

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>FULL COUNCIL</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 8</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020</b>	<b>CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>FRANK MCARDLE</b> <a href="mailto:frank.mcardle@southderbyshire.gov.uk">frank.mcardle@southderbyshire.gov.uk</a> <b>01283 595702</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - PEER REVIEW REPORT</b>	
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE:</b>

## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That the Council welcomes and endorses the Key Recommendations set out in the Corporate Peer Challenge report set out at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.2 That Council resolves to form a Member/Officer working group to action the Key Recommendations set out in the report.
- 1.3 That Council be updated with ongoing progress against the Key Recommendations.

## **2.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 2.1 The Council commissioned a Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge in October 2019.
- 2.2 Corporate Peer Challenges are fully funded and have been designed to identify strengths and any areas for improvement. The Peer Challenge programme is sector-led (delivered by local government colleagues and Members from other local authorities).
- 2.3 It is anticipated that the Council will commission a future Peer Challenge within the next 5 years.

## **3.0 Executive Summary**

- 3.1 The peer team spent 3 days onsite at the Civic Offices, during which they spoke to more than 80 people and gathered information and views from more than 34 meetings, as well as visiting key sites in the area. The team was as follows;

- **Yvonne Rees**, Chief Executive of Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council
- **Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen**, Leader of Breckland Council
- **Julie Whittaker**, Pendle Borough Council, Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager
- **Jonathan Lund**, Gloucester City Council, Corporate Director, Transformation
- **Clair Parker**, Regional Policy Lead, Yorkshire and Humber

- **Frances Marshall**, Peer Challenge Manager, Local Government Association

3.2 The peer team considered the following five questions which form the core components looked at by all Corporate Peer Challenges.

- **(1) Understanding of the local place and priority setting:** Does the Council understand its local context and place and use that to inform a clear vision and set of priorities?
- **(2) Leadership of Place:** Does the Council provide effective leadership of place through its elected members, officers and constructive relationships and partnerships with external stakeholders?
- **(3) Organisational leadership and governance:** Is there effective political and managerial leadership supported by good governance and decision-making arrangements that respond to key challenges and enable change and transformation to be implemented?
- **(4) Financial planning and viability:** Does the Council have a financial plan in place to ensure long term viability and is there evidence that it is being implemented successfully?
- **(5) Capacity to deliver:** Is organisational capacity aligned with priorities and does the Council influence, enable and leverage external capacity to focus on agreed outcomes?

3.3 In addition to these questions, the Council asked the peer team to provide feedback on growth and customer services.

3.4 During the days on site the peer team met with;

- Elected Members
- The Leadership Team and Officers
- Partner Organisations
- Members of the public.

3.5 Overall, 284 hours of interviews and assessments have been brought together into the report setting out the team's findings and recommendations.

#### **4.0 Detail**

4.1 The Corporate Peer Challenge report states the Council has much to be proud of and is serving its community well with highly regarded services, strong partnership working, and has a regionally renowned track record of driving growth for district wide prosperity.

4.2 There are a range of observations and suggestions within the Feedback Report and these are set out in the Key Recommendations set out at Appendix 1.

4.3 It is proposed that an action plan be devised to address the Key Recommendations set out in the Feedback Report, through a joint working group of Members and Officers. Updates on progression of the plan will be provided to a future meeting of the Council.

#### **5.0 Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **6.0 Corporate Implications**

### **Employment Implications**

6.1 None.

### **Legal Implications**

6.2 There are no direct legal implications to this report but any Constitutional changes that are proposed in the action plan will be brought back to Members for approval.

### **Corporate Plan Implications**

6.3 The Corporate Peer Challenge report makes several references to the Council's Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024. It is acknowledged the promotion of the Plan will be central to achieving the Council's aspirations.

### **Risk Impact**

6.4 None.

## **7.0 Community Impact**

### **Consultation**

7.1 Consultation with Partners and Stakeholders.

### **Equality and Diversity Impact**

7.2 None.

### **Social Value Impact**

7.3 None.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

7.4 None.

## **8.0 Conclusions**

8.1 The Peer Review Team recognised that the Council is in a strong position to achieve its ambitions and they went on to say that now is the time to seize the moment.

## **9.0 Background Papers**

9.1 Corporate Peer Challenge Feedback Report.