



LGA Finance Peer Challenge – November 2018

Action Plan – Progress update to Audit Committee: March 2019

Purpose:

The Council undertook a narrowly focused finance peer challenge with the Local Government Association (LGA) in November 2018. The aim of review was to:

- identify the Council's current financial position and robustness of its efficiency plan;
- to identify specific actions to address the financial challenges for the longer-term
- include all future options to secure the long-term viability of services for the people of Torbay.

This action plan sets out the Council's response to the LGA Peer Challenge's recommendations and was approved by the Council on 31 January 2019. The Council requested the Audit Committee to monitor its progress.

No.	Recommendation	Action	Lead officer	Target Date	Progress update
1.	Further transformation and savings proposals – planning for 2020 and beyond	1.1 SLT to prepare savings proposals and approach for 2020 budget and beyond	Steve Parrock	Proposals developed ready for new administration in May 2019	Work underway and programmed to ensure they can be presented to new administration in May 2019.

No.	Recommendation	Action	Lead officer	Target Date	Progress update
		1.2 Introduce new transformation project for organisational transformation	Anne-Marie Bond	Commence Jan 2019, then ongoing	Design Principles approved by Transformation Board on 8 February to be developed further for presentation to new administration in May 2019.
2.	Establish formal savings delivery plan for Children's Services, including analysis of current case load to determine rationale for Torbay's high demand on Children's Services	2.1 Revise Children's Medium Term Resource Plan to inform formal saving delivery plan for Children's and provide monitoring reports to SLT and Audit Committee	Alison Botham/Martin Phillips	April 2019	Being developed through the Children's Transformation Board, with some work currently being undertaken by People Too.
		2.2 Undertake analysis of demand pressures on Children's Services	Alison Botham via Children's Improvement Board	Ongoing	This is a complex area, with no singular analysis possible. To be progressed alongside budget considerations.

No.	Recommendation	Action	Lead officer	Target Date	Progress update
3.	Negotiate future ICO risk share from a corporate position to ensure Council position is financially sustainable as a whole	3.1 Negotiations on future ICO risk share to be reported to SLT at regular stages for corporate overview/input	Caroline Taylor/Martin Phillips	Ongoing	Negotiations ongoing, with a report to be presented to Council for a decision
		3.2 Explore opportunities for efficiency savings with the ICO	Caroline Taylor	May 2019	Being considered generally, and as part of potential opportunities through 1.2 above.
4.	Tor2 Contract – development of specifications for services post contract	4.1 Undertake options appraisal for future delivery of services currently provided by Tor2	Kevin Mowat	January 2019 and ongoing	This is designated as a Transformation Project and work is progressing.
5.	Develop outline ideas provided by LGA for further savings and for member consideration e.g. pensions, income generation opportunity and debt repayments	5.1 Develop proposals	Anne-Marie Bond/Martin Phillips	Proposals ready for May 2019	Review being undertaken as part of potential proposals for 2020/21 budget.
6.	Review Capital Programme with view to replacing revenue, reserves or capital receipts with borrowing to enable these to be used to bolster reserves for the short term	6.1 Review approach to Capital Programme	Martin Phillips/Capital and Growth Board	March 2019	Review undertaken as part of the budget process.

No.	Recommendation	Action	Lead officer	Target Date	Progress update
7.	Investigate the option of establishing Town Councils	7.1 Undertake Community Governance Review	Anne-Marie Bond	December 2019	Community Governance Review formally launched on 14 January 2019.
8.	Explore the possibility of a Town Deal with Government	8.1 Continue discussions with Government as to Town Deal	Steve Parrock with Torbay Together	On-going	Discussions continuing but government focus is currently elsewhere
9.	Regional and sub-regional work	9.1 Seek to raise the profile of the Council and identify future funding streams	Steve Parrock and SLT	On-going	On-going attempts to influence, with future administration to consider how this work can be furthered.
10.	Lobby Government of Fair Funding Review	10.1 Lobby and respond to consultation on the future funding formula	Martin Phillips/Steve Parrock	On-going and by 21 February 2019	Consultation response submitted, and invitation to MPs to take them through the detail of the same.

Endorsement by: Council Meeting on 31 January 2019
Implementation monitoring by Audit Committee