

Council
25 November 2021

Report of the Chief Executive

CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE – REVISED ACTION PLAN

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present a revised Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan for consideration and approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That the revised Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan be approved.

WARDS AFFECTED

All wards

STRATEGIC LINK

The Corporate Plan sets out the District Council's priorities and areas for improvement and identifies targets to be achieved. Service Plans, policies and strategies supplement the Corporate Plan. The Corporate Peer Challenge has informed the formulation of the Council's Corporate Plan (2020-2024).

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The final feedback report following the Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge undertaken 22nd – 24th October 2019, was received and circulated to all Members on 21st January 2020.
- 1.2 Following discussions at the Leaders Advisory Group in February and May 2020, at the meeting of Council held on 2nd July 2020, Members approved an Action Plan (Appendix 1) which proposed a series of actions in response to the key recommendations of the Peer Challenge report. Regrettably during the last 18 months, implementation of the Action Plan has been adversely impacted by the need to redirect our strategic and corporate resources to respond to the significant challenges arising from dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. However, as we are gradually recovering from the hiatus of the pandemic, there is a need to revisit the Action Plan and re-prioritise and align our strategic resources to the implementation of the remaining review recommendations.
- 1.3 A progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan is attached at Appendix 2. Where actions from July 2020 have been implemented or are no longer considered to be relevant, these have been deleted from the updated Action Plan presented for member consideration at Appendix 3. The revised Action Plan seeks to respond positively to the challenges identified and identifies a series of specific, measurable, achievable and time-bound (SMART) actions over the coming months to deliver full implementation and sustained corporate improvement.

2. RISK ASSESSMENT

2.1 Legal

There is no legal obligation for the Council to undertake a Peer Review, however, a Peer Review is a useful tool to ensure that the Council is complying with all its legal duties in the most efficient manner.

2.2 Financial

There are no direct costs of undertaking a Peer Review, other than staff time, which has been met from existing budgets. Some of the items in the Action Plan have financial implications but, where these cannot be contained within existing budgets, further reports will be presented to Members for approval of additional spending. The financial risk is assessed as low.

The review of financial planning and viability, which formed part of the peer challenge, has provided a useful assessment of the Council's arrangements for financial management and financial sustainability.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equalities, environmental, climate change, health, human rights, personnel and property.

No detailed climate change impact assessment is required on the report outputs.

4. CONTACT INFORMATION

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5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Position Statement (September 2019)
Corporate Peer Challenge Feedback Report (January 2020)

6. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan (July 2020)
Appendix 2: Corporate Peer Challenge Progress Update (October 2021)
Appendix 3: Corporate Peer Challenge Revised Action Plan (October 2021)