

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

TO:	Audit and Governance Committee		
DATE:	24 January 2023		
TITLE:	Corporate Peer Challenge - Report and Action Plan		
SERVICE:	Policy, Performance and Customer Services	WARDS:	ALL
LEAD OFFICER:	Andrew Withey	TEL:	72414
JOB TITLE:	Data Intelligence and Policy Manager	E-MAIL:	Andrew.Withey@reading.gov.uk

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To inform committee of the outputs of Local Government Association (“LGA”) Corporate Peer Challenge that took place over 13-16 June.
- 1.2 This report includes the detailed report setting out the findings and recommendations prepared by the LGA (“Final Report”) and the Action Plan developed in response.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 - LGA Peer Challenge - Final Report
Appendix 2 - Action Plan

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 **Note the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Final Report.**
- 2.2 **Note the Action Plan as the mechanism for implementing the recommendations included in the Final Report.**

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The Corporate Peer Review was carried out at the Council’s request over 13-16 June 2022 by a team of 6 experienced peers from different councils and organisations.
- 4.2 Onsite interviews and focus group discussions were held with Council members, staff and partners - the team met with nearly 120 stakeholders in total.
- 4.3 Initial feedback of the Peer Team’s findings and recommendations was presented on 16 June 2022 to members and senior officers. The Final Report received from the LGA on 23 September 2022 is attached as Appendix 1.
- 4.4 Based on the recommendations in the draft report, an plan has been developed which sets out the Council’s response and the actions it will take in response to the recommendations and opportunities for improvement included in the Final Report. To make the Action Plan more accessible as a stand-alone document each of the recommendations is prefaced by a short summary of the context based on the full report. The Action Plan is attached as Appendix 2.

4.5 The Council's Corporate Management Team is providing oversight of delivery of the Action Plan and is currently in the process of reviewing the plan.

4.6 As a follow up to the Peer Challenge the LGA also offer a return revisit to the Council for a 'check-in' session, with this providing the opportunity for the Council's senior leadership to update peers on its progress against the related improvement planning and discuss next steps.

5. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 None