry Timeline

Inquiry Title	Inquiry Chairman	Lead Officer	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19
Budget Scrutiny 2019	David Watson	Kelly Sutherland					
Planning for Effective Leadership	David Watson	Marco Dias					
Support for Carers	Brian Roberts	Liz Wheaton					



For further information on scrutiny work please contact Kelly Sutherland, Committee & Governance Manager on 01296 382343. [www.buckscc.gov.uk/democracy](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/democracy). Last updated on 2 Nov 2018

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