



BUSINESS SUPPORT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

25 OCTOBER 2018

CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE 6 MONTH REVIEW

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

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Summary

This report sets out a series of updates following the Corporate Peer Challenge in November 2017. At the meeting of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 12 April 2018, it was agreed officers would conduct a 6 month review against the actions for this Committee.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 The Leader invited the Local Government Association (LGA) to Medway to undertake a Corporate Peer Challenge between 20-23 November 2017.

2. Background

2.1 The LGA team were asked to visit Medway to consider what we are doing and to gain insight into potential areas for improvement. This was not an inspection and we wanted to use this experience to learn from others, to improve what we offer here in Medway and to continue to establish Medway as a great place to live, work, learn and visit.

2.2 The Peer team reviewed 4 key areas:

- Regeneration
- Communication – Inward Investment and Placemaking, Place Branding (linked to our Regeneration Programme)
- Transformation
- Commercialisation.

2.3 The Peer Review team proposed eight recommendations for Medway to take forward:

- Reassurance that the £5m savings for 2018/19 are on track and will come from true transformation activity
- Establish a transformation programme that looks much further into the future- including Smart Council and Smart City strategy and ambitions
- Define what is meant by 'commercial' and develop a commercial strategy
- Budget-setting – explore alternative approaches to aid longer-term planning, enable more fundamental organisational re-design and tackle the need for avoidable mid-year management control actions
- Many aspects of the commercial initiatives put in place so far are sound but there are some aspects of governance that it would be good to re-visit
- Address the IT capability issues in the organisation
- A 'lean' organisation?- reassure yourselves that resources are aligned with the council's priorities and the ambitions for place
- The skills agenda- build on the good initiatives and real potential by seizing it and driving it forward through the Skills Board.

2.4 The update reports are attached as appendices to this report.

3. Risk Management

3.1 There are no risks to Medway Council directly arising from this report

4. Finance and Legal Implications

4.1 There are no finance or legal implications related to this report.

5. Recommendation

5.1 To note the updates from officers regarding action in implementing the recommendations of the Corporate Peer Challenge.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Transformation savings
Appendix 2 - Smart Council and Smart City Agenda
Appendix 3 - Commercial Strategy & Governance
Appendix 4 - Budget proposals
Appendix 5 - IT Capability
Appendix 6 - Resources
Appendix 7 - Skills Agenda

Background Papers:

None