

REPORT FROM: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: 25th NOVEMBER 2021

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CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval from Policy & Resources Committee that the Council invites the Local Government Association to undertake a Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) in early 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

That Policy and Resources Committee agrees that the Council invites the Local Government Association to undertake a Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) in early 2022.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) Councils are expected to have a CPC every five years. The Council last had a CPC in 2015.
- (2) A new Chief Executive has recently started with the Council. The CPC will provide an opportunity for the authority to take stock and plan where it needs to make further progress.

ISSUE

By bringing together political and managerial leadership, through the use of member and officer peers, a peer challenge provides robust, strategic and credible challenge and support to councils. Peer challenge also enhances the capacity of the sector and helps to avoid insularity within councils.

It is expected that all councils will receive a CPC at least every five years. It is more than five years since the Council had a CPC.

Each CPC will cover the five core elements detailed below as well any local needs or specific challenges requested by the council:

1. Local priorities and outcomes

2. Organisational and place leadership
3. Governance and culture
4. Financial planning and management; and
5. Capacity for improvement.

There is an expectation that all councils having a corporate peer challenge will commit to publishing the feedback report and its action plan in response.

The arrival of the new Chief Executive and the CPC will provide an opportunity for the authority to take stock and plan where it needs to make further progress.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from this report.

Financial: The CPC process is part of the Membership package provided to the Council by the LGA. A budget of £3,000 will be made available from reserves to pay for travel and hotel expenses for the review team.

Legal: None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management: None arising directly from this report.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from this report.

Sustainability: None arising directly from this report.

Community Safety: None arising directly from this report.

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from this report.

APPENDICES

None

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None