

Ward: All

Portfolio: Leader of the Council

Report Author(s): Cllr Harvey Siggs –
Leader of the Council

Meeting Date:
15th May 2017

SUBJECT: Corporate Peer Challenge – Feedback Report

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Report Sign off	Seen by:	Name	Date
	Legal	Donna Nolan	25 th April 2017
	Finance	Paul Deal	25 th April 2017
	Procurement	N/A	
	Chief Executive	Stuart Brown	25 th April 2017
	Portfolio Holder	Cllr Harvey Siggs	25 th April 2017
	Ward Member(s)	N/A	
Summary:	<p>The Report provides the Feedback Report (Appendix A) from the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge conducted during the period from 28th February to 2nd March 2017.</p> <p>Overall, the Report is a very positive one that reflects well on the work of the Council, its' Members and its' staff.</p> <p>In particular this is supported by quotes such as <i>'this is a Council with a culture of innovation and learning'</i>, <i>'the Council's greatest strength is of working through partnerships'</i>, <i>'the Council's workforce is one of its key strengths and a great asset'</i> and <i>'we were equally impressed by the overall political environment at the Council'</i></p> <p>An update on the proposed responses to the limited Recommendations proposed within the Report will be provided at the Council meeting.</p>		
Recommendation:	Council is asked to endorse the Report and to endorse the proposed actions arising from the Report Recommendations.		
Legal Implications:	N/A		
Financial Implications:	None. The cost of the Peer Challenge is covered within the Council's Annual Subscription to the Local Government Association		
Equalities Implications:	N/A		
Risk Assessment:	N/A		

1.0 BACKGROUND

Members will be aware that following discussions between Cabinet and the Senior Leadership Team earlier this year, the Council welcomed a Peer Team, coordinated by the Local Government Association, into the offices to conduct a Corporate Peer Challenge between 28th February and 2nd March 2017.

Peer Challenges are a tool developed by the LGA, which are available to all Councils, as an approach to sector led improvement within local government. In making the decision to invite a Peer Challenge it was felt that it would provide us with a valuable opportunity to engage with a team of Officer and Member Peers from across the sector to review the progress that we have made over recent years and to consider our plans for the future, and in particular the challenge of securing financial sustainability by 2020.

The Peer Challenge took place between 28th February and 2nd March 2017, and during this period the Team considered 5 areas that are common to all Challenges, those being:

- Understanding of the local place and priority setting
- Leadership of place
- Financial planning
- Organisational leadership and governance
- Capacity to deliver

In addition to these 'common' areas of challenge, we have also specifically requested that the Team consider the following important areas:

- Our work on the economic growth and productivity agenda, and
- Our strategic positioning (ie within Somerset, regionally and nationally)
- Our work with Somerset CC and the potential for further collaboration

2.0 FEEDBACK REPORT

The Corporate Peer Challenge Feedback Report is attached at **Appendix A**.

An additional Update to Council will be provided at the meeting on 15th May 2017, which will propose a number of actions to address the recommendations within the Report.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

Council is asked to endorse the Report and to endorse the proposed actions arising from the Recommendations within the Report.

Contact:

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