

**Meeting:** [Audit Committee](#)

**Date:** [27 November 2024](#)

**Wards affected:** [All](#)

**Report Title:** [LGA Corporate Peer Challenge – Progress Update](#)

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** [Not applicable](#)

**Cabinet Member Contact Details:** [Councillor David Thomas, Leader of the Council,](#)  
[david.thomas@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:david.thomas@torbay.gov.uk)

**Director Contact Details:** [Anne-Marie Bond, Chief Executive,](#) [anne-marie.bond@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:anne-marie.bond@torbay.gov.uk)

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## 1. Purpose of Report

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- 1.1 This report is to update members on the progress made on implementing the Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan, which was approved by Cabinet in July 2024.
- 1.2 At that meeting, it was agreed that, in order for members to maintain ownership and oversight, the implementation of the action plan should be monitored and reviewed by the Audit Committee.
- 1.3 Whilst this is the first time that the Audit Committee has had the opportunity to view the progress that has been made, Directors have collectively been working on delivering the Action Plan and reviewing progress on a monthly basis.

## 2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

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- 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 deliver actions that continue to improve how the Council operates, thereby strengthening 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 comply with the decision taken by the Cabinet in July 2024 for the Audit Committee to monitor progress.

## 3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

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1. That the progress on the implementation of the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Action, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, be noted.

### Appendices

Appendix 1: LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan

### Background Documents

None

# Supporting Information

## 1. Introduction

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- 1.1 The Local Government Association (LGA) offers all councils a Corporate Peer Challenge once every five years. In April 2024, a team of seven peers visited Torbay and met with a range of officers, councillors and external partners/stakeholders. At the end of their review, the team provided feedback and made recommendations. The Feedback Report was accepted by the Cabinet and an Action Plan agreed which responded to the LGA's recommendations, to ensure the Council embraces the learning and feedback from our peers.
- 1.2 Directors and other officers across the Council have been actively working on implementing the Action Plan with monthly monitoring reports considered by at the Directors' Overview Meeting.
- 1.3 The progress made against each action is detailed in the Action Plan at Appendix 1.

## 2. Options under consideration

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- 2.1 There are no options under consideration as this is an update report.

## 3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

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- 3.1 The Action Plan is being delivered within the Council's existing resources.

## 4. Legal Implications

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- 4.1 None

## 5. Engagement and Consultation

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- 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 has been published on the Council and LGA websites and updates against the Council's action plan are published with the agendas for this Committee.

## 6. Procurement Implications

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- 6.1 None

## 7. Protecting our naturally inspiring Bay and tackling Climate Change

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7.1 Not applicable

## 8. Associated Risks

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8.1 The main risk is non-delivery against the Action Plan which would mean that the Council is not responding the recommendations of the LGA. This risk is mitigated through the monthly monitoring which is taking place collectively by the Council's Directors.

## 9. Equality Impact Assessment

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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

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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

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11.1 None