

This Report will be made public on 24 April 2018

Report Number **C/17/101**

To: Cabinet
Date: 02 May 2018
Status: Non-Key Decision
Head of service: Susan Priest,
Cabinet Member: Councillor David Monk, Leader of the Council

SUBJECT: LGA CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE – DRAFT CORPORATE POSITION STATEMENT

SUMMARY: This report outlines the corporate position statement prepared by the Council that set outs the council's current position, telling the story of where we are and provides context in preparation for the Peer Team's visit due in June 2018.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cabinet is asked to agree the recommendations set out below because: Cabinet previously agreed to undertake the LGA's free tool of the Corporate Peer Challenge as an opportunity to take stock of where we are and seek guidance, shared learning and challenge from the selected Peer Challenge Team.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note report C/17/101.
2. To consider and approve the draft Corporate Position Statement.
3. To note that final changes will be approved by the leader prior to sharing with the LGA Peer Challenge Team in preparation for their visit to the district.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Cabinet agreed in December 2017 to ask the LGA to undertake a Corporate Peer Challenge review. This is a free tool offered by the LGA that provides robust and effective improvement managed and delivered by the sector, for the sector.
- 1.2 The Challenge consists of a 3 day visit by a selected and agreed Peer Challenge Team, made up of members and officers from other councils. To assist them with the visit, as part of the preparation, the Council has to produce a Corporate Position Statement.

The purpose of the Position Statement

- 1.4 The Position Statement is essential a self-assessment and the key background document for the peer team prepared by the Council. It seeks to provide a brief steer to the peer team in terms of what we would like them to focus on. It usefully summarises the key drivers, issues, challenges, context and current thinking in relation to the areas of focus. The position statement is structured around the five core components (priority setting, financial planning, leadership and governance and capacity (see section 2) as well as the focus area agreed with the LGA, in our case, on our approach to commercialisation.
- 1.5 The Position Statement is our opportunity to undertake an honest self-assessment and provide the peer team with a summary of the most pertinent issues and challenges. The peer challenge process works best if Peers are clear at the outset of the areas where the Council would most welcome and benefit from their observations. It allows us to make an active contribution to the continual demonstration of improvement in local government.
- 1.6 The Position Statement sets the context for the visit and, due to a restriction in number of pages, it cannot cover everything. The attached draft document has sufficient references to enable the Peer Team to both question and challenge Members and Officers alike during the visit.

2. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 2.1 The risks have been considered and outlined below:

Perceived risk	Seriousness	Likelihood	Preventative action
Reputational Risk A review could highlight unforeseen areas for	Medium	Low	Depending on the outcome of the peer challenge, there could be elements for

improvement that will need additional resource to manage			improvement that will need to be resourced and managed. The peer challenge is an iterative process and therefore the council will be kept informed of any potential issues throughout the process and given opportunity to challenge or prepare a response.
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3. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

3.1 Legal Officer's Comments (DK)

There are no legal implications arising directly out of this report.

3.2 Finance Officer's Comments (CS)

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

3.3 Diversities and Equalities Implications

There are no diversity or equality implications arising from this report.

4. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting:

Susan Priest
Head of Paid Service