

Policy and Performance - Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, 23 March 2016

REPORT TITLE:	Corporate Peer Challenge
REPORT OF:	Strategic Director: Transformation and Resources

REPORT SUMMARY

Wirral Council is committed to external review and challenge in order to continue to improve how it works and how it is able to achieve positive outcomes for residents. The Council has a strong track record for participating in peer reviews and in November 2015, a team of experts from across the public sector were invited to conduct a corporate peer challenge.

The findings of the report have been published and the Council has developed an action plan in response to its findings, which it immediately set to work on delivering. The peer team confirmed the Council has the right plans in place and also helped to identify where additional attention was required, to ensure the Council and its partners focus on the right things in the right order to deliver improved outcomes for our residents and businesses.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Coordinating Committee is requested to note the contents of the Corporate Peer Challenge report and associated action plan and to highlight any areas for further clarification.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

For Coordinating Committee to be able to scrutinise the Council's Peer Review and Action Plan.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

N/A

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Council agreed a new five year plan in July 2015 which was adopted by all Wirral partners. The Wirral plan commits to achieving a set of 20 Pledges by 2020 to improve the quality of life enjoyed by all Wirral residents. The peer review team was led by Mark Rogers, Chief Executive of Birmingham City Council and included peer members and officers from other local authorities. The team were asked to focus on the Council's capacity to deliver the Wirral Plan, its approach to partnership working and the work currently underway to develop new models of service delivery.

The findings report is attached at Appendix 1 for consideration by Coordinating Committee. The review highlighted that the Council has strong leadership from the Leader and Chief Executive, and that there was clear long-term planning in place with impressive sign up to the Wirral Plan by partners.

The review also considered the Council's proposed new operating model which sets out a new way of working for the Council to provide capacity for strategy development, managing business efficiently and delivery of services to residents. The report findings indicate that the team considered the proposed model as appropriate and described it as major step forward for the Council.

The team also highlighted the importance of developing a stronger corporate transformation function to drive change within the organisation. A report to Cabinet in March 2016 responds to this and describes the proposed approach to developing the Council's transformation function and establishes the outline of a new operating model for the organisation.

The findings of the review reinforced the need for the organisation to have a stronger focus on long-term financial planning and aligning resources to the Wirral Plan pledges. The Council has made significant progress on budget planning following the recent approval of the 2016-17 budget and work is underway to develop long-term budget plans which are aligned to the Wirral Plan pledges.

The Corporate Peer Challenge report has been published and an action plan has been prepared in response to the findings. A copy of the action plan is attached at Appendix 2 for consideration by Coordinating Committee.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are none arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are none arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

There are none arising from this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

The review took place over four days in November 2015 and during this time the team met with Elected Members, senior officers, partners, businesses and members of staff at all levels of the organisation.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The report is for information and there are no direct equality implications as a result of this report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Peer Review

Appendix 2 – Peer Review Action Plan

REFERENCE MATERIAL - N/A