

**Public**  
**Key Decision – No**

## **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Title:** Corporate Peer Challenge Actions Update

**Meeting/Date:** Performance & Growth – 2 April 2025

**Executive Portfolio:** Councillor Sarah Conboy, Executive Leader

**Report by:** Head of Policy, Performance and Emergency Planning

**Ward(s) affected:** All

---

### **Executive Summary:**

This report presents a presentation (Appendix 1) to update the Scrutiny Panel on the progress against the actions identified from the Corporate Peer Challenge undertaken May 15th to May 17th, 2024. The Corporate Peer Challenge report was received by the Council on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024. This is the second update following an update to Performance and Growth on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 and Council 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) is a key part of the improvement and assurance framework for local government. The Challenge assists councils to meet part of their Best Value duty, with the UK Government expecting all local authorities to have a CPC at least every five years.

Since receiving the Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) report, we have developed an action plan to address the eight formal and additional informal recommendations.

Appropriate officers and a lead Member have been identified to ensure responsibility for delivery and governance. The action plan contains 27 actions linked to the eight recommendations and 7 actions linked to additional comments.

Continued progress since December includes 3 actions linked to formal recommendations moving from Amber to Green, and 1 action from additional recommendations moving from Amber to Green.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance & Growth) (Environment, Customers & Partnerships) is invited to comment on the contents of the report and make any comments to Cabinet.

## 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents a presentation (Appendix 1) to update the Scrutiny Panel on the progress against the actions identified from the Corporate Peer Challenge undertaken May 15th to May 17th, 2024.

## 2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY?

- 2.1 Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) is a key part of the improvement and assurance framework for local government. The Challenge assists councils to meet part of their Best Value duty, with the UK Government expecting all local authorities to have a CPC at least every five years.
- 2.2 Council on 16<sup>th</sup> October requested an appropriate mechanism for reporting back to Council Members on progress with the actions identified through the Corporate Peer Challenge.

## 3. SUMMARY

### 3.1 Corporate Peer Challenge

- 3.1.1 The Peer Challenge provides an opportunity for external peers from other Local Authorities to assess how effectively we deliver our services and measure our ability to deliver on our plans and vision for the future. This will help inform and shape our improvement journey and share learning.

- 3.1.2 The Corporate Peer Challenge will focus on five core components that underpin good performance that all LGA Corporate Peer Challenges cover. They are:

- **Local priorities and outcomes:** Are the council's priorities clear and informed by the local context? Is the council delivering effectively on its priorities and achieving improved outcomes for all its communities?
- **Organisational and place leadership:** Does the council provide effective local leadership? Are there good relationships with partner organisations and local communities?
- **Governance and culture:** Are there clear and robust governance arrangements? Is there a culture of respect, challenge and scrutiny?
- **Financial planning and management:** Does the council have a clear understanding of its current financial position? Does the council have a strategy and a clear plan to address its financial challenges?
- **Capacity for improvement:** Is the organisation able to support delivery of local priorities?

## 3.2 Update

3.2.1 The summary progress position at the end of February 2025 as set out in Appendix 1 with examples of how the actions across the 8 recommendations is:

27 Actions linked to 8 Formal Recommendations

23 actions	Green
4 actions	Yellow
0 actions	Red

7 Actions linked to Additional Recommendations

3 actions	Green
4 actions	Yellow
0 actions	Red

3.2.2 The detailed progress against each action is shown in Appendix 2.

## 4. RISKS

4.1 Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) is a key part of the improvement and assurance framework for local government. The Challenge assists councils to meet part of their Best Value duty, with the UK Government expecting all local authorities to have a CPC at least every five years.

4.2 The Peer Challenge provides an opportunity for external peers from other Local Authorities to assess how effectively we deliver our services and measure our ability to deliver on our plans and vision for the future. As such the CPC and actions contribute to the governance of the Council and control of risk.

## 5. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

5.2 The Corporate Plan provides a 'golden thread' throughout the organisation, linking activity at strategic levels from Huntingdonshire Futures through to activity in service plans, filtering through to objectives set for teams.

5.3 Priority 3 – Doing our Core Work Well is focused on:



The Corporate Plan has a specific action in 2024/25:

**58. Deliver an independent Corporate Peer Challenge of the Council that will assess, challenge and improve what we do**

**6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no additional resource requirements arising from the Corporate Peer challenge or the Action Plan derived from the recommendations.

**7. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

7.1 This report presents Council members with an update on the progress with Actions arising from the Corporate Peer Challenge 2024.

**8. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

Appendix 1 – Corporate Peer Challenge Actions Update  
Appendix 2 – Corporate Peer Challenge Detailed Actions

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Council 16<sup>th</sup> October – [Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge](#)

[Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge, item 40.](#)  PDF  
109 KB

[Appendix 1 - Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan, item 40.](#)  PDF 89 KB

**CONTACT OFFICER**

Name/Job Title: Neil Sloper  
Head of Policy, Performance and Emergency Planning

Email: [neil.sloper@huntigdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:neil.sloper@huntigdonshire.gov.uk)