



**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE: 23rd February 2023**

CABINET: 7th March 2023

Report of: Director of Transformation, Housing and Resources

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Adam Yates / Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration

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SUBJECT: CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE UPDATE

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present to councillors an update following the Corporate Peer Challenge Report

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

2.1 That the Committee consider progress against the peer review action plan and that the agreed comments of Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee be passed to Cabinet for consideration.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

3.2 That the agreed comments of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee be presented to Cabinet for consideration.

3.3 That progress against the action plan be noted.

3.4 That Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitor the delivery of the action plan.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As part of its `sector led improvement` support to local government the Local Government Association (LGA) offers the delivery of a Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC).
- 4.2 The Peer challenge is designed to help councils improve, bringing political and managerial leadership, through the use of member and officer peers to provide robust, strategic and credible challenge and support.

5.0 CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE

- 5.1 Following a detailed desktop review, the peer review team were on site 15th to 17th March 2022. The team provided their initial findings in the form of a presentation to councillors, staff and representatives of partner organisations who had taken part in the review.
- 5.2 A detailed report setting out their findings and key recommendations was presented to Cabinet on 13th September 2022. A management response action plan accompanied the report addressing the key recommendations and was published on the Councils website.
- 5.3 The management response identified 30 required actions to address the 12 key recommendations. These are highlighted in the updated action plan (Appendix A). Good progress has been made to date with 16 actions completed, 11 on track and 3 are on track to revised timescales. The revised timescales are due in one instance to new priorities emerging within the service area and in two instances due to revised timescales of partner organisations relevant to the completion of the actions.
- 5.3 The CPC process requires an evaluation session with the Peer Review team within six-month to check on progress against the key recommendations, this is taking place on 28th February 2023.

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 At this time there are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and in particular no significant impact on crime and disorder.

7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Council is currently a subscriber to the LGA.
- 7.2 It is expected that the resource implications will be met using existing resources.

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 The continued review of the risk management framework is essential while no changes have been made to the risk registers as a result of this report.

Monitoring and managing performance and improvement plans help the authority to ensure corporate priorities are achieved.

9.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The report outlined feedback on the Borough Council's place-based role in addressing health inequalities and improved health and wellbeing outcomes for local communities.
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Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

The contents of the report does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Appendices

Appendix A Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan