



OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEES' REPORT TO COUNCIL

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

For Members to note the headline activity of the Council's overview and scrutiny function in the period January to March 2022 asking questions of Scrutiny Chairs as necessary.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the ongoing process to raise standards in the Council's overview and scrutiny function and to raise the profile of the work of Select Committees more generally, Chairs agreed to regularly report activity to Council.

SUMMARY OF SELECT COMMITTEE ACTIVITY JANUARY – MARCH 2022:

Adults & Health Select Committee:

Members were updated on the *Adult Social Care Transformation Programme* and also reviewed the *Joint Health and Social Care Dementia Strategy* in January at an informal meeting. The Select Committee made recommendations on the latter item which were accepted by the Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership.

On March 8, the Select Committee met in public to be updated on *Community Mental Health Transformation*, following a thread of scrutiny in place since the completion of the Mental Health Task Group in 2021. Members reviewed *Adult Social Care Debt* and also called a wide range of witnesses, including patients, to understand work being undertaken to improve access to primary care in Surrey. Finally, the Select Committee has convened a Task Group to investigate health inequalities in the county. The Group is still gathering evidence via witness sessions and aims to report after the summer.

Children, Families, Lifelong Learning & Culture Select Committee:

This Select Committee considered two items at its January informal meeting – *Inclusion, Post-16 Destinations and School Improvement* along with an update on *Children's Services Improvement* and an update on the implementation of

the *No Wrong Door* service which had been subject to scrutiny last year. Since this meeting the Committee has also convened a Task Group to scrutinise *Adult Learning Services* and the wider economic and social impacts in Surrey which is currently in its scoping phase.

Communities, Environment & Highways Select Committee:

At its January informal meeting the Committee reviewed the outcomes of the recent inspection of the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service making two recommendations to the Service on the way forward post-inspection. At this meeting the Committee also considered plans for procurement of *Electric Vehicle Charge-points* and *Policy Changes to Community Recycling Centres*. The latter item has changes for clarity made to the decision put forward to Cabinet as a result of scrutiny with the recommendations to CRC policy accepted but not as yet, implemented.

The Select Committee convened an extraordinary meeting in February to handle pre-decision scrutiny of changes of the *Local/Joint Committee Highways Function*. This led to changes being made to the eventual decision taken by Cabinet with revisions including removal of the Community Network Approach and changes to the Integrated Transport Scheme. The full Cabinet response is available here: [Cabinet response to LCJC highway functions.pdf \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/cabinet-response-to-lcjc-highway-functions.pdf).

Outstanding issues relating to the *Electric Vehicle Charge-points procurement* were resolved at this meeting with the Committee forming a Member Reference Group to support the development of this work.

The Committee has scheduled items on *Your Fund Surrey*, *Waste Disposal procurement* and the *Adoption of Moving Traffic Enforcement Powers* for its March meeting.

Resources & Performance Select Committee:

The Select Committee's work in 2022 has focused on the *Digital Business and Insights Programme* and the *Agile Office Strategy* with recommendations made to the relevant Cabinet Member to ensure improvements are realised and projects closely managed.

Other items scrutinised in January were the *Treasury Management Strategy* which the Committee must receive and a review of the Council's *Commercial Property Investment Portfolio*.

The Committee was briefed informally in February by officers from Children's Services and Land & Property on the Council's plans for its Children's Homes estate. And received further information from Customer Services on how it is developing chat bots and live chat facilities to aid residents with queries.

The Committee will receive another informal briefing on the *Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan refresh*, as part of its ongoing overview work on that topic.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Council review the work summarised in this report providing feedback to Scrutiny Chairs as appropriate.
2. That the Select Committees report to Council three times a year.

Lead/Contact Officers:

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Sources/background papers:

Select Committee agenda and minutes. Available here: [Committee structure - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](#)

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