



OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY FUNCTION - ARTICLE 7 – SELECT COMMITTEES

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

1. Article 7 of Part 2 of the Constitution sets out the terms of reference and specific remits for each of the Council's Select Committees, and states that the number of committees will vary from time to time as agreed by the Council.
2. The Council approved 'Confident in Surrey's future' the Corporate Strategy for 2015 – 20. The Strategy sets out 3 strategic goals: wellbeing, economic prosperity and resident experience.
3. The Cabinet Portfolios have been revised to align with these strategic goals, and it is proposed that select committee remits be amended to enable effective scrutiny of the work of Cabinet and services. This report sets out the proposed changes for the Council's approval.

CHANGES TO SELECT COMMITTEES:

4. To enhance the status of the scrutiny function, Select Committees will be known as 'Boards'. The proposed structure of the Boards is shown in Annex 2.
5. The Boards will meet in public at least quarterly. Fewer formal meetings will enable more flexibility to undertake a balanced workload of policy development and scrutiny and engage with service users and residents. To ensure transparency, the work that the Members undertake outside of the public meetings will have clear reporting lines to the Boards in order to be shared in the public domain.
6. Each Board will have a Performance & Finance Sub-Group to undertake scrutiny of budgets and corporate performance measures.
7. With the increased focus on working with partners to deliver services through new models, a dedicated Transformation Sub-Group is proposed to scrutinise partnership models and the Shareholder Board, as well as challenge the way

that the Council works. The membership of this Sub-Group will be made up of Council Overview Board (COB) Members.

8. The responsibility to scrutinise statutory services will be achieved by bringing the remits of Adults and Children's Social Care Services together under one Board, which would meet in public 6 – 8 times per year. One of the key benefits of this approach will be to enhance partnership working between statutory services and enable effective scrutiny of transition services, when young people enter adult social care for the first time.
9. Following feedback from Members about the size and importance of the Education remit, a separate Education and Skills Board is proposed.
10. The statutory obligation to have a Health Scrutiny function will be achieved through the work of a new Wellbeing and Health Scrutiny Board.
11. The remit of the current Environment & Transport Select Committee will be expanded to include Economic Prosperity and will be known as the Economic Prosperity, Environment and Highways Board.
12. The majority of topics that are currently covered by the Communities Select Committee including the Fire and Rescue Service and Community Safety will be within the remit of the Resident Experience Board. The Board will take a lead role in engaging the public and understanding how residents find the Council's services.
13. A revised version of Article 7, setting out the revised terms of reference for the Council Overview Board and the remits of the Scrutiny Boards, is set out in the attached Annexe.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Council approves the following recommendations with immediate effect:

- (a) the merger of the Adult Social Care and Children Social Care remits to form a Social Care Services Board and ;
the formation of a new Education and Skills Board;
- (b) that the Council's select committees will be known as:
 - Council Overview Board
 - Social Care Services Board
 - Wellbeing Board (Health Scrutiny)
 - Education and Skills Board
 - Economic Prosperity, Environment and Highways Board
 - Resident Experience Board
- (d) the revised Article 7 of the Constitution, as set out in Annex 1 and the detailed remits of the Boards in Annex 1a.

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Annexes:

Annex 1 – Revised Article 7

Annex 1a – Detailed Board remits

Annex 2 – Scrutiny Board Structure

BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

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