

Report to: **Annual Council**
Date: **21 May 2024**
Title: **Hub Advisory Groups**
Portfolio Area: **Council – Leader**

Wards Affected: **All**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: Immediately following this meeting

Author: **Darryl White** Role: **Head of Democratic Services**

Contact: **Email: darryl.white@swdevon.gov.uk**

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council be RECOMMENDED to note that, as part of the consideration by the Hub Committee of the 'Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge Feedback Report' (23 July 2024 Committee Meeting), and the recommendations arising from that, the Hub Committee will consider the Terms of Reference for Advisory Groups (and membership lists).

1. Executive summary

1.1 With its partner authority (South Hams District Council), the Council was subject to a Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge from 19 to 22 March 2024;

1.2 Recommendation 8 that arose from the Peer Challenge reads as follows:

'8. Review the Role, Function and Purpose of Advisory Panels and Working Groups'

Narrative:

'Members welcomed their close working and engagement but were not sufficiently clear how your current arrangements add the value you want.'

2. Background

- 2.1 At the meeting of Full Council held on 21 July 2021, the Council formally established 8 Hub Advisory Groups that were aligned to each of the eight thematic areas in the adopted Council Plan at that time ('A Plan for West Devon') (Minute CM 32/21 refers).
- 2.2 At that Council meeting, Members adopted Terms of Reference for each Hub Advisory Group, with the primary role and function of them being to:
- *advise and support the lead Hub Committee Member with the delivery of targets within the adopted 'A Plan for West Devon' and;*
 - *look forward and horizon scan in order to identify future issues and challenges that relate to the thematic area, generate new ideas and solutions and to plan ahead over the longer-term.*
- 2.3 Given the recent adoption of a new Council Plan (coupled with the recommendation arising from the Corporate Peer Challenge), it is now considered timely to review the role, function and purpose of the Hub Advisory Groups.
- 2.4 It is therefore recommended that a review be undertaken in the upcoming months that then forms part of the Outline Action Plan arising from the Peer Challenge. In accordance with the Hub Committee Forward Plan, this is due for consideration by the Hub Committee at its meeting to be held on 23 July 2024.
- 2.5 As part of the review (and the wider Outline Plan), it is intended that an updated set of draft Terms of Reference (and membership lists) for the Hub Advisory Groups will be presented to that Hub Committee meeting for approval.

3. Options available and consideration of risk

- 3.1 A thorough review into all aspects of the Hub Advisory Group model will ensure that they remain both fit for purpose and provide an opportunity for all Members to effectively engage in this aspect of the Council's work.

4. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	Statutory Powers – Local Government Act 1972
Financial implications to include reference	N	There are no direct financial implications

to value for money		
Risk	N	These are addressed in the report
Supporting Corporate Strategy		Efficient and Effective Council
Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact		Not applicable
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		Not applicable
Safeguarding		Not applicable
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		Not applicable
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		Not applicable
Other implications		Not applicable

Supporting Information

Appendices:

None

Background Papers:

LGA Corporate Peer Challenge – Feedback Report