

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Corporate Peer Challenge

Meeting/Date: Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Customers) –
2 November 2016,
Cabinet – 17 November 2016

Executive Portfolio: Executive Leader and Executive Member for Strategic Partnerships and Shared Services

Report by: Managing Director

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

This report accompanies an Action Plan that has been devised based on the 12 recommendations of the Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Challenge Team.

The Action Plan makes clear links between the recommendations of the LGA Peer Challenge Team, the mechanism by which these recommendations are to be delivered, the responsible Officer(s), links to existing policies, the relevant Executive Councillor and the current status of the action.

The Action Plan will be monitored at officer level by the Project Management Governance Board (PMGB) who will request monthly updates as to whether each action remains on track. It will also be included within the Integrated Performance Report as Appendix F for as long as there are open actions, which is considered by this Panel.

Recommendation:

That the Cabinet:

- i) approve the proposed Action Plan; and
- ii) that future monitoring of the Action Plan be the responsibility of the PMGB with scrutiny from Members as part of the Integrated Performance Report.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Action Plan that has been devised based on the 12 recommendations of the LGA Peer Challenge Team.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

- 2.1 To ensure Members endorse the approach proposed by the Executive Leader, Executive Member for Strategic Partnerships and Shared Services and Managing Director
- 2.2 The Action Plan attached at Appendix 1 is the proposed approach to addressing the recommendations made by the LGA following the Peer Challenge.

3. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 Once endorsed, the Action Plan will be embedded into the organisation and responsibility for individual actions given to those detailed in the Plan
- 3.2 The PMGB will assume responsibility for monitoring delivery, with quarterly reports on progress going to Members as part of the Integrated Performance Report.

4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Customers) received the report on the Corporate Peer Challenge at their meeting on 2nd November 2016.
- 4.2 Members noted that it would be useful to provide a list of actions, identified by the Corporate Peer Challenge, that the Council are not going to carry out.
- 4.3 The Panel thought it would be helpful if the word 'immediate' was instead given a measurable timescale.
- 4.4 When discussing making assets count, the Panel stated that the benefits should be for the community and not just for the benefit of the Council.
- 4.5 Members were informed that the Executive Leader of the Council and the Executive Councillor for Business, Enterprise and Skills have worked to improve the Council's relationship with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The Panel have welcomed the improved relationship with the LEP.
- 4.6 The Panel were pleased to hear that an additional action would be added in section five, in relation to working with small businesses following concern expressed that small businesses in the District appear to have been side lined.

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

- 5.1 The Action Plan has made clear links to the Corporate Plan activity and list of priority policies for review in 2017/18.

6. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 6.1 The recommendations allow Members the opportunity to endorse the proposals.

6.2 Further, it allows Members to continually monitor delivery of the Action Plan to ensure the LGA's recommendations are delivered.

7. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

6.1 Appendix 1 – Corporate Peer Challenge – Action Plan

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Council – 19 October 2016 – Agenda Item No. 4 – Corporate Peer Challenge](#)
[Council – 19 October 2016 – Corporate Peer Challenge Feedback Report, LGA](#)

CONTACT OFFICER

Jo Lancaster – Managing Director
01480 388001
Joanne.Lancaster@huntingdonshire.gov.uk