

 Executive 1 October 2014		Agenda Item No. 9
Title	Corporate Peer Challenge Follow Up Visit	
For further information about this report please contact	Chris Elliott, Chief Executive chris.elliott@warwickdc.gov.uk 01926 456001	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	Report on Corporate Peer Review 10 th October 2012; Report to Executive of Peer Review Corporate Improvement Plan Update 12th February 2014	
Background Papers	Above reports	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality and Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	8/9/2014	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	8/9/2014	All
CMT	8/9/2014	Andrew Jones Bill Hunt
Section 151 Officer	8/9/2014	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	8/9/2014	Andrew Jones
Finance	8/9/2014	Jenny Clayton
Portfolio Holder(s)	8/9/2014	Andrew Mobbs
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Consultation and Engagement was part of the Corporate Peer Review Process.		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **Summary**

- 1.1 The report informs the Executive of the outcome of the Corporate Peer Review follow up visit held in July 2014 and proposes a series of actions in response the recommendations emanating from that follow up visit.

2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 To agree the actions proposed at paragraph 3.4 of this report and to receive a report on progress as part of the next report updating the Fit for the Future programme.
- 2.2 That arrangements be made with the Local Government Association (LGA) to undertake a full Corporate Peer Review in 2016 rather than as previously agreed in 2015.

3. **Reasons for the Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Fit for the Future (FFF) programme that the Council currently has underway is underpinned by an approach of continuous improvement. As part of that approach, the Council had asked the LGA to undertake a Corporate Peer Review in July 2012 to help challenge the Council in how it was responding to the issue of the day and in particular to test the robustness of the Fit for the Future programme. The report and its results were reported to the Executive at its meeting on 10th October 2012.
- 3.2 The Executive decided in February 2014 that to help it assess progress since 2012 that the same team from the LGA be invited to do a follow up visit. The follow up meeting was held on 3rd July 2014. There is no report but the team made a presentation to selected officers and members and that presentation is attached at Appendix A.
- 3.3 The presentation recommended to the Council that it:
 - 1. Create clear and visible leadership of the economic prosperity brief;
 - 2. Continue to support and develop the Planning Committee;
 - 3. Explore whether the Council is striking the right balance between target times and making the right decision for major applications;
 - 4. Improve engagement with the business community;
 - 5. Considers how Group Leaders need to apply appropriate group discipline with regard to behaviours, standards and uptake of training;
 - 6. Review and revamp member induction and training in time for the next election.
- 3.4 In response it is proposed that:
 - 1. Create clear and visible leadership of the economic prosperity brief;
Proposed Action: That a lead officer and member are identified and tasked with championing the economic brief. The lead officer proposed as Bill Hunt, Deputy Chief Executive and the lead member proposed is Councillor John Hammon as Development Services Portfolio Holder.
 - 2. Continue to support and develop the Planning Committee;
Proposed Action: That the proposals in another report on this agenda relating to an update on the Planning Peer Review are supported.

3. Explore whether the Council is striking the right balance between target times and making the right decision for major applications;
Proposed Action: That the Head of Development Services set out the issues for discussion with the Executive and Chairman of the Planning Committee by March 2015 on the national planning performance regime and the opportunities and mechanisms for fine tuning that regime locally.
4. Improve engagement with the business community;
Proposed Action: That the lead officer and member identified in response to recommendation 1 are tasked with developing a business engagement plan by January 2015, for agreement by the Executive and implemented thereafter.
5. Considers how Group Leaders need to apply appropriate group discipline with regard to behaviours, standards and uptake of training;
Proposed Action: That the Group Leaders in discussion with the Monitoring Officer present proposals to apply appropriate Group discipline by January 2015.
6. Review and revamp member induction and training in time for the next election.
Proposed Action: That the Member Development Group supported by the Monitoring Officer and the Deputy Monitoring Officer prepare and agree a programme for member induction and training by March 2015.

3.5 The Council had previously envisaged a Full Corporate Peer Review taking place in July 2015. However, on reflection of the experience of how long it may take for recommendations to be implemented and the effect identified, it is suggested that re scheduling such a Full Review to July 2016 is more appropriate. This would give more time for the impact of the proposed actions in response to the recommendations to be assessed.

4. **Policy Framework**

4.1 The report supports the Council's policy framework by helping to promote the Prosperity agenda of the Sustainable Community Strategy for the District and by helping the FFF Programme with its emphasis on continuous improvement.

5. **Budgetary Framework**

5.1 The report does not impact upon the Council's budgetary framework.

6. **Risks**

6.1 The risk that arises lies in not responding to the report in any way as this suggests complacency from which a large variety of consequences can emerge. This is especially true of Recommendation 5 as Corporate Governance has now been highlighted in the report on this agenda relating to the Significant Business Risk Register, as now falling in the red zone of risk rating.

7. **Alternative Option(s) considered**

7.1 No alternative is proposed given the above view on risk.