

Report to: **Executive**

Date: **18 July 2024**

Title: **Corporate Peer Challenge Outline Action Plan**

Portfolio Area: **Cllr Julian Brazil**
Leader South Hams District Council

Wards Affected: **All**

Author: **Andy Bates** Role: **Chief Executive**

Contact: Directors@swdevon.gov.uk

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Executive:

- 1. ENDORSES the outline action plan in response to the Corporate Peer Challenge at Appendix A; and**
- 2. NOTES the intention to further develop the Action Plan for agreement at the September 2024 Executive meeting.**

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 All councils are expected to undergo a corporate peer challenge every 5 years.
- 1.2 The Local Government Association ("LGA") undertook the review of both South Hams District Council and our shared services partner, West Devon Borough Council in March 2024.
- 1.3 The LGA report and recommendations were considered by the Executive at its meeting on 6 June 2024 which asked officers to prepare an outline action plan for consideration at this meeting.
- 1.4 The outline action plan is set out at Appendix A to this report.

2. Developing an Action Plan

- 2.1 The peer team's findings and conclusions were overall extremely positive about the work the council is doing, but also included a small number of recommendations for the council to consider.
- 2.2 The council is expected to develop an action plan in response to the report, setting out how it intends to respond to the recommendations. This action plan is published online.

- 2.3 A progress review will be carried out by the LGA early in 2025 to assess progress against the action plan.
- 2.4 Steps have already been taken to progress many of the recommendations as set out in the outline action plan.
- 2.5 The peer challenge highlighted the strength of relationships with partner organisations in the district and so where appropriate we will look to develop our actions with relevant partners – for example working with voluntary sector partners to address the recommendation around community development.
- 2.6 The full and final action plan will be developed over the summer for consideration by the Executive in September 2024.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 The Executive is asked to agree the outline delivery plan which sets out the immediate steps we should make in response to the LGA recommendations. This will enable work to get underway to inform the full action plan for consideration in September.

4. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	N	A Corporate Peer Challenge provide an opportunity for an in-depth review of the Councils governance framework. Our outline action plan is set out at Appendix A. There are however no direct legal or governance implications.
Financial implications to include reference to value for money	N	There are no direct financial or value for money implications arising from this report.
Risk	N	The Corporate Peer Challenge considers the Councils approach to risk and opportunity management. There are however no risk implications arising from this report.
Council Plan contribution	Y	All
Consultation & Engagement Strategy	Y	The Corporate Peer Challenge involved a wide range of stakeholders from elected members, officers, key partners and neighbouring local authorities.

		The intention is that the action plan will be developed with partners where relevant.
Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact		No climate and biodiversity impact as a result of this report.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		NA
Safeguarding		NA
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		NA
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		NA
Other implications		NA

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Appendix A: - Peer Challenge Outline Action Plan 2024

Background Papers:

South Hams District Council LGA Peer Challenge Report 2024