

Policy & Resources Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	18 October 2023
Report Title	Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan
EMT Lead	Larissa Reed – Chief Executive
Head of Service	Philip Sutcliffe – Communications & Policy Manager
Lead Officer	Janet Dart – Policy & Engagement Officer
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. To agree the Swale Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan prior to it being published on the Swale Borough Council website.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Policy & Resources Committee to consider and agree the Swale Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan prior to it being published on the Swale Borough Council website.

2 Background

- 2.1 In March 2023 the Swale Borough Council undertook a Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge. Councillors and officers from other similar councils spent a week at Swale House looking at how we operate as a council.
- 2.2 Peer challenges are improvement-focused and tailored to meet a Council's needs by providing challenge and sharing learning.
- 2.3 The Peer team consisted of cross-party members and senior officers. Cross-party members and officers from across the organisation were interviewed as were partners such as Kent County Council, the local Members of Parliament, the Police, local businesses, representatives from the voluntary sector, parish/town councils and members of the public. In total they had 44 meetings and spoke to 70 people. Members of the team visited the Isle of Sheppey as part of the review.
- 2.4 On 21 June 2023, three of the Peer Challenge Team returned to give a presentation setting out their findings and key recommendations.
- 2.5 Following this the Peer Challenge Team provided a detailed feedback report containing ten key recommendations. Members were given the opportunity to request amendments to the report before it was published on 10 October 2023 (Appendix I).

- 2.6 Members and senior officers have met to consider the recommendations and have together drafted an Action Plan which members of the Policy & Resources Committee are being asked to consider and agree this evening (Appendix II).

3 Proposals

- 3.1 To agree the Swale Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan prior to it being published on the Swale Borough Council website.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 4.1 No alternative options were considered other than the 'do nothing' option. This was rejected because Members and officers were fully involved in the development of the Action Plan.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 Committee Chairs, Group Leaders and the Senior Management Team were consulted during the preparation of the Action Plan and again once all comments had been collated and the final draft prepared.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The Corporate Plan is currently being updated and if the actions are agreed, any relating to the Corporate Plan will be incorporated into the document.
Financial, Resource and Property	Consideration will need to be given as to how actions that need resource will be funded.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None identified at this stage.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	None identified at this stage.
Health and Wellbeing	The development of values and behaviours and the member/officer protocol will need careful consideration to ensure that everyone in the organisation is positively impacted by their implementation.
Safeguarding of Children, Young	None identified at this stage.

People and Vulnerable Adults	
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	Any changes that are implemented as a result of the Action Plan that necessitate any Policy or Strategy changes may require Equality Impact Assessments to be carried out.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

Appendix I: *LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Feedback Report.*

Appendix II: *Swale Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan.*

8 Background Papers

None.