

## Notice of Meeting

# Select Committee Chairmen and Vice Chairmen's Group



**SURREY**

**Date & time**

Thursday, 25  
November 2021 at  
2.00 pm

**Place**

REMOTE MEETING  
VIA TEAMS

**Contact**

Ross Pike  
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**Chief Executive**

Joanna Killian



**We're on Twitter:**  
**@SCCdemocracy**

### **Elected Members**

Nick Darby, Andy MacLeod, Bernie Muir, John O'Reilly, Will Forster, Ayesha Azad, Liz Bowes, Paul Deach, Angela Goodwin, Riasat Khan, Rebecca Paul, Chris Townsend and David Lewis

## AGENDA

- 1 NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: FRIDAY 15 OCTOBER** (Pages 3 - 6)

**Purpose:** to agree the notes of the previous meeting held on 15 October 2021.
- 2 BUDGET SCRUTINY PROCESS**

**Purpose:** check-in with Members on the process to date and expectations for December.
- 3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROJECT UPDATE** (Pages 7 - 12)

**Purpose:** summary of the findings to date and early sight of the draft recommendations.
- 4 DRAFT SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT** (Pages 13 - 20)

**Purpose:** draft version of the report to Council in December for comment and feedback.
- 5 REVIEW OF SELECT COMMITTEES MEETINGS ACTIVITY** (Pages 21 - 24)

**Purpose:** to update the Group of key items of work and any challenges.
- 6 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY 13 JANUARY 2021**

To note the date of the next meeting – Thursday 13 January 2021 at 2pm.

**Joanna Killian**  
**Chief Executive**  
Published: 23/11/2021

**Record of Proceedings**

These notes are subject to confirmation by the Group at its meeting on Thursday, 25 November 2021.

**Members:**

- \* Nick Darby
- \* Andy MacLeod
- \* Bernie Muir
- \* John O'Reilly
- \* Will Forster
- \* Ayesha Azad
- \* Liz Bowes
- \* Paul Deach
- \* Angela Goodwin
- \* Riasat Khan
- \* Rebecca Paul
- \* Chris Townsend
- \* David Lewis

**In attendance**

Ross Pike, Scrutiny Business Manager

**1 NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: WEDNESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2021 [Item 1]**

**Key points raised in the discussion:**

1. The notes were agreed.

**2 SESSION WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE [Item 2]**

**Witnesses:** Joanna Killian, Chief Executive

**Key points raised in the discussion:**

1. The Chief Executive gave an update to the Group covering several key areas: finance, post-COVID recovery, workforce, climate change and the prospective county deal.
2. The Chief Executive reminded Members that the discharge into care arrangements set up at the beginning of the pandemic were due to end which would have serious financial implications for the Council. It was noted that the number of child protection plans had doubled during COVID, however, mitigations were being put in place.
3. Council officers were working to close the budget gap but expectations that the comprehensive spending review would help were low. The Chief Executive commented that Surrey residents were hearing the message that an increase in National Insurance contributions would sort the issues in funding for the care of the frail/elderly, and residents with mental health and learning disability problems. There needed to

be a mechanism to ensure adequate funding but the Council was not expecting any new funding for a few years. Within the Council there needed to be cultural change to tackle areas of continuing overspend.

4. The Chief Executive laid out several challenges for the Council as an employer. It would continue to monitor the wellbeing of staff. Significant pressures were also caused by vacancies particularly in Children's Services with positions being filled by locums (20-30%). The Council had to compete with the private sector for young talent especially from BAME communities to fill all sorts of vacancies and make it more attractive for people to keep working rather than retiring. The workforce issues caused the Chief Executive significant concern.
5. On climate change the Chief Executive acknowledged the concern of attempting to de-carbonise against the backdrop of the increasing cost of living.
6. The Chief Executive discussed the potential for a county deal akin to those devolution deals made in the north-west, Peterborough/Cambridgeshire and Bristol. The Council was waiting to hear back from Government on whether it would be invited to join a pilot group. The Chief Executive continued this topic underlining the importance of local governance and the need for an intelligent system with elements that residents should have the say over. A briefing for Members could take place when there was more detail.
7. The Chief Executive was asked how they envisaged any scrutiny of the deal working. The Chief Executive expected the totality of the deal to be situated with Resources and Performance with components of the deal coming to individual Select Committees. When asked about new money or powers the Chief Executive advised that funding levels had been small elsewhere, but the opportunity was local choice, reduced bureaucracy, and greater ease of forward planning. The Chief Executive asked why wouldn't Surrey want its own growth fund, adult education or, if we are serious about achieving net zero, control over its future transport?
8. A Chairman asked about the internal factors that impact areas of overspend within the Council. What aspects of the Council still require transformation to overcome deficiencies? The Chief Executive referred to the increased demand on Children's Services through correct referrals from partners especially on mental health. The Chief Executive thought it most important to tackle vacancies, reliance on agency workers and implement a fully resourced Emotional Wellbeing Mental Health (EWMH) service. Must look at other Authorities do to see what else the Council could be doing and makes sure we are no longer rated inadequate by Ofsted. At this point the need for staffing change in Children's Homes was mentioned as an example of the ongoing concern about workforce.
9. A few Members mentioned the quality of a few recent reports – EWMH and Older People's Strategy – where they felt key questions had not been sufficiently dealt with by the relevant partners. The Chief Executive would go away and understand that feedback and address any behavioural issues.

10. When asked about the Council's ability to borrow to fund the Council's capital programme the Chief Executive stated there was no way that they would let the revenue budget get out of control and negatively impact the Council's ability to finance its capital funding for important areas such as Highway and additional places for children's care. The Chief Executive assured the Group that she would expect serious censure for not maintaining tight budget control.

### **3 SCRUTINY & COMMUNICATIONS [Item 3]**

#### **Witnesses:**

Michael Stringer, External & Stakeholder Comms Manager

Richard Neale, Studio & Content Manager

#### **Key points raised in the discussion:**

1. Discussed what we could do to work together more effectively by integrating processes such as forward planning and building up relationships as well as other ideas such as Chairs filming explainer videos.
2. Members were supportive of a higher profile for scrutiny work. There were calls for a greater focus on external communication. It was felt that good communication would create more resident interest and input in the scrutiny function.
3. The Group were keen to get residents involved in the discussions around scrutiny as well as watching and along with Comms Officers would endeavour to give new ideas a try with a view to reviewing progress in six months' time.

### **4 SELECT COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT [Item 4]**

#### **Key points raised during the discussion:**

1. The Group noted the report and there were no further questions.

### **5 GROUP FORWARD PLAN [Item 5]**

**Witnesses:** Ross Pike, Scrutiny Business Manager

#### **Key points raised during the discussion:**

1. Economic Development Strategy would be scrutinised formally and in public by the Communities, Environment & Highways Select Committee. This Group would continue to receive regular updates on this topic.
2. Any developments on the County Deal would be scheduled for scrutiny as appropriate with this Group keeping a role as necessary.

**6 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: 25 NOVEMBER 2021 [Item 6]**

The Group would next meet at 2pm on Thursday 25 November via Teams.

Meeting ended at: 15:33

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**Chairman**

SELECT COMMITTEE CHAIRS & VICE-CHAIRS' GROUP

THURSDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2021



## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROJECT UPDATE REPORT

**Purpose of report:** to apprise the Group of the work undertaken to review good practice on public participation from across the Council to date and present draft recommendations.

### Introduction:

1. The Council's scrutiny function has been implementing a series of improvements to its structure and practice since May 2019. The latest area identified for improvement is that of public participation with Select Committees and with scrutiny processes more generally.
2. It is one of the Centre for Governance & Scrutiny's principles of good scrutiny that we, '*amplify the voices and concerns of the public.*' Greater public engagement and participation will aid Select Committees' realisation of this principle.
3. The *Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities* is clear that to establish a strong culture organisational culture that supports scrutiny we must communicate the role of scrutiny to the public and that engagement with the public is important to inform work programmes and when gathering evidence.

### Approach:

4. A scoping document outlining the method for approaching this project was shared with this Group at its meeting of 15 October 2021.
5. The scoping document set out the following questions:
  - I. How do other services/teams in the council engage the public? (what methods do they use and when?)
  - II. What are the benefits of engaging the public by these services?
  - III. What lessons can Democratic Services learn from the experiences of other Council services?
  - IV. What changes to Committee processes could we make as a result?

6. Officers from across the Council in Adult Social Care Commissioning, Children's Rights and Participation, Customers and Communities, Transport and the Community Partnerships Team (*meeting pending*) were interviewed by the Scrutiny Business Manager in an effort to answer the questions in para. 5.
7. Additional desktop research on how other Local Authorities involve the public in scrutiny and sector good practice was also carried out to inform this project.

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| <b>Current Practice:</b> |
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**Formal methods:**

8. The Council's constitution permits the public to submit a question to a Select Committee on any topic under its remit in advance of a public meeting. Members of the public will receive a written answer at that meeting and are able to ask supplementary question if they wish.
9. The Council's petition scheme also enables residents to raise issues publicly and where it is decided that a Select Committee is the most appropriate forum for a petition it will be heard at one of its public meetings.
10. Two of the four Select Committees co-opt Members that represent specific interests and organisations as part of their membership. The Adults and Health Select Committee has standing invitations issued to several service user groups and the consumer watchdog, Healthwatch Surrey to participate in committee meetings.

**Informal methods:**

11. When researching and scoping proposed scrutiny topics the Scrutiny Team may approach stakeholder groups and other individuals known to us for their feedback and potential involvement in scrutiny work as witnesses as appropriate.
12. Members in their role as community representatives will listen to residents as part of their day-to-day work and reflect comments and feedback when acting as scrutineers on a Select Committee. Residents may also contact their County Councillors directly regarding issues that may lead to the scheduling of scrutiny work.

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| <b>Findings:</b> |
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**Existing Data**



13. The Council holds a wealth of information gathered from residents be it from views on budget setting, complaints data or feedback as a service user. There is an opportunity for Select Committees to utilise this existing information as evidence of Surrey residents' views either to choose scrutiny topics, inform lines of enquiry or support recommendations.
14. This information ranges from small granular details on specific issues to cohort wide surveys e.g., the BIG survey done by the Children's Right & Participation Services each year and statutory consultation activities.

### **Engagement Methods**

15. Formal consultations are common and frequent often focusing on statutory processes. However, council services engage residents in a variety of other ways including convening small groups of residents to co-design services, test ideas or give feedback like in a focus group format. These existing groups could be approached to help refine scrutiny topics or take part themselves in scrutiny work. In Adult Social Care they recruited one specific person to act as a sounding board as a 'lived experience volunteer' when developing a recent strategy.
16. Officers over time have developed networks of community groups that they can contact when they want to engage a particular group of people for a specific purpose. This can be done *en masse* via email on a regular basis.
17. The Transport team emphasised the value of going to residents rather than the other way around by holding exhibitions in shopping centres and sports centres, for example. When surveying resident they would ask a few simple questions to build a picture of what people's top issues were.
18. Social media was used extensively. Democratic Services has a Twitter account that Comms have offered to help us develop while colleagues in the Local and Joint Committees all operate Instagram and Facebook accounts that could be utilised too.

### **Challenges**

19. The officers all spoke of the difficulty of getting to the less heard residents particularly when they may have complex needs and the risk of privileging the same voices time and again.
20. The amount of planning required to deliver an effective consultation. Scrutiny will have to prioritise carefully where to put its resource and think clearly about the outcome it is seeking as this will involve how it might engage residents or seek their participation.

21. Making the process worthwhile for residents. It is important think about how scrutiny might help residents, community groups or businesses before approaching them.

### **Other Authorities**

22. The scrutiny functions of most councils aim to involve the public in their work and most have ambitions to improve the level of engagement in their processes.
23. West Sussex County Council produces a public scrutiny newsletter that shares details of work undertaken and future plans. Its website has a scrutiny suggestion form for the public to submit ideas. East Sussex County Council also has a scrutiny topic form and invites residents to provide evidence on a topic under investigation.
24. Essex County Council have produced a user-friendly guide for the public to getting involved in the usual ways.
25. LB of Lambeth ran a task group into increasing public participation which made several recommendations including more localised meetings in different parts of the borough, greater use of technology and more informal meetings.
26. Most councils now webcast their meetings following the restrictions imposed by the pandemic making them more accessible and operate social media accounts to share information with residents.

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| <b>Draft Recommendations:</b> |
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1. Implementation of the communications offer approved by this group in October 2021 for review in April 2022. (Owner: Communications and Scrutiny Team)
2. Creation of an online form to allow members of the public to propose scrutiny topics for use from 2022. (Owner: Scrutiny Team)
3. Immediate development of stakeholder databases based on contacts already held by the council to seek engagement on the development of forward plans and to invite participation in scrutiny processes. (Owner: Scrutiny Team)
4. Use is made of Council communication channels, including social media, to promote upcoming and completed scrutiny work starting with budget scrutiny in December. (Owner: Scrutiny Team)
5. Consideration given to holding public meetings in community venues such as Libraries as a way of engaging the public and communicating scrutiny's role and purpose. (Owner: Select Committee Chairs)

6. Continued use of remote meeting technology to facilitate public participation in committee meetings and task group work via fully virtual and hybrid meetings. (Owner: Democratic Services)
7. Further work to be done by the Scrutiny Business Manager with the Customer & Communities Directorate to develop further options around the use of Council held data and library buildings. (Owner: Scrutiny Business Manager)

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| <b>Next steps:</b> |
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- Scrutiny Business Manager to complete remaining interviews with Council officers and incorporate their feedback along with comments from Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen in a new report.
- Scrutiny Business Manager to work with Customers & Communities officers to further develop ideas for future practice.

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### **Report contact**

Ross Pike, Scrutiny Business Manager, Democratic Services

### **Contact details**

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### **Sources/background papers**

Communications Report to Select Committee Chair & Vice-Chairs' Group, 15 October 2021.

Dr Dave McKenna, Promoting Public Participation: Seven scrutiny power-ups, available at: [Promoting public participation: Seven scrutiny power-ups - Constructive Conversations \(publicgov.co.uk\)](https://publicgov.co.uk/promoting-public-participation-seven-scrutiny-power-ups-constructive-conversations)

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# Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21

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# Surrey County Council Scrutiny Retrospective

- The Council reviewed its scrutiny function in 2019 and the Government also published its new statutory guidance for local authority overview & scrutiny.
- As a result, a report to Council in May 2019 made changes to the structure of our committees and recommendations to improve practice.
- The number of Select Committees was reduced from six to four while retaining the Select Committee Chairs & Vice-Chairs' Group with dedicated Scrutiny Officer support for each committee complemented by a Democratic Services Assistant.
- The capacity of Select Committees was bolstered by having two Task Group Leads (Vice-Chairs) alongside a Chairman to provide extra leadership and resource to manage scrutiny reviews
- Council resolved to increase the use of task & finish methodology with a view to producing more in-depth reviews and evidence based recommendations

- The MHCLG Statutory Guidance highlighted the importance of cultural commitment to scrutiny.
  - At Surrey County Council that is manifested in a commitment that no major decision would come to Cabinet without having been scrutinised first by the relevant Select Committee.
  - Cabinet Members attend each and every public meeting of Select Committees to present reports and answer questions recognising the legal and democratic legitimacy of scrutiny
  - The Leader attends the Select Committee Chair and Vice-Chair's Group bi-annually as part of ongoing engagement between the executive and scrutiny
  - The **majority** of recommendations made by Select Committee and Task & Finish Groups have been accepted and implemented by the Cabinet
  - Senior Officers engage with Select Committees on key policy initiatives and provide impartial advice early via regular liaison meetings with Chairs & Vice-Chairs
- The Guidance was clear that preparation and access to information was vital for good scrutiny:
  - All Select Committees now operate pre-meetings ahead of public meetings to review reports, agree and allocate key lines of enquiry, and discuss potential recommendations in advance to help ensure they have a defined impact on the ground.
  - The use of KLOEs in briefing notes has risen steadily from around 50% pre-2019 to 80% at the last round of meetings in October 2021.
  - Each Select Committee receives regular performance information from across the Council to help them to do their job effectively
  - Select Committees employ a variety of methods to scrutinise topics from single agenda items to themed meetings, task & finish groups, Member reference groups and by organising briefings from experts to increase their knowledge and understanding.

# Scrutiny Work from 2019 - Present

- Since these changes were made in May 2019 the use of Task & Finish Group has dramatically increased with no fewer than 10 groups being set up; all of which reported to decision-makers complete with SMART recommendations.
- Particular successes include recommendations made on the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Adult Mental Health services, the steer provided on the adoption of a new children's service for children aged 12-25 in care or the edge of care ('No Wrong Door') and the governance model for Your Fund Surrey and the critical friend support lent to the Surrey Fire & Rescue Service as it went through its transformation.
- Scrutiny of the budget setting process and draft budget now starts earlier and is coordinated across all four Select Committees complemented by a Budget Sub-Group that monitors in-year financial performance.
- Select Committees routinely receive and review performance data as part of their overview function using this data to inform lines of enquiry and choice of scrutiny topics.
- More external witnesses have been called to give evidence to Select Committees and engagement with stakeholders is growing.
- Finally, in response to the restrictions on public meetings enforced by the COVID pandemic Select Committees moved to fully remote meetings with no adverse impact on output and created greater opportunities for witnesses and the public to engage with scrutiny work.



# Continued...

- Since the elections of 2021 the scrutiny team have delivered comprehensive induction programmes for Select Committees.
- A series of seven scrutiny training modules were rolled out for new and returning Members covering the key aspects of good scrutiny from choosing topics, questioning techniques and making SMART recommendations.
- Select Committees have successfully navigated the return to in-person meetings making use of hybrid approaches to allow for the remote participation of witnesses in their scrutiny reviews.

# Select Committee Good Practice Examples (TBC)

|                                                |                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Adults &amp; Health</b>                     | <b>Children, Families, Lifelong Learning &amp; Culture</b> |
|                                                |                                                            |
| <b>Communities, Environment &amp; Highways</b> | <b>Resources &amp; Performance</b>                         |
|                                                |                                                            |

# The Future of Surrey County Council Overview & Scrutiny

- To continue our improvements to the function in 2022 a number of areas of focus have been identified by Members and in having due regard to the statutory guidance:
  - Increasing public interaction with Select Committees and increasing public participation in scrutiny processes as witnesses, co-optees and through collecting evidence
  - Broadening the scope of our scrutiny methods to include meetings in the community, increased use of data and novel ways of working such ‘scrutiny in a day’ reviews and the continued use of remote meeting technology.
  - Implementing a co-designed Communications Plan to increase the visibility of scrutiny work and the profile of our Select Committees both to the wider authority and to Surrey residents.
  - Regular reporting of scrutiny work and its impact to Council.
  - Devising a new protocol to cover the effective scrutiny of council owned companies.

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## SELECT COMMITTEES UPDATE REPORT – 25 NOVEMBER 2021

### Adults & Health

On 20 October, the Select Committee held its first in-person public meeting since before the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and scrutinised the Enabling You With Technology Transformation Programme in Adult Social Care and winter pressures plans for Frimley and Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Systems. The Select Committee also received an update on the progress made in implementing the Mental Health Task Group's recommendations.

The public meeting also saw the formal establishment of the Select Committee's Health Inequalities Task Group, which subsequently undertook a planning session on 25 October. The Task Group will shortly start meeting with witnesses, beginning with a deep dive into the three priority areas outlined in the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Task Group will also be meeting with health inequalities leads from both Frimley and Surrey Heartlands.

The Select Committee recently reviewed a draft of the 2021-2030 Older People's Commissioning Strategy and offered its feedback, which has been taken on board by officers. A report from the Select Committee will be submitted to Cabinet as part of the agenda papers for its next meeting.

A few weeks ago, the Select Committee took part in a joint briefing on health and social care integration alongside the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee. Briefings on areas and organisations within the Select Committee's remit will continue to be delivered throughout the winter to help build Members' knowledge.

Alongside this, I recently met with the Chief Executive of the South East Coast Ambulance Service, as well as attending a Partnership Forum held by Surrey Heartlands.

Bernie Muir  
Chairman

### Children, Families, Lifelong Learning & Culture

#### 16 December agenda:

- 2022-23 Draft Budget
- Adult Social Care Complaints Bi-Annual Review

On 18 October, the Select Committee considered the following:

- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Transformation Update.** The Committee recommended that:
  1. At an appropriate time, the Select Committee visit educational settings supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities.
  2. The Director – Education and Lifelong Learning share the findings of the SEND Self-Evaluation and any actions to be taken in response to it with

the Chairman of the Select Committee for circulation to the Committee once available.

3. The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning provide an update on the SEND Transformation Programme and other work relating to the support for children and young people with additional needs, including support at transitions, at the April 2022 meeting of the Select Committee.

- **The Impacts of COVID-19 on Education and Learners in Surrey**

- **Children’s Homes Transformation [pre-decision].** The Committee recommended that:

Cabinet agree the proposed transformation of Surrey’s Children’s Residential Services provided there are no material changes to the recommended decision or supporting information as reported to the Select Committee.

- **Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Services.** The Committee recommended that:

1. The Select Committee agree an approach to future scrutiny of Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health services with the Adults and Health Select Committee.
2. That the Director – Commissioning arrange the development of a dashboard of key performance information and make it available to the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture and Adults and Health Select Committees.
3. That the Director – Commissioning provide the Select Committee with a report containing a clear overview of the Alliance Partnership’s governance including further detail on the specific role of each organisation within the Partnership Alliance, the associated performance measures and targets and the resources allocated to them by April 2022.

Since the last meeting of this group, the Select Committee has also:

- continued to meet with key stakeholder organisations;
- received an informal briefing on Libraries Transformation in advance of a Cabinet decision on 30 November; and
- received an informal briefing on health and social care integration.

On 13 December, the Select Committee will meet in public to consider the following item:

- 2022/23 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy, ahead of which it is to receive an informal briefing.

Key planned future activity:

- Vice-Chairman Chris Townsend is to present the Select Committee’s report and recommendation arising from its scrutiny of the proposed transformation of the council’s children’s homes to Cabinet on 30 November;
- agree an approach to scrutinising emotional wellbeing and mental health services with the Adults and Health Select Committee; and
- explore potential task group topics.

## **Communities, Environment & Highways**

The Select Committee has been busy with its work since its last public meeting in September.

The Select Committee held an informal budget scrutiny briefing session on 18 October, and a further substantive draft budget scrutiny session with Q&A (Questions-and-Answers) for CEH Select Committee is scheduled for 23 November. In addition, the Chairman (John O'Reilly) and another Select Committee Member (Lance Spencer) have been appointed to represent the CEH Select Committee on the wider Budget Task Group, comprising representatives from all four Select Committees, which is scheduled to meet on 2 December.

The Select Committee's Greener Futures Reference Group (GFRG) have held several meetings and its climate change related recommendations have been presented to the Cabinet by the Chair of the Reference Group, Andy McLeod. At its most recent meeting, the GFRG also reviewed the draft emergent themes following the council consultation about the latest iteration on of Surrey Transport Plan (STP) and provided its feedback to the Executive Director of Environment, Transport and Infrastructure in developing the service approach and response. The Chairman and CEH Scrutiny Officer are also in discussion with the Executive Director for Customer and Communities about fine-tuning proposed terms of reference/scoping for a new task group about enhancing community engagement.

At its forthcoming meeting on 17 December, the Select Committee will focus on the Draft Budget 2022-23 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy; Programme for Growth/LEP update under the Leader's cabinet portfolio; and a mortuary/centre of excellence paper from the Community Protection & Emergencies Directorate.

## **Resources & Performance**

Since September, the Select Committee have held several briefing and monitoring sessions: draft budget scrutiny; performance monitoring; and cyber threat. A further substantive draft budget scrutiny briefing with Q&A (Questions-and-Answers) session is scheduled for 23 November. The Budget Task Group, comprising representatives from all four Select Committees, was agreed at the Select Committee's previous meeting and will meet on 2 December.

At the forthcoming meeting on 17 December, the Select Committee will focus on the Draft Budget 2022-23 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy, a priorities update paper from the Cabinet Member for Property as well as important scrutiny update reports from the property directorate.

The Select Committee Forward Work Programme, together with, a few important issues, was considered at our scrutiny liaison meeting with the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for Resources. The meeting was attended by the Deputy Leader and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, both Vice-Chairs of the Select Committee and R&PSC Scrutiny Officer. Following on from that meeting and after subsequent discussions, the Chairman has pursued several queries about the DB&I Programme and Go-live Re-Plan Options Appraisal to seek reassurance and understanding about what happened, how to avoid such situations in future and what lessons have been learnt. A busy period for the Select Committee is on the horizon in the next few months.

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