

Meeting: [Cabinet](#)

Date: [11 July 2024](#)

Wards affected: [All](#)

Report Title: [Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge](#)

When does the decision need to be implemented? [As soon as possible](#)

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1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report sets out the feedback from the Local Government Association (LGA) following the Corporate Peer Challenge of Torbay Council which was undertaken in April 2024. The report also details the proposed action plan which will assist the Council to embrace the opportunities and improvements identified by the LGA.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 The proposals in this report help us to deliver our vision of a healthy, happy and prosperous Torbay by ensuring we respond to the LGA's feedback, and the actions proposed enable the Council to continue to improve and strengthen its ability to deliver all of the Community and Corporate Plan themes.
- 2.2 The reasons for the proposal and need for the decision are to make available the LGA's Corporate Peer Challenge Feedback Report and to ensure that an action plan is in place to embrace the recommendations of the LGA.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

1. That the Local Government Association be thanked for undertaking the Corporate Peer Challenge and that the resulting Feedback Report (as set out in Appendix 1) be accepted.
2. That the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan (as set out in Appendix 2) be approved.

3. That the Audit Committee be requested to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan.

Appendices

Appendix 1: LGA Corporate Peer Challenge – Feedback Report

Appendix 2: LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan

Background Documents

[None](#)

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Government Association (LGA) offers all councils a Corporate Peer Challenge once every five years. Our last full challenge took place in 2015 and due to the pandemic, we had a shorter Remote Health Check in 2021.
- 1.2 The Challenge is an effective and well-regarded tool for improvement in local government. At the heart of this is a practitioner perspective who take a 'critical friend' approach to understanding where we are and where we can improve. This isn't an inspection, but it is an in-depth challenge. Importantly it provides an opportunity to reflect on how we are doing and receive the benefit of others experience and perspective.
- 1.3 In April 2024, a team of seven peers visited Torbay and met with a range of officers, councillors and external partners/stakeholders. The LGA Peer Team comprised:
 - Rob Walsh – Chief Executive, North East Lincolnshire Council
 - Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Public Protection, and Deputy Leader of the Council, Wiltshire Council
 - Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of the Council, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
 - Kate Martin, Executive Director, City Futures Portfolio, Sheffield City Council
 - Mary Morrissey, Director of Economy and Infrastructure, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
 - Chris Bowron – Peer Challenge Manager, LGA
 - Rebekah Willson, Programme Manager, Cyber, Digital and Technology Team, LGA (Shadow Peer Member)
- 1.4 At the end of their review, the team provided feedback and made recommendations. The full LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Feedback Report can be found at Appendix 1. A draft Action Plan has also been prepared to respond to the LGA's recommendations, to ensure the Council embraces the learning and feedback from our peers.

2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 Not to accept the LGA Corporate Health Check Feedback Report and resulting action plan – this is not recommended as implementation of the action plan will enable the Council to continue to improve. Alternative or additional actions could be proposed.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 In the main, the action plan will be delivered within existing resources. If additional resources are required the appropriate decision making will be undertaken.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 None

5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 All members of the Council were invited to share their views with the Peer Team when they visited Torbay. The Council's Senior Leadership Team and other senior officers also provided views as well as partners.
- 5.2 The Feedback Report will be published on the Council and LGA websites and updates against the Council's action plan will be published when they are discussed at the Audit Committee.

6. Procurement Implications

- 6.1 None

7. Protecting our naturally inspiring Bay and tackling Climate Change

- 7.1 Not applicable

8. Associated Risks

- 8.1 The main risk associated with this report is the failure to respond to the recommendations of the LGA Peer Team. This may result in the Council not responding adequately to the issues and challenges it faces. The resulting action plan addresses the recommendations by the LGA Peer Team.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

- 9.1 The LGA Corporate Health Check Feedback Report and resulting action plan provides indirect benefits for all its residents through the improvements identified

10. Cumulative Council Impact

- 10.1 Delivery against the Action Plan will be undertaken alongside other programmes of improvement work. All of these programmes aim to deliver the ambition within the Council's Community and Corporate Plan.

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

- 11.1 None