

Corporate Peer Review Action Plan

2024



Introduction

Following a Local Government Association Peer Review in March 2024 the team made a number of recommendations to us. The recommendations being:-

- 1. Have a relentless focus on the delivery of the council plan
- 2. Create opportunities for your senior leadership team to focus on the key challenges and opportunities ahead
- 3. Agree your desired approach to community development and then create a structured approach to delivery
- 4. Use the opportunity provided by the new council plan to revisit your stakeholder engagement
- 5. Tell your story louder which clearly articulates both your vision for place and the impact of your activity
- 6. Build upon the foundations of your new organisational development plan over the next 2 to 3 years to ensure you can meet new and emerging challenges and opportunities
- 7. Develop a 4-year member development programme that maximises the input and engagement of your members
- 8. Review the role, function and purpose of advisory panels and working groups

This document sets out how we intend to take forward the suggestions. A further iteration of the action plan will be considered by Members in September.



Recommendation 1 – Have a relentless focus on delivery of the council plan

The Peer team said:- 'Focus your capacity on delivering your plans – recognise anything new will require a review of council plans and activity.

Action Plan

Acti on Ref	Description	Specific Actions	Timescale	Owner
1.1	Implement our enhanced performance management reporting processes to ensure effective oversight of delivery	Re-commence Integrated Performance Management Reports to Executive	April – June report to Hub – July 24	Leader / Chief Executive
		Reinstate Thematic deep dive reports to Overview and Scrutiny	Thematic update reports reinstated for June 2024 and every O&S ongoing	Assistant Director Strategy / relevant Head of Service
		Refreshed KPI reports to Overview and Scrutiny	Early Autumn	Deputy Chief Executive/ Director of Governance
1.2	Develop a change control process for the Council Plan	Agreed process and ownership with Hub Members to make any additions/ amendments to the delivery plans	Process in place – July 2024	Leader / Director of Governance
1.3	Ensure our delivery plan remains appropriately resourced	Review of draft Year 2 delivery plan aligned to budget setting for 2025/26	Commence review September 2024 Year 2 Delivery Plan agreed alongside budget – Feb 2025	Leader/ Chief Executive/ Director Finance

Key partners for this activity: None



Recommendation 2 – Create opportunities for your senior leadership team to focus on the challenges and opportunities ahead

The Peer team said:- 'Consider how senior officers create space to continue their strategic thinking / horizon scanning – you want to be a sector leader and this space is key'

Acti on Ref	Description	Specific Actions	Timescale	Owner
2.2	Work with key stakeholders in local government	Senior Officers will continue to participate in sector led improvement schemes such as the LGA Peer Challenge and in the work of the District Councils Network to ensure we remain at the forefront of Local Government thinking Continued engagement with LGA, SOLACE and peers.	Ongoing	Leader / Chief Executive



Recommendation 3 – Agree your desired approach to community development and then create a structured approach to delivery

The Peer team said:- 'This will help you to both articulate your plans, creating a clear narrative for communities and partners alike and allow you to focus on developing the social capital within your council areas'

Action Plan

Actio n Ref	Description	Specific Actions	Timescale	Owner
3.1	Develop a medium-term community focused strategy including 'arts and culture'	Understand from others what they are doing including conversations with other councils and attendance at events such as New Local	June	Lead Member – Community Wellbeing / Assistant Director Strategy
		Commission Asset Based Community Development training for the newly formed Community Development Team	June – October	/ Community Development Manager
		Hold a Member Policy Development group to consider priorities for the next 3 years	July	
		Draft strategy in consultation with key partners	July – October	
		Consideration of Strategy by Hub	November	

Key partners for this activity: West Devon CVS (including Health and Wellbeing Alliances)

Devon Communities Together Town and Parish Councils Public Health Devon



Recommendation 4 – Use the opportunity provided by the new council plan to revisit your stakeholder engagement

The Peer team said:- 'You can maximise your influence and engagement within WDBC and across Devon as a whole'

Action Plan

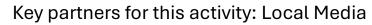
Act ion Ref	Description	Specific Actions	Timescale	Owner
4.2	Reassess our key partners and how we want to work with them in the future	Develop our key partnerships framework setting out our high-level principles and governance around partnership working	Autumn 2024	Director Governance / Assistant Director Strategy
		Map out existing key partners and future partners that we wish to work with		Hub Leads / Heads of Service

Key partners for this activity: None – although will provide an overarching framework for how we intend to work with partners in the future.

Recommendation 5 – Tell your story louder – which clearly articulates both your vision for place and the impact of your activity

The Peer team said:- 'By doing this well, you will help the delivery of the other recommendations listed in this report'

Acti on Ref	Description	Specific Actions	Timescale	Owner
5.1	Develop a strategic communications plan	Develop a prioritised communications plan setting out key messages for the council for the next 12 months	- June / July 2024 for agreement with Leader	Leader / Head of Strategic Communications
		Forward plan of public sector awards and consider where we want to apply in order to 'shout about' the work we are doing in West Devon. Work with members to identify areas where the council wants to focus its lobbying energy	Ongoing	Director Place / Director Governance Leader / Senior Leadership Team







Recommendation 6 – Build upon the foundations of your new organisational development (OD) plan over the next 2 to 3 years to ensure you can meet new and emerging challenges and opportunities.

The Peer team said:- 'You have set in place a solid plan, it addresses the here and now, and you can and should keep iterating and developing this through time, so it remains purposeful and relevant'

Act ion Ref	Description	Specific Actions	Timescale	Owner
6.1	Develop our single year OD Plan into a 3-year plan with a clear vision of the organisation we want to be	3 Year OD Plan and single year delivery plan developed for consideration by CEX	July 2024	Head of HR / Assistant Director Strategy



Recommendation 7 – Develop a 4 –year member development programme that maximises the input and engagement of your members.

The Peer team said:- 'You have a great opportunity a year into the new administration to revisit and engage your membership afresh with the new council plan and make the most of the added value your membership group creates'

Act ion Ref	Description	Specific Actions	Timescale	Owner
7.1	Develop a comprehensive member learning & development plan for the next 4 years	Member development steering group to be held to shape and have overall responsibility for the plan and its implementation. LGA and DCN	Summer 2024	Leader / Member Development Group / Head of Democratic Services



Recommendation 8 – Review the role, function and purpose of advisory panels and working groups.

The Peer team said:- 'Members welcomed their close working and engagement but were not sufficiently clear how your current arrangements add the value you want'

Act ion Ref	Description	Specific Actions	Timescale	Owner
8.1	Review the purpose and terms of reference for	Member development steering group to consider the purpose	First meeting held 2nd July 2024 - further meeting to be scheduled September 24	Lead Member Governance / Head of
	Advisory Working Groups	Agreed Terms of Reference for refreshed 'Policy Advisory Groups' to be agreed by Hub	Hub - July 2024	Democratic Services

