



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 October 2023 to February 2024 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 three times a year.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY:

In the period October 2023 to February 2024 the principal output of the Council's overview and scrutiny function was its budget scrutiny [report](#) to Cabinet in December 2023. This was supplemented by further [recommendations](#) from the Budget Task Group that included the four Select Committee Chairs among its membership.

Adults and Health Select Committee

The Committee met twice in public during this period:

4 October 2023 to consider the following items: *Surrey Heartlands: Managing Urgent and Emergency Care Surge 2023/24*, *South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust: Winter Preparedness*, *NHS Frimley: Accident & Emergency Waiting Times & Pressures*.

7 December 2023: *Scrutiny of 2024/25 Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy To 2028/29*, *Adult Safeguarding Update*, and *A New Hospital to Replace Frimley Park Hospital*.

As a result of the plans to replace the existing Frimley Park Hospital the Council has had to create a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review plans with neighbouring Local Authorities also affected by the project,

Hampshire County Council and Bracknell Forest Council. The terms of reference and membership of this new Committee are elsewhere in this agenda (Item 10).

Children, Families, Lifelong Learning & Culture

The Committee met three times in this period:

2 October 2023 to consider the following items: *Education, Health and Care Plan Timeliness Recovery Plan, Commissioning Within Children, Families and Lifelong Learning, Children's Homes - Ofsted Reports Published Since The Last Meeting of the Select Committee, and Performance Overview.*

6 December 2023: *Home to School Travel Update, Scrutiny of 2024/25 Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy To 2028/29, Children's Homes - Ofsted Reports Published Since the Last Meeting of the Select Committee, and Performance Overview.*

15 February 2024: *Alternative Provision, Foster Carer Sufficiency, Children's Homes - Ofsted Reports Published Since the Last Meeting of the Select Committee, and Performance Overview.*

In addition to this work the Committee has set up a Task & Finish Group chaired by Jeremy Webster focusing on the parent/carer experience of services for children and young people with Additional Needs and Disabilities. The Group has met a number of times and created a *Surrey Says* page to gather evidence for its review.

Communities, Environment & Highways Select Committee

The Committee met three times during this period:

5 October 2023 to consider: *Climate Change Delivery Plan Annual Update Surrey and the Surrey Transport Plan (Ltp4) Delivery Plan.*

4 December 2023: *Scrutiny of 2024/25 Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy To 2028/29, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Performance Report & HMICFRS Inspection, New Draft Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy And 20 Mph Speed Limit Policy, Referral from Council - Will Forster Motion on Vision Zero, and Partnerships Prosperity & Growth Update.*

Recommendations were made to Cabinet on the first three items listed at the December 2023 meeting, the majority of which were accepted. Reported [here](#).

7 February 2024: *Environment, Transport and Infrastructure (ETI) Performance Report, Advertising and Sponsorship Policy Motion, and the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.*

In addition to this work the Committee has started work on a special series of sessions with utility providers. The first session focused on water providers. The outcome of this meeting will be reported to Cabinet on 26 March 2024.

Resources & Performance Select Committee

The Committee will have met in public three times in this period:

18 October 2023 to consider: *Digital Business & Insights (DB&I) – Status Report and Lessons Learnt Approach, Strategic Investment Board Annual Report - Financial Year 2022/23 & Property Portfolio (Part 2 Report)*

8 December 2023: *Scrutiny of 2024/25 Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2028/29 and Performance Monitoring Session Notes 28 September 2023.*

12 March 2024: *Removal of Payroll Service from Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) And Academies, Equality, Diversity And Inclusion Update and Performance Monitoring Session Notes.*

In addition to this work the Committee has set up a Task & Finish Group chaired by Steven McCormick to review the implementation of the MySurrey software and the lessons learned from this experience. The Group has been interviewing witnesses since February.

<u>RECOMMENDATIONS:</u>

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 and Cabinet Agenda and Minutes:
[Committee structure - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

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