



Buckinghamshire County Council Select Committee

Environment, Transport and Locality Services

Title: Select Committee Inquiry Recommendation Monitoring Report

Chairman's sign-off (for completed report): Warren Whyte

Author: Kama Wager

Date: 03rd February 2015




Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with the opportunity to agree its assessment of the progress by the relevant decision-maker on the implementation of scrutiny recommendations.

Following up on previous scrutiny inquiries is a key way in which the Committee can make an assessment of the outcomes of its work and understand what has been achieved.

Monitoring Process for each Select Committee

The key steps in following up on Select Committee Inquiries are:

- 1) Select Committees make recommendations

- 2) Decision-maker response

- 3) 6&12 month monitoring by Select Committee Select

- 4) Committee to decide if it is content on actions or if further action desired

The Appendix below provides a RAG status template for the Committee to use in making its assessment of the status of recommendations during item 7. The verbal update provided by Cabinet Member in committee and response to Committee questions will enable members to reach a view on its own assessment.

The key benefits of the Select Committee itself considering the progress are that it enables the Committee to:

- understand if it has been successful in influencing change.
- understand any implementation issues.

- decide if it wishes to raise issues further to influence change e.g. further inquiry, meeting with a Cabinet Member etc.
- improve further inquiry work by identifying what makes a 'good' scrutiny recommendation.

Each Select Committee receives a final update from the service area at the one year on point for an inquiry to check on progress this is via a written report and verbal update at the Committee meeting. Normally the Select Committee will not require any further formal monitoring beyond the 12 month point, however if the Select Committee does have specific recommendations that it wants to pursue further it can request further progress updates.





Monitoring Process for the Scrutiny Function Overall

- The Finance, Performance and Resources Select Committee has within its remit responsibility for the effectiveness of the scrutiny function overall. As such it will receive an annual overview summary assessment of scrutiny recommendations across all four Select Committees.
- The Council's Cabinet will receive a copy of this annual summary report in order to enable it to consider how effectively its decisions have been implemented in relation to recommendations that it accepted.
- An audit trail of all Select Committee completed Inquiries is maintained on the BCC website at www.buckscc.gov.uk/scrutiny

Based on the information provided and heard today, the Committee are asked to:

- 1. Complete Appendix 1 setting out its assessment of the progress in recommendation implementation using the RAG system.**
- 2. To note that the final assessment will be published as part of the annual review of all Select Committee recommendations.**

Appendix 1: Committee Assessment of Progress

	<i>Recommendation implemented to the satisfaction of the committee.</i>		<i>Committee have concerns the recommendation may not be fully delivered to its satisfaction</i>
	<i>Recommendation on track to be completed to the satisfaction of the committee.</i>		<i>Committee consider the recommendation to have not been delivered/implemented</i>

Recommendation	Comments on Progress Update provided by the Service	Committee Assessment
<p>1. The committee request to receive updates on the implementation of the following recent/current reviews around TfB operation and perception:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly updates on all actions within the external consultant review of TfB and its implementation plan, commencing in February 2014 • Quarterly updates on the internal BCC Communications and Customer Focus review, commencing in February 2014 • An update on the implementation of the new role for Local Area Technicians in February 2014 with an additional 6 month update on progress. 	<p>See update paper from service area</p>	

<p>2. We recommend that the service ensure effective long-term planning (a 4 year plan which fits with the Council's Medium term plan and budget proposals) to guide the annual planning activity, with particular emphasis on efficiencies, value for money and longer term development of the transport network. The Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee should receive a written update on any forthcoming long-term plans.</p>	<p>See update paper from service area</p>	
<p>3. We recommend that all future KPIs evolve to place greater emphasis on long-term outcomes and improvements and that future setting/amending of KPIs be subject to wider Member involvement to inform the decision making process of the Strategic Management Board. The Cabinet Member should put forward options for this by February 2014 for the Environment, Transport and Locality Services Committee to comment on and agree.</p>	<p>See update paper from service area</p>	
<p>4. We recommend that KPI figures and values need to be properly audited on an annual basis, for example through internal audit or the client team, in order to ensure that the decision making around</p>	<p>See update paper from service area</p>	

<p>payments and extensions is robust. A written report of the findings should go to the Strategic Management Board and also monitored by this select committee.</p>		
<p>5. We recommend that the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport retains a Member-led system for road maintenance but:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reviews the definition of Member-led currently used in the context of prioritising road maintenance to allow for greater flexibility in the approach and, • examines the proportion of budget allocated between local member priorities, and a countywide strategic management approach. <p>We request that the Cabinet Member commission a report on this topic, referencing national practice, and further options for road maintenance prioritising.</p>	<p>See update paper from service area</p>	
<p>6. We recommend that at least two BCC elected Members are re-appointed to the Strategic Management Board (or an alternative Member involvement option) in order to strengthen</p>	<p>See update paper from service area</p>	

<p>democratic representation, as recommended by the 2011 TfB scrutiny review.</p>		
<p>7. We recommend that the Strategic Client function should be sufficiently resourced to ensure the necessary client capacity and in-house skills are in place so that the client can effectively manage the contract and provide robust check and challenge of delivery.</p>	<p>See update paper from service area</p>	
<p>8. We recommend that the TfB report for the Strategic Management Board on the approval of the yearly contract extensions be circulated to the Environment, Transport and Locality Service Select Committee in order to inform the decision making process of the Strategic Management Board on the approval of contract extensions.</p>	<p>See update paper from service area</p>	
<p>9. We recommend that a schedule of areas for financial benchmarking against other Local Authorities be agreed between TfB and the Strategic Client. This should be reviewed annually by the Strategic Management Board to provide clarity over benchmarking activity to ensure contract compliance and</p>	<p>See update paper from service area</p>	

value for money.		
<p>10. We recommend that an external value for money review be undertaken (over the first half of 2014) to ensure and satisfy the client (BCC) that it is getting best value for money from the contract for elected Members and the residents of Buckinghamshire and that the committee receive a briefing on the findings of this review.</p>	<p>See update paper from service area</p>	
<p>11. We recommend that the contractual obligation for a year -on -year 3% efficiency saving should be reviewed to allow for greater opportunity for cumulative and sustainable efficiency savings over a number of years. Alternative options should be drawn up by the Cabinet Member by the end of the 2013/14 financial year.</p>	<p>See update paper from service area</p>	
<p>12: We recommend that all learning points from the TfB arrangement to date are used to inform future operation of the Council as it moves to become a commissioning/contracting</p>	<p>See update paper from service area.</p>	

<p>organisation, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1) securing providers who are able to work in a democratic environment,2) securing providers who can set out how they will meet strategic longer-term outcomes sought by the client, and3) the need for a high-level contract management prepared to use contract clauses to meet requirements.		
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