



REPORT of CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**to
COUNCIL
8 FEBRUARY 2018**

CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Council on conclusions and actions arising from the Corporate Peer Challenge undertaken last year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- (i) review and comment on the content of the report and the summary of the Peer Team's conclusions and recommendations set out at **APPENDIX 1**;
- (ii) review and comment on the actions already underway and agree the additional proposed actions to address the recommendations as set out at **APPENDIX 1**.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

3.1 Background

3.1.1 Peer Challenge is one of the key tools to support sector-led improvement. It is tailored to meet individual councils' needs, and designed to complement and add value to a council's own performance and improvement focus. The Peer Team provide feedback as critical friends, not as assessors, consultants or inspectors.

3.1.2 Following on from the original Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge (October 2013). In late 2016, the LGA carried out a follow up visit to help review and assess progress and developments in response to the previous feedback and recommendations. It was also in response to a prevailing matter at the authority. This review was not to only look at the areas covered in a full Peer Challenge, but to specifically look at the following areas:

- Governance;
- Economic Development;
- Transformation;
- Capacity.

- 3.1.3 The Peer Challenge took place over 13 to 15 February 2017. Councillor Glen Sanderson from the original peer team participated in the follow up visit along with:
- Alan Goodrum – LGA Associate.
 - Martin Hammond –Executive Director, Kettering Borough Council.
 - Ami Beeton, LGA Programme Manager, was the Peer Challenge Manager for the follow up visit.
- 3.1.4 The Peer Team met with a range of officers and Members and contacted a number of external partners.
- 3.1.5 Following the peer review meetings, the LGA team met the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive, subsequently briefing program Committee Chairmen and Directors. In early 2017 a draft report was received, but this contained certain inconsistencies from the previous briefings.
- 3.1.6 In 2017 meetings were held with the LGA to clarify the inconsistencies, which were addressed satisfactorily.
- 3.1.7 A summary of the Peer Team’s conclusions and recommendations have been set out at **APPENDIX 1** along with details of actions already underway to address some of the points and proposed future actions.

4. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

- 4.1 The Peer Challenge was focussed on a number of cross cutting subjects, so is relevant to the delivery of all corporate goals.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** - None specific.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None specific.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None specific.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial and human)** – The Peer Challenge was delivered a part of the LGA offer funded from their annual subscription. Both Member and officer time was devoted to delivery of the review.
- (v) **Impact on the Environment** – None specific.

Background Papers: None.

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