

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – THURSDAY, 19 JUNE 2025**



<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>PEER REVIEW FEEDBACK FOLLOW UP</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Andy Barton Strategic Director	
<b>Background Papers</b>	Reports to Corporate <a href="#">Scrutiny Committee</a> and <a href="#">Cabinet</a> December 2024	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	There are no financial implications from this report.	
	<b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	None directly relating to the Peer Review Progress Review report.	
	<b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	Staff and Trade Union engagement on developing proposals for Local Government Reorganisation will continue in the lead up to final proposals being submitted to Government in November and beyond to ensure staff are well supported.	
	<b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes	
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To update Cabinet on the Council's progress in addressing the recommendations of the Local Government Association's Corporate Peer Challenge.	
<b>Reason for Decision</b>	Corporate Scrutiny Committee is responsible for holding Cabinet to account to ensure all necessary arrangements are put in place to ensure the priorities identified by the Council are delivered within the budget and policy framework. The Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan that the Committee considered and Cabinet agreed in December 2024 will assist in delivering those priorities.	
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>THAT CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:</b>  <b>1) WELCOMES THE POSITIVE PROGRESS IDENTIFIED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) ON THE COUNCIL'S IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE RECOMMENDATIONS.</b>	

	<p><b>2) PROVIDES COMMENTS ON THE LGA'S PEER REVIEW PROGRESS REPORT TO INFORM CABINET'S CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT ON 24 JUNE 2025.</b></p> <p><b>3) NOTES THE COMMENTARY MADE BY THE LGA ON FURTHER ENGAGEMENT OF STAFF, ELECTED MEMBERS, STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS TO SUPPORT THE SUBMISSION OF FINAL PROPOSALS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION WHICH CABINET WILL BE ASKED TO ENDORSE.</b></p>
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## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Council undertook a Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) during June 2024 and published the full report with an action plan to address the recommendations contained in the report. The action plan was considered by Corporate Scrutiny Committee and approved by Cabinet in December 2024.
- 1.2 In April 2025, the LGA Peer Team who conducted the CPC returned for a follow up visit for to consider the progress that had been made. The Progress Review is an integral part of the CPC process. Taking place approximately ten months after the CPC, it is designed to provide space for the council's senior leadership to:
- Receive feedback from peers on the early progress made by the Council against the CPC recommendations and the Council's RAG rated CPC Action Plan (attached at Appendix 1 to the report).
  - Consider peer's reflections on any new opportunities or challenges that may have arisen since the peer team were 'on-site' including any further support needs
  - Discuss any early impact or learning from the progress made to date.
- 1.3 This Progress Review was the next step in an ongoing, open and close relationship that the Council has with LGA sector support.

## **2.0 SUMMARY OF THE APPROACH**

- 2.1 The Progress Review took place on site on 1-2 April 2025. It focussed on each of the recommendations from the CPC, under the following theme headings:
- Governance and finance
  - Communications
  - Transformation
  - Housing
  - Looking forward
- 2.2 For this Progress Review, the following members of the original CPC team were involved:
- Cllr Abi Brown OBE, Stoke-on-Trent City Council
  - Larissa Reed, Swale Borough Council

- Paul Bellotti, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and;
- Judith Hurcombe, Local Government Association

2.3 Progress Review Feedback - Out of the CPC's seven recommendations, the Council's Red-Amber-Green (RAG) rated action plan reported progress on all of those recommendations and the peer team could see evidence of that progress.

2.4 A copy of the full report from the LGA is attached at Appendix 2.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

3.1 There are no financial considerations directly related to this report, however, any financial implications of continuing to make progress against the actions identified will be considered as part of the 2025/6 budget process, with approvals as appropriate in line with the Council's Constitution.

3.2 Finances associated with the development of proposals for Local Government Reorganisation have already been identified by Council at its budget meeting in February 2025.

### **4.0 NEXT STEPS**

4.1 The Council will continue to implement the action plan that was agreed by Cabinet in December. The Corporate Leadership Team will continue to track progress against it as part of its ongoing performance management arrangements.

4.2 The Peer Team acknowledged that the work undertaken by Council's in collaboration with staff, partners and other stakeholders was "ahead of the game" in the lead up to the submission of interim proposals for Local Government Reorganisation. Further engagement with staff, elected members and a wide variety of stakeholders and partners is planned in the lead up to final proposals being submitted in November 2025 and Cabinet will be asked to endorse this activity.

4.3 Corporate Scrutiny Committee is asked to provide any comments on the LGA's Peer Review Feedback report to inform Cabinet's consideration of the report on 24 June 2025.

4.4 Cabinet will be asked to agree that the Council publishes the follow up report on its website.

<b>Policies and other considerations, as appropriate</b>	
Council Priorities:	Planning and regeneration Communities and housing Clean, green and Zero Carbon A well-run council
Policy Considerations:	Medium Term Financial Plan Risk Management Strategy Housing Revenue Account Housing Asset Management Housing Repairs Policy Damp and Mould Policy Coalville and District-wide Regeneration Frameworks Communications Strategy Constitution Treasury Management Strategy Equality and Diversity Strategy Transformation Plan.
Safeguarding:	None arising from the report.
Equalities/Diversity:	None arising from the report. Equality Impact Assessments were identified in the initial report and work continues on embedding these in revised policies.
Customer Impact:	None arising from the report.
Economic and Social Impact:	Good progress was identified in relation to the work on the Freeport.
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon:	None arising directly from the follow up visit.
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	The Peer Review Team conducted a number of follow up interviews with Cabinet members, elected members and staff as part of the follow up visit. Engagement with staff, elected members and partners as a result of the follow up comments on local government reorganisation and devolution will take place in the lead up to the final submission of proposals in November 2028. The follow up report will be published on the Council's website.
Risks:	That the report is not adequately considered and as a result the Council's improvement activities are compromised.  That there are insufficient resources identified to deliver on the recommendations.
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