

**Report to CABINET**

## **Oldham Council Corporate Peer Challenge : Action Plan**

**Portfolio Holder:**

Councillor Arooj Shah, Leader of the Council

**Officer Contact:** Harry Catherall, Chief Executive

**Report Author:** Lewis Greenwood, Head of Executive Services

**15 November 2021**

---

### **Reason for Decision**

Full Council received the LGA's Corporate Peer Challenge feedback report in June 2020 and as part of that report a commitment was made to present an action plan setting out how Oldham is responding to the recommendations contained within the feedback report. Attached as an appendix to this report is a copy of that action plan which is presented to the Cabinet for agreement.

### **Executive Summary**

Oldham Council undertook a voluntary Corporate Peer Challenge between 21-24 January 2020 which was facilitated by the Local Government Association and undertaken by Senior Elected Members and Chief Officers across Local Government and the Voluntary Sector.

As part of the commitment to commissioning a Corporate Peer Challenge the Council agreed to prepare an action plan setting out how we will respond to the recommendations contained within the feedback report and ensure that this is presented to the Cabinet. This action plan is set out in appendix 1 to this report.

### **Recommendations**

The Cabinet is asked to note the contents of the report and agree to the action plan as set out in appendix 1.

## 1 Background

- 1.1 Oldham Council undertook a voluntary Corporate Peer Challenge between 21-24 January 2020 which was facilitated by the Local Government Association and undertaken by Senior Elected Members and Chief Officers across Local Government and the Voluntary Sector.

As part of the commitment to commissioning a Corporate Peer Challenge the Council agreed to prepare an action plan setting out how we will respond to the recommendations contained within the feedback report and ensure that this is presented to the Cabinet. This action plan is set out in appendix 1 to this report.

All Corporate Peer Challenges explore a number of areas as set out below:

1. Understanding of the local place and priority setting
2. Leadership of Place
3. Financial Planning and Viability
4. Organisational Leadership and Governance
5. Capacity to Deliver

In addition to this the Council sought feedback on our whole system approach to Public Service Reform.

The Challenge Team spent four days in Oldham and during this time spoke with a large number of Councillors, staff, partners and community groups which focused on the above areas.

The Council received a feedback report following the process and this was presented to Full Council in June 2020. This report highlighted that the Council has clear vision and energy for the Borough, our ambition and future direction of travel, our relentless focus to improving outcomes for our residents and the strong partnership ethos that is in place across the Borough. The report also praised our 'bold, brave and honest' approach to Public Service Reform and that the Council has commitment, passion and ambition for our organisation and place and that we pride ourselves of being a Council of Oldham and not in Oldham.

The report identified that the scale of Oldham's ambition is a strength, although this does present a challenge. The challenge team recommended a number of key points to be considered by the Council. These recommendations are set out in the action plan attached to this report, together with an update on how the Council is responding to them.

## 2 Current Position

- 2.1 The Council has prepared an action plan in response to the recommendations of the feedback report and that is presented to the Cabinet as appendix 1 for agreement. The narrative sets out the progress already made against the actions but also confirms our commitment as a Council to taking these actions forward as part of business as usual activity.

## 3 Options/Alternatives

---

3.1 The Council committed to publishing an action plan in response to the Peer Challenge process and that is being presented to the Cabinet for agreement prior to being made available on our website.

4 **Preferred Option**

4.1 As set out in section 3.1 of this report.

5 **Consultation**

5.1 Progress against the recommendations contained within the action plan will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure the appropriate scrutiny and oversight is in place.

6 **Financial Implications**

6.1 None.

Anne Ryans, Director of Finance

7 **Legal Services Comments**

7.1 None.

Paul Entwistle, Director of Legal

8. **Co-operative Agenda**

8.1 The response to the recommendations contained within the feedback report are complimentary to the Council's co-operative agenda.

9 **Human Resources Comments**

9.1 None.

Julia Veall, Director of Workforce and Organisational Design

10 **Risk Assessments**

10.1 N/A

11 **IT Implications**

11.1 N/A

12 **Property Implications**

12.1 N/A

13 **Procurement Implications**

13.1 N/A

14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

- 
- 14.1 N/A
- 15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**
- 15.1 None.
- 16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**
- 16.1 No
- 17 **Key Decision**
- 17.1 No
- 18 **Key Decision Reference**
- 18.1 N/A
- 19 **Background Papers**
- 19.1 The following papers are attached as background papers:  
1. Corporate Peer Challenge report to Full Council – June 2020  
2. Corporate Peer Challenge feedback report received – June 2020
- 20 **Appendices**
- 20.1 The Council’s action plan in response to the recommendations contained within the feedback report is attached as appendix 1 to this report.