



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 March 2023 to September 2023 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 ACTIVITY:

At the May Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Council several appointments were made that affected the memberships of the Select Committees.

Specifically, the Chairing personnel of all four Select Committees were changed. From May the leadership of the Select Committees would be:

Adults and Health Select Committee: Trefor Hogg (Chair), Angela Goodwin (Vice-Chair) and Riasat Khan (Vice-Chair).

Children, Families, Lifelong Learning & Culture Select Committee: Fiona Davidson (Chair), Chris Townsend (Vice-Chair) and Jeremy Webster (Vice-Chair).

Communities, Environment & Highways Select Committee: Jonathan Hulley (Chair), Steve Bax (Vice-Chair) and Lance Spencer (Vice-Chair).

Resources & Performance Select Committee: Bob Hughes (Chair), Steven McCormick (Vice-Chair) and Lesley Steeds (Vice-Chair).

As a result of these changes and the start of a new municipal year all of the Select Committees dedicated time to planning new annual **forward work**

programmes following the AGM. As part of this planning several sessions were held with Committees to consult Cabinet Members, Executive Directors and other stakeholders on the key issues within Select Committee remits to help develop their forward plans which have subsequently been agreed and published.

All of the Select Committee's received briefings from Finance, Executive Directors and Cabinet Members on the **budget setting** process and key issues for the 2024/25 Revenue and Capital Budget. As part of this process each Select Committee convened a sub-group to conduct budget 'deep dives' into key areas of their remits with a view to report their findings in late October at the next round of budget briefings and ultimately feed into the draft budget set by Cabinet.

Outside the formal scrutiny structure, Hazel Watson and Catherine Powell assumed leadership roles as Chairs of the Select Committee Chair and Vice-Chairs' Group and the Budget Task Group respectively. Both groups have met twice in this time period.

Adults and Health Select Committee

The Committee met twice in public:

13 April 2023 to consider the following items: *Access to GPs, Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care System (ICS) – Patient Experience, Cancer and Elective Care Backlogs in both ICSs* and an update on *Community Mental Health Transformation for Adults & Older Adults*.

15 June 2023 to consider the following items: the *Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Strategy, Mental Health Improvement Plan Update* and the report of the Committee's *Health Inequalities Task & Finish Group* which was endorsed by the Committee.

The Committee Chair and Vice-Chairs have conducted a number of meetings with NHS England commissioning leads and stakeholders such as parents on the plans for **reconfiguration of paediatric cancer services** in the region prior to a formal public consultation.

Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee

The Committee met twice in public:

12 June 2023 to consider the following items: *Children with Disabilities - Short Breaks, Report of the Adult Learning Task & Finish Group, Home to School Transport Assistance Update, Additional Needs and Disabilities Monitoring*, and the *Children's Homes – Ofsted Reports and Performance Overview* items.

20 July 2023 to consider the following items: *Education, Health and Care Plans Timeliness, Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report, and the Children's Homes – Ofsted Reports and Performance Overview* items.

The Committee has held initial scoping meetings to define a task & finish group to scrutinise the support for, and experience of families accessing SEND services.

The Committee made recommendations to Cabinet in March, April and July 2023.

In March, the Committee made a [recommendation](#) on the Council's *Strategy for Accommodation, Housing & Homes* accepted by the Cabinet Member.

In April, the Committee made six [recommendations](#) that were considered by the Cabinet.

The Adult Learning & Skills Task & Finish Group reported its findings and recommendations to Cabinet in July. The detailed response to those 20 recommendations is available [here](#). The Committee will review the implementation of its recommendations in April 2024.

Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee

The Committee met once in public in this period:

5 July 2023 to consider the following items: *Green Finance Strategy* and an update on the performance of the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service.

The Committee made [recommendations](#) to Cabinet in March on *Delivering in Partnership: Towns – The Next Phase* and endorsed the approach taken in the programme. The Committee also submitted [recommendations](#) on the *Strategy for Accommodation, Housing and Homes* with a focus on the creation of KPIs for the strategy,

The Committee continues to run its Greener Futures Member Reference Group which met with Environment, Transport & Infrastructure officers twice in this period.

Resources and Performance Select Committee

The Committee met twice in public in this period:

24 April 2023 to consider the following items: *Digital Inclusion, IT & Digital Update, and Procurement Modernisation*.

22 June 2023 to consider the following items: *People and Change Workforce Update* and an *Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Update*.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Council review the work summarised in this report providing feedback to Scrutiny Chairs as appropriate.

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Sources/background papers:

Select Committee Agenda and Minutes:

[Committee structure - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](http://surreycc.gov.uk)
