

<b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee Meeting</b>	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	26 March 2025
<b>Report Title</b>	Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan update report
<b>EMT Lead</b>	Larissa Reed – Chief Executive
<b>Head of Service</b>	Philip Sutcliffe – Communications & Policy Manager
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Janet Dart – Policy & Engagement Officer
<b>Classification</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Recommendations</b>	Members of the Policy & Resources Committee are invited to note and discuss the Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan update report at Appendix I.

## **1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The report at Appendix I provides an update of the progress on the actions in the Swale Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan.

## **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.
- 2.5 The Peer Challenge Team provided a detailed feedback report containing ten key recommendations which can be viewed at Appendix II
- 2.6 Members and senior officers considered the recommendations and together developed an Action Plan which members of the Policy & Resources Committee agreed on 18 October 2023.
- 2.7 It is good practice to review the Swale Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan each year to monitor the progress on actions, noting which items are completed, on target for completion or are at risk on non-completion.

### **3 Proposals**

- 3.1 Members of the Policy & Resources Committee are invited to note and discuss the Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan update report at Appendix I.

### **4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

- 4.1 As this is largely a report for information, there are no alternative options proposed.

### **5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed**

- 5.1 The Senior Management Team were consulted during the preparation of the Action Plan update report.

### **6 Implications**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Implications</b>
Corporate Plan	The Swale Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan was developed in line with the Corporate Plan 2023-2027, ensuring the actions complemented the Corporate Plan priorities and objectives.
Financial, Resource and Property	By carrying out an annual update of the Action Plan, any financial implications arising from identified delivery problems can be addressed at an early stage.
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	None identified at this stage.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	None identified at this stage.

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: *Swale Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan update report.*

Appendix II: [LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Feedback Report](#)

## 8 Background Papers

None.