

**Title:** Local Government Association Corporate Challenge Report and Action Plan

**Lead Officer:** Chris Elliott

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Ian Davison

**Wards of the District directly affected:** All

Approvals required	Date	Name
Portfolio Holder	13.10.2023	Cllr Ian Davison
Finance	12.10.2023	Andrew Rollins
Legal Services		N/A
Chief Executive	12.10.2023	Chris Elliott
Director of Climate Change	12.10.2023	Dave Barber
Head of Service(s)	12.10.2023	Darren Knight
Section 151 Officer	12.10.2023	Andrew Rollins
Monitoring Officer	12.10.2023	Graham Leach
Leadership Co-ordination Group	12.10.2023	LCG
Final decision by this Committee or rec to another Cttee / Council?	Yes.	
Contrary to Policy / Budget framework?	No.	
Does this report contain exempt info/Confidential? If so, which paragraph(s)?	No	
Does this report relate to a key decision (referred to in the Cabinet Forward Plan)?	Yes, Forward Plan item 1400	
Accessibility Checked?	Yes.	

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## Summary

As part of the Council's commitment to continuous improvement, Warwick District Council took part in a Corporate Peer Challenge from the Local Government Association. This report includes the Corporate Peer Challenge findings and the Council's action plan in response to the recommendations.

## Recommendations

1. That Cabinet acknowledges the 2023 Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge Report, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.
  2. That Cabinet endorses the Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan as set out at Appendix 2 to the report.
  3. That Cabinet record their thanks to the Local Government Association and the Corporate Peer Challenge team.
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### 1 Reasons for the Recommendation

- 1.1 Warwick District Council (WDC) is a member of the Local Government Association (LGA) and within that membership enables a number of benefits, one of which is taking part in a Corporate Peer Challenge.
- 1.2 Corporate Peer Challenges (CPC) are a sector led improvement tool facilitated by LGA to support local authorities with continuous improvement. This involves a team of elected members and senior officers from other authorities who spend time at the reviewed authority to provide challenge and share learning.
  - 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to acknowledge the CPC report; its findings and recommendations and endorse the resulting action plan, which sets out how the Council will take forward the recommendations.
- 1.3 The Council's peer review was undertaken between the 11 and 13 July 2023 and appendix 1 sets out the CPC report, which includes the executive summary, recommendations and summary of the approach taken.
- 1.4 Appendix 2 sets out sets out the action plan, which confirms how the recommendations will be responded to. Progress of recommendations has already commenced.
- 1.5 The CPC process includes a six-month check-in session, which provides space for the Council's senior leadership to update peers on its progress against the action plan and discuss next steps.

### 2 Alternative Options

- 2.1 No other options were considered, as the Council is supportive of sector led improvement initiatives.

### 3 Legal Implications

- 3.1 As outlined in appendix 2 Recommendation 6, there is an action proposed to provide further support for corporate policy and performance through the provision of an additional officer.
- 3.2 The cost of that would be £65k per annum. It is expected that the post will commence from January, with 2023-24 costs (£16.3k) to be funded from the Services Transformation Reserve, and subsequently built into the budget on an

ongoing basis as growth within the budget setting process.

#### **4 Financial Services**

- 4.1 Any financial implications associated with this report will be followed up as part of the budget setting process.

#### **5 Environmental/Climate Change Implications**

- 5.1 There are no environmental or climate change implications associated with this report.

#### **6 Analysis of the effects on Equality**

- 6.1 There are no equality implications associated with this report.

#### **7 Data Protection**

- 7.1 There are no data protection implications associated with this report.

#### **8 Health and Wellbeing**

- 8.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications associated with this report.

#### **9 Risk Assessment**

- 9.1 There are no risks identified because of this report. Risks that may be identified from the implementation of the peer challenge action plan will be incorporated into the Council's risk register, as set out in the Council's Risk Management Strategy.

#### **10 Consultation**

- 10.1 The CPC process involved engagement with a range of internal stakeholders such as elected members, representative sample of employees and representatives from external organisations such as the County Council, voluntary sector, Police and Health.
- 10.2 The CPC report has been circulated within the Council and published on the website.

#### **Supporting documents:**

[Principles of peer challenge | Local Government Association](#) [Principles of peer challenge | Local Government Association](#)