

Report To: Overview and Scrutiny

Date of Meeting: 19th September 2023

Report Title: Overview and Scrutiny LGA Finance Peer Review Meeting

Report By: Coral Harding, Continuous Improvement and Democratic Services Officer

Key Decision: N

Purpose of Report

As part of the Overview and Scrutiny work programme they would like to discuss the LGA Finance Peer review report with Council Leadership.

Recommendation(s)

Overview and Scrutiny note the discussions during the meeting and establish next steps in their line of inquiries as necessary.

Reasons for Recommendations

Overview and Scrutiny are responsible for setting their own work programme and investigating each line of inquiry.

Introduction

1. At the Annual Overview and Scrutiny meeting held on 27th July 2023, the committee confirmed their work programme for the municipal year. The report for this meeting can be found [here](#)
2. As part of their work programme, Overview and Scrutiny wanted to meet with Council Leadership to discuss the Local Government Association (LGA) Finance Peer Review.

Local Government Association Finance Peer Review

3. The LGA Finance Peer Review was conducted in March 2023 by an external team of experienced Councillors and Officers looking at the Council's financial processes and practices. The idea of the review is that the 'peers' provide challenge and recommend changes based on their shared learning.
4. Cabinet discussed the response to the LGA Finance Peer review at their meeting held on 7th August 2023. The report for this meeting can be found [here](#)
5. The final report makes a list of 13 recommendations. The Council is has had an action plan in place for each recommendation and has actively been working in strengthening its financial position.

Overview and Scrutiny

6. Overview and Scrutiny will review the LGA finance peer review findings and the response to this. These will be used to form their lines on enquiry.
7. Overview and Scrutiny will review the recommendations and the associated action plan. They will be like to hear how recommendations have been implemented from August and what to expect in the near future.

Timetable of Next Steps

8. Please include a list of key actions and the scheduled dates for these:

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
Overview and Scrutiny to hold review meeting	Review Meeting	19 th September	Overview and Scrutiny
Overview and Scrutiny to decide next steps in review as necessary	Next steps in review	19 th September	Overview and Scrutiny

Wards Affected

Report Template v30.0R

Policy Implications

Reading Ease Score:

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Y
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	Y
Risk Management	Y
Environmental Issues & Climate Change	Y
Economic/Financial Implications	Y
Human Rights Act	Y
Organisational Consequences	Y
Local People's Views	Y
Anti-Poverty	Y
Legal	Y

Additional Information

Cabinet report: Response to Local Government Association Finance Peer Review report (7th August 2023)

Officer to Contact

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