

REPORT TO:	Executive Board
DATE:	20 February 2025
SUBJECT:	LGA Corporate Peer Challenge report and action plan
PURPOSE:	To receive the findings of the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge and an associated action plan
KEY DECISION:	No
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council
REPORT OF:	James Gilbert, Assistant Director - Corporate
REPORT AUTHOR:	James Gilbert, Assistant Director - Corporate
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	None

SUMMARY

In November 2024, East Lindsey District Council welcomed Peers from the Local Government Association (LGA) to undertake a Corporate Peer Challenge.

This report brings forward the findings from the Corporate Peer Challenge (Appendix A) and the Council's action plan (Appendix B) in response.

The findings and action plan have been reviewed by Overview Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the findings from the LGA's Corporate Peer Challenge at Appendix A.
2. To approve the action plan at Appendix B.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure that Executive Board is formally sighted on the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge findings and has an action plan in place to take forward the recommendations.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

1. Report

- 1.1** In late 2023, East Lindsey District Council was approached by the Local Government Association (LGA) with a view to confirming timescales for the next Corporate Peer Challenge for the Council. Councils undergo a Peer Challenge from the LGA every few years to support their improvement and development.
- 1.2** The ELDC Corporate Peer Challenge took place between 12 and 14 November, 2024, with Peers on site at the Horncastle Office each day. The Peers also visited several of the Council's major capital projects.
- 1.3** The Peer Challenge process involved Peers from other Councils – both Councillors and Officers – visiting ELDC to meet with Partners, Councillors and Officers, to form a view of the Council's position on the following themes:
- Local priorities and outcomes
 - Organisational and place leadership
 - Governance and culture
 - Financial planning and management
 - Capacity for improvement

At the request of the Council, the Peers also explored the following areas:

- The council's plans around infrastructure development, regeneration and addressing deprivation, and what more it can do to deliver on its ambitions around these areas.
 - How are the more flexible ways of working across the council being viewed by staff and other stakeholders and whether that is improving the council's visibility across the district.
- 1.4** In advance of the Challenge a detailed evidence base and position statement were submitted to the LGA to support the process. This provided pre-reading for the Peers to enable them to hit the ground running when on site.
- 1.5** The findings and recommendations from the Corporate Peer Challenge are attached at Appendix A.
- 1.6** The Council has produced an action plan to take forward the recommendations (Appendix B).
- 1.7** Overview Committee was consulted in the development of the action plan at its meeting on 28 January, 2025. At the meeting Councillors considered in detail the action plan and proposed requested an amendment, which has been incorporated.
- 1.8** We would like to formally thank the LGA and their Peers for visiting the Council.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

The Peer Challenge was specifically ELDC focused, however, learning from the Challenge will be used Partnership-wide.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

As set out in 'Expected Benefits to the Partnership'

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This impacts all corporate priorities.

STAFFING

Capacity, including staffing capacity, was considered by the Peers during the Challenge.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

DATA PROTECTION

None

FINANCIAL

Financial position and capacity were considered by the Peers during the Challenge.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Management was considered by the Peers during the Challenge.

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

The Peer Challenge process involved discussions with internal and external audiences to shape the findings.

REPUTATION

None

CONTRACTS

None

CRIME AND DISORDER

None

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion are matters identified within the Peer Challenge feedback and the Action Plan.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

None

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None

ACRONYMS

- ELDC – East Lindsey District Council
- LGA – Local Government Association

APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX A	Peer Challenge Report
APPENDIX B	Peer Challenge Action Plan

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A meeting of Overview Committee on 19 January 2025.

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	James Gilbert, Assistant Director - Corporate
Signed off by:	James Gilbert, Assistant Director - Corporate
Approved for publication:	Councillor Craig Leyland, Leader of the Council