

**Transport, Environment & Climate Change
Select Committee**

2020-2021



**Overview of the work of the Transport, Environment
& Climate Change Select Committee 2020-2021**

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Introduction

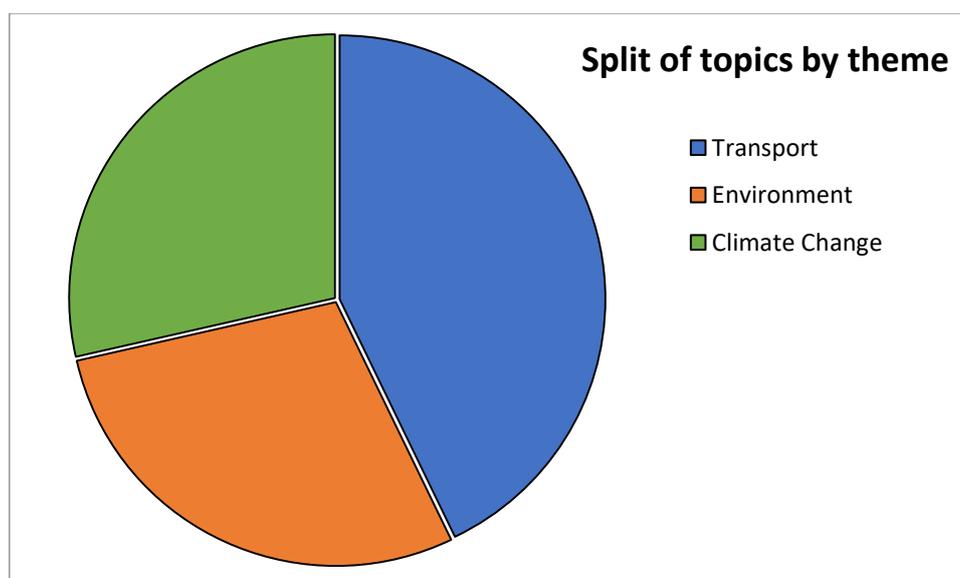
1.1 The first Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee (TECC) meeting for the new Buckinghamshire Council took place on 11 June 2020. The committee consisted of cross party membership of 15 members with Councillor Steven Broadbent elected as Chairman and Councillor Susan Jenkins appointed as Vice-Chairman. At the first meeting members received an update on the effect of the COVID 19 pandemic on the council and the key priorities of the relevant Cabinet Members for the year. They also discussed suggested items to consider on their work programme. Consideration was given to the COVID 19 pandemic and how this would impact on the work programme, however a majority of topics discussed were considered over the year. Also due to the pandemic all meetings of the committee and sub groups have been held virtually.

Overview

1.2 The Select Committee has a wide remit covering transport, environment which includes waste services, climate change services and issues. This remit can also cross over into other select committee areas which enables members to support and challenge work in other areas if necessary. Cabinet Members were invited and attended meetings when required in relation to the topics considered. Due to the large variety of topics for the TECC to consider, and during the COVID 19 pandemic, work was prioritised over the year to consider resources available during this difficult time.

Work during 2020/21

1.3 During the year the select committee has been provided with updates from the Cabinet Member for Transport, Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate Change, Cabinet Member for Logistics and the Cabinet Member for Sports and Leisure on a number of topics. The coverage of each key theme of the Committee's terms of reference has been as follows:



1.4 The committee have also received a number of questions from members of the public. Some of these questions were provided with a response from the relevant cabinet member in the meeting, however not all could be answered during the meeting so written responses were provided. The TECC were also visited by external officers from HS2 Ltd who provided information on the programme of works and to answer challenging questions from members.

1.5 The members have engaged in discussion and debate on a number of topics. Also they have questioned and provided valued critique to cabinet members to challenge and scrutinise areas of their portfolios.

1.6 Various topics considered over the year included updates and reports on the following topics:

- Home to School Transport
- Climate Change Strategy and the Carbon Audit
- Fly tipping
- 20mph zones
- HS2 Ltd
- Transport for Buckinghamshire contract re-procurement
- Opportunities for cycling and pedestrians

1.7 All select committee meetings are broadcast live via webcast for members of the public and press to view live or to consider at a later date. The TECC select committee has received a high number of views on the Buckinghamshire Council website as follows:

Date of meeting	Live Views	Total Views
11 June 20	39	176
17 September 20	41	152
12 November 20	20	112
21 January 21	35	131
11 March	TBC	TBC

It was worth noting the meeting on 11 June 20 has had the highest number of views of any select committee during the year to date.

1.8 During summer 2020 the Chairman and a selection of members were invited to support and provide critique to the Cabinet Member for Logistics on the proposed changes to the home to school transport provision. The group met twice and discussed the impact of the COVID 19 restrictions on the service, and the improvements and plan ahead of the return to school in September 2020. Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions and noted the importance of communication with parents on this matter.

Following this meeting the Cabinet Member for Logistics has provided regular updates at Select Committee.

1.9 External officers from HS2 Ltd attended a meeting in January 2021 and provided information on the latest works and public engagement work being undertaken. Members were provided with the opportunity to question officers and request information from HS2 Ltd. Officers agreed to attend a future meeting to provide a further update.

1.10 The committee also provided challenge and support to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change on the emerging Climate Change Strategy. A working group has been established which met in September and October 2020. The draft Strategy was considered by Cabinet on 16 February 2021, and the Cabinet Member confirmed at the meeting that the Select Committee would be requested to support further engagement work on the Strategy going forward.

Future Items

1.11 Items to consider for the future:

- Development and ongoing review of the Climate Change Strategy
- Tree Planting initiative update
- Biodiversity
- Transport for Buckinghamshire contract re-procurement update
- Tracking and assessment of road repairs and drains across the county
- Adoption of Roads
- HS2 Ltd update
- Home to School transport plans 2021/22
- Active travel/cycling
- Waste service performance
- Fly tipping tracking and updates
- Recycling centre charging review
- COVID 19 impact
- Buckinghamshire growth fund proposal to central Government
[Buckinghamshire Council Growth Fund Proposal](#)

1.12 Members are invited to discuss and suggest items for consideration in the development of the work programme for 2021/2022.

Conclusion

1.13 This has been a difficult year for scrutiny work with the establishment of the new Buckinghamshire Council, the COVID 19 pandemic, and logistical challenge of delivering public meetings and engagement via video conferencing. The select committee has succeeded in considering a number of topics over the year with support from its members,

cabinet members and officers. The select committee members have provided valued support and challenge to the cabinet members on school transport planning, transport, and climate change issues. They have been invited to further support the Cabinet Member for Logistics with home to school transport, and the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change on the Climate Change Strategy. The members have also challenged the work of HS2 Ltd and requested that ongoing updates be provided to the committee in the future to which they have agreed.

During 2021/22 the Transport Environment and Climate Change select committee will endeavour to ensure that public services within its remit are delivered effectively and efficiently and in the best interests of residents.