



Report to full Council

Date:	18 May 2022
Title:	Select Committee Structure
Relevant councillor(s):	All
Author and/or contact officer:	Rachael Shimmin, Chief Executive
Recommendations:	Council is asked to agree the proposed structure and remit for Select Committees for the municipal year 2022/23 in order to discharge the Council's statutory overview and scrutiny functions.

1. Content of report

- 1.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution (Part G), this report sets out the proposed structure of Select Committees for the forthcoming year. No changes are envisaged to the remits and number of the Council's Select Committees.
- 1.2 The Council will appoint six Select Committees to discharge the Council's statutory overview and scrutiny functions, each of which will comprise 15 Members. These shall be known as:
 - (i) Children's and Education Select Committee
 - (ii) Communities and Localism Select Committee
 - (iii) Finance and Resources Select Committee
 - (iv) Growth, Infrastructure and Housing Select Committee
 - (v) Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee
 - (vi) Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee
- 1.3 Each Select Committee is anticipated to meet at least five times a year, in accordance with current practice. Formal meetings of Select Committees will be public meetings (except under specific confidential circumstances as set out in the Local Government Act 1972). Each Select Committee has the power to undertake scrutiny inquiries, to investigate issues and make recommendations to decision-makers for change in relation to areas within their remit. Evidence for these inquiries

may be taken at Select Committee meetings or through additional informal inquiry sessions.

- 1.4 In addition to the general functions of the Select Committees set out in the Council's Constitution, the broad remits of the six Select Committees are set out in the table below. This information is intended as an indicative guide to the remits of the Select Committees, recognising that a number of potential topics could span at least one Select Committee.
- 1.5 Where the lead responsibility for scrutiny is unclear the relevant Chairmen, in consultation with the Scrutiny Manager, will agree how best to take forward the work, including agreeing one Select Committee to take lead responsibility for approving the set-up of any inquiry and monitoring implementation of agreed recommendations.
- 1.6 In addition to the six Select Committees, full Council agreed on 21 April 2021 that the Council would participate in the joint health scrutiny committee for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System. Details can be accessed [here](#).



Select Committee Remits

Children's and Education Select Committee

The Children's and Education Select Committee holds decision makers to account for improving outcomes and services for children and young people in Buckinghamshire.

This will include, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:

- Early Help
- Education – including early years, schools and further education
- Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND)
- Adult learning
- Children's safeguarding
- Help and Protection
- Looked After Children
- Adoption and Fostering
- Leaving Care
- Youth Offending
- Youth provision

* This Committee shall act as the designated Committee responsible for the scrutiny of Education matters.

Communities and Localism Select Committee

The Communities and Localism Select Committee holds decision makers to account for improving outcomes and services for Buckinghamshire in relation to locality working, cultural, sport and leisure and regulatory services.

This will include, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:

- Community Safety
- Community Boards
- Town and Parish Council relationships
- Community and Voluntary sector engagement
- Leisure Centres
- Libraries
- Cultural Strategy
- Arts development
- Heritage, Museums and Archives
- Tourism
- Country Parks, Parks and Play Areas
- Business Continuity

* This Committee shall act as the designated Crime and Disorder Committee.

Finance and Resources Select Committee

The Finance and Resources Select Committee holds decision makers to account for improving outcomes and services for Buckinghamshire with a focus on delivering value for money.

This will include, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:

- Customer Service
- Financial Strategy
- Property and Assets
- Capital Programme
- Revenues and Benefits
- ICT Strategy & Operations
- Staff Health and Wellbeing
- Better Buckinghamshire programme

This Committee will undertake the annual budget scrutiny inquiry, which may involve inviting the Chairmen of the other Select Committees to participate. The

Executive's draft budget is automatically referred for scrutiny as part of the annual budget setting process.

Growth, Infrastructure and Housing Select Committee

The Growth, Infrastructure and Housing Select Committee holds decision makers to account for improving outcomes and services for Buckinghamshire, with a focus on the development of Buckinghamshire the place.

This will include, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:

- Strategic Infrastructure Projects
- HS2
- East West Rail
- Major Highways Projects
- Development Management
- Building Control
- Planning Enforcement
- Local Plan
- Town Centre Regeneration
- Economic Development
- Skills & Employability
- Homelessness
- Housing partnerships
- Affordable Housing
- Regulatory services

Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee

The Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee holds decision makers account for improving outcomes and services for Buckinghamshire with a particular focus on health and adult services.

This will include, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:

- Public Health
- Safeguarding
- Older People
- Mental Health

- Learning Disabilities
- Physical and Sensory Disabilities
- Health and Social Care Commissioning
- Prevention
- NHS Services
- GPs and Medical Centres
- Dental Practices

* In accordance with the Constitution, this Committee shall act as the designated Committee responsible for the scrutiny of health matters holding external health partners to account.

Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee

The Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee holds decision makers to account for improving outcomes and services for Buckinghamshire with a focus on some of the key operational services delivered across the county.

This will include, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:

- Transport Strategy
- Highways Maintenance
- Home to School Transport
- Public Transport
- Parking Operations and Strategy
- Environmental Strategy and Climate Change
- Energy and Resources
- Strategic Flood Management
- Sustainable Transport
- Waste and Recycling Strategy
- Fly tipping
- Rights of Way

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Reading, West Berkshire, Wokingham)

The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee operates formally as a mandatory joint committee i.e. where the councils have been required under Regulation 30 (5) Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Well-being Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 to appoint a joint committee for the purposes of providing independent scrutiny to activities delivered at system level (as detailed in the Committee's terms of reference) by the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System.

The purpose of the mandatory JHOSC across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Reading, West Berkshire, Wokingham is to:

- a. make comments on the proposal consulted on
- b. require the provision of information about the proposal
- c. gather evidence from key stakeholders, including members of the public
- d. require the member or employee of the relevant health service to attend before it to answer questions in connection with the consultation.
- e. Refer to the Secretary of State only on where it is not satisfied that:
 - consultation on any proposal for a substantial change or development has been adequate in relation to content or time allowed (NB. The referral power in these contexts only relates to the consultation with the local authorities, and not consultation with other stakeholders)
 - the proposal would not be in the interests of the health service in the area
 - a decision has been taken without consultation and it is not satisfied that the reasons given for not carrying out consultation are adequate.

2. Background papers

2.1 None.