

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 21 September 2021

Wards affected: All wards in Torbay

Report Title: LGA Remote Corporate Health Check Report and Action Plan

When does the decision need to be implemented? Ongoing implementation of action plan

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report presents the Local Government's Association (LGA) Remote Corporate Health Check Feedback Report. A resulting action plan is also presented and has been prepared based on the LGA's recommendations to ensure the Council embraces the opportunities and improvements identified by the LGA.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

We want Torbay and its residents to thrive.

We want Torbay to be a place where we have turned the tide on poverty and tackled inequalities; where our children and older people will have high aspirations and where there are quality jobs, good pay and affordable housing for our residents.

We want Torbay to be the premier resort in the UK, with a vibrant arts and cultural offer for our residents and visitors to enjoy; where our built and natural environment is celebrated and where we play our part in addressing the climate change emergency.

- 2.1 The proposals in this report help us to deliver this ambition by ensuring we respond to the LGA's feedback and the actions proposed enable the Council to continue to improve and strengthen its ability to deliver all of the Community and Corporate Plan themes.
- 2.2 The reasons for the decision are to make available the LGA's Remote Health Check Feedback Report and to ensure an action plan is in place to embrace the recommendations of the LGA.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

1. That the Local Government Association be thanked for undertaking the Remote Corporate Health Check and the resulting Remote Corporate Health Check Feedback Report (as set out at Appendix 1) be accepted.
2. That the LGA Remote Corporate Health Check Action Plan (as set out at Appendix 2) be approved.
3. That the Audit Committee be requested to monitor the implementation of the action plan.

Appendices

Appendix 1: LGA Remote Corporate Health Check Feedback Report

Appendix 2: LGA Remote Corporate Health Check Action Plan

Background Documents

None

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The LGA provide councils with a variety of support through peer reviews. During the pandemic remote peer support was offered to councils to provide support and challenge to address COVID-19 related issues and broader challenges. This includes the Remote Corporate Health-Check, which provides councils with a clear framework to consider key components that typically feature as part of a full corporate peer challenge covering, priority setting, place leadership, governance and capacity to deliver.
- 1.2 During May 2021, the LGA undertook a Remote Corporate Health-Check at the request of the Chief Executive and was led by a team of officer and member peers. The LGA Peer Team comprised
- Rob Walsh, Chief Executive of North East Lincolnshire Council
 - Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson, Leader of Portsmouth City Council
 - Chris Bowron, LGA Peer Challenge Manager
- 1.3 The team undertook remote discussions with a wide range of officers and members. At the end of their review, the team provided feedback and made a number of recommendations. The full LGA Remote Corporate Health Check Feedback Report can be found at Appendix 1. A draft action plan has also been prepared to respond to the LGA's recommendations, to ensure the Council embraces the learning and feedback from the LGA's Corporate Health Check.

2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 Not to accept the LGA Remote Corporate Health Check Feedback Report and resulting action plan – this is not recommended as implementation of the action plan will enable the Council to continue to improve. Alternative or additional actions could be proposed.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 The action plan will be delivered within existing resources and a number of the actions support the Council's future financial planning.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 None.

5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 The Council's Group Leaders and Overview & Scrutiny Co-ordinator, along with the Senior Leadership Team, were consulted on the LGA's draft report.

6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. Tackling Climate Change

- 7.1 No impact on climate change.

8. Associated Risks

- 8.1 The main risk associated with this report is the failure to respond to the recommendations of the LGA Peer Team. This may result in the Council not responding adequately to the issues and challenges it faces. The resulting action plan addresses the recommendations by the LGA Peer Team.

9. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

- 9.1 The LGA Remote Corporate Health Check Feedback Report and resulting action plan provides indirect benefits for all its residents through the improvements identified.

10. Cumulative Council Impact

- 10.1 None.

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

- 11.1 None.