

Corporate Peer Challenge: Action Plan

Theme	Recommendation	Proposed Action	Update	Accountable Officer	Timescale
Financial planning and management	1. Ensure there is capacity within the Finance Team to bring additional rigour to internal financial management, systems and reporting	Re-structure of the Finance Team		James Pierce	Complete
		Recruit finance trainee (CIPFA)	CIPFA recommend recruitment cycle July 2023	James Pierce	July 2023
Financial planning and management	2. Continue to strengthen the approach to budget setting	Establish Council Budget Committee		James Pierce	Complete
		Project implementation of new Civica financial system.	Project on target	James Pierce	March 2023
Financial planning and management	3. Finance Reporting – there are opportunities to strengthen the current approach as follows: I. Review the approach	Review finance reporting process		James Pierce	Complete
		Establish quarterly reporting		James Pierce	Complete

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	<p>to the way in which the capital programme is reported. Consideration should be given to including those schemes funded through internal borrowing to help strengthen comprehensive oversight of all capital schemes.</p> <p>II. The council should consider including a forward forecast of reserve projections as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as a useful indicator of future resilience.</p> <p>III. The current approach to budget monitoring is limited to mid-year reporting to Cabinet rather than quarterly. The peer team were pleased that the council intends to move to a system of quarterly</p>	<p>Review reporting in line with recommendation</p> <p>Implement through MTFS reporting framework</p> <p>Establish quarterly Revenue and Capital reporting</p>		<p>James Pierce</p> <p>James Pierce</p> <p>James Pierce</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>
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	reporting during the next financial year which should help bring additional rigour, scrutiny and transparency to the council's finances and decision making.				
Financial planning and management	4. Ensure proposed plans to invest in two new Wellbeing and Leisure Hubs are robust, constructively challenged and scrutinised	<p>Cross party Council Committee established</p> <p>All meetings of the Leisure Project Group to be attended by Finance Business Partner</p> <p>Robust analysis by Corporate Finance Manager and Head of Finance</p> <p>Key decisions to be made by Council with full financial appraisal</p>	Next key decision for Council is expected July 2023	<p>Jacky Denning</p> <p>James Pierce</p> <p>James Pierce</p> <p>Simon Kirby</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>In progress</p> <p>July 2023</p>
Organisational & Place Leadership	5. Develop a more joined up, whole system approach to the	Implement revised governance arrangements for		Chris Twomey	Complete

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	transformation programme	the transformation programme (Our Future) Demonstrate clear alignment of all projects/action plans to the Corporate plan	Managed through Pentana	Lisa Windle	Complete
Organisational & Place Leadership	6. Tawd Valley Developments Continue to build a consensus on the way forward following the independent review undertaken by Local Partnerships	Establish Cross Party Council Committee Agree revised aims for Tawd Valley Developments Viable business plan to be developed to reflect new aims	Approved at Council July 22 BP to be presented to Council February 2023	Kay Lovelady Jacqui Sinnott-Lacey James Pierce	Complete Complete February 2023
Governance & Culture	7. Continue the on-going work to bring greater rigour to key governance processes including procurement	Continue to implement the <i>Delivering good governance in local government</i> action plan Review risk management toolkit Review delivery model	Annual review undertaken & action plan produced Review complete &	Chris Twomey Rebecca Spicer	In progress Complete

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		for procurement	proposal contained within 2023/4 budget setting	Jacqui Pendleton	February 2023
		Review procurement policies and procedures	Initial timescale revised from April 23	Jacqui Pendleton	July 2023
Organisational & Place Leadership	8. Strengthen the connection between strategic, borough wide partnership working and local partnership working	Evaluate strategic and local decision making Partnerships	Formation of new place based model.	Simon Kirby	March 2023
		Develop a plan for more integrated partnership working	Place priorities 23-28 in draft. Developing working arrangements for each locality	Simon Kirby	March 2023
Organisational & Place Leadership	9. Neighbourhood Working -build clarity and understanding on what the future of neighbourhood working means for the Borough	Establish clarity on neighbourhood model within teams across the Council and partners	Recruited community connectors. Further developing Councils model	Simon Kirby	March 2023
		Create new relationships and influence with ICP	Regular meetings taking place. New structure anticipated to be finalised by April 2023	Simon Kirby	June 2023
Organisational & Place Leadership	10. Resident Survey	Undertake citizen survey		Lisa Windle	Complete
		Evaluate results of	Presented to November	Lisa Windle	Complete

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		citizen survey	2022 Cabinet		
Health & Wellbeing	11. Develop the Borough's refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Develop refreshed Health & Wellbeing Strategy	Revised approach to reflect new place-based priorities & LCC's H&W Strategy. Action plan to be developed. Timescale revised from May to June 2023	Kathryn Moffitt	June 2023
Health & Wellbeing	12. Establish a 'wider determinants/health inequalities' cross-departmental officer group	Establish a 'wider determinants/health inequalities' cross-departmental officer group	Group members identified & agreed with portfolio holder Revised from January to March 2023	Kathryn Moffitt	March 2023