

Appendix 1

Oldham Council – Corporate Peer Challenge High Level Action Plan setting out how Oldham has and is continuing to respond to the recommendations contained within the feedback report.

Peer Challenge Team – key recommendations	How Oldham is responding to the recommendation
Focus the various priorities into a clear, achievable singular corporate set as part of the forthcoming Team Oldham Plan	<p>The Council has significantly refreshed the organisation’s corporate plan and developed the Covid-19 Recovery Strategy as its interim Corporate Plan for 2021/22. The refreshed plan sets out the Council’s priorities and this was approved at Full Council in July 2021.</p> <p>In May 2021 new Council Leader, Councillor Arooj Shah set out her priorities for the organisation and the borough. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Building a stronger relationship with residents, creating a Council that is responsive to local priorities2. Delivering clean streets initiative and tackling fly tipping – significant investment in tackling cleanliness of the borough3. Delivering the Council’s transformational regeneration plan for town centres based on principles of equality and shared prosperity <p>A new 5-10 year Corporate Plan and Partnership Oldham Plan has been commissioned by the Leader of the Council for completion by Spring 2022.</p>

<p>Once done, review the levels of oversight and assurance against this more focused set of priorities to ensure appropriate support and challenge is in place, which is suitably informed</p>	<p>The levels of oversight and assurance against the council's priorities as included within the Covid-19 Recovery Strategy is jointly owned by the Cabinet and Senior Management Team of the Council. Actions linked to the Covid-19 Recovery Strategy are contained within departmental business plans and reported to Overview and Scrutiny on a quarterly basis. This progress will also form part of the annual Overview and Scrutiny report presented to Full Council.</p> <p>A new revised Corporate Performance Framework is in place which is presented to the Cabinet on a quarterly basis.</p>
<p>Review the additional benefits that Overview and Scrutiny can bring in helping to shape and challenge the delivery of the key priorities for the council and the borough</p>	<p>A review of the role and functions of Overview and Scrutiny Committees has been undertaken. A revised workplan for 2020/21 and future years is in place which provides challenge and input to progress made against the priorities contained within the Covid-19 Recovery Strategy and the future Corporate Plan.</p>
<p>Continue to embed the Strategic Design Authority approach at pace so that it can drive the delivery of the transformation programme and realisation of savings</p>	<p>The Council has embedded its approach to the delivery of the programme delivering both transformation and budget savings throughout its governance. The Cabinet continues to provide the direction of travel and have overall oversight of the programme to deliver transformation and budget savings.</p> <p>Delivery of an effective member led priority-based budget is a priority for the Council and that work is underway.</p>
<p>Agree a programme of ongoing savings which can be delivered at pace to stop the reliance on one off funding and reserves</p>	<p>As per the above section.</p>

Progress the 'Creating a Better Place' vision and strategic framework given the significant potential benefits for the borough, as well as the medium – longer terms financial sustainability of the council

We are continuing to progress our 'Creating a Better Place' vision and strategic framework for the borough. Since the Peer Challenge the Cabinet have taken forward:

- An updated vision for Oldham Town Centre;
- A Housing Strategy 2019
- An updated Medium Term Property Strategy.

Cabinet have also requested that we have:

- An approach to accelerate delivery of new homes and jobs, enhanced training, places to visit and ensure Oldham is a place for investment;
- The ambition to deliver 'Creating a Better Place' in ways that contribute to a reduction in carbon in support of the Council's Green New Deal.

Since May 2021 the Council have secured investment into the borough including a successful bid for Town Deal Funding of £24m, on top of the £10m awarded from the Future High Street Fund and £6m Brownfield Housing Land Fund.

The corporate recovery plan and embracing new ways of working has enabled new momentum for the delivery of various programmes of work and delivery of the first year savings target of £1.8m is also underway.

The Council continues to provide update reports to the Cabinet at different stages of delivering the vision and strategic framework for the borough. It will also report through to Overview and Scrutiny on a regular basis to ensure that there is robust support and challenge in place.

<p>Develop a specific set of phased asks from partners both inside Oldham and across Greater Manchester which will help you to deliver the vision for Oldham</p>	<p>As highlighted within the Corporate Peer Challenge feedback report, the Council has established excellent working relationships both at a local and regional level. We continue to be constructive at Greater Manchester via the Leader and Chief Executive to ensure Oldham receives the maximum benefits for the place and our residents. These relationships have been strengthened significantly since May 2021.</p> <p>Our Covid-19 Recovery Strategy is a shared ambition of the Council and our partners. Our partners continue to play a vital role in ensuring Oldham achieves its ambitions. The Council's current Oldham Plan – which is developed and agreed by the Leader of the Council and the Oldham Leadership Board – is scheduled to be refreshed in 2022 and as part of this we will have a detailed action plan which will deliver against our vision and priorities.</p>
<p>Further develop relationships with partners in the private sector</p>	<p>The Council is committed to further developing relationships with the private sector. The private sector plays a key role in Oldham and will continue to do so going forward to ensure that we deliver our 'Creating a Better Place' vision and strategic framework. The private sector has a key role in ensuring successful delivery of our refreshed housing strategy as agreed at Cabinet in 2019.</p> <p>The Council launched our Town Deal Board and Housing Partnership in 2020 – both of which include private sector partners to help inform, collaborate and deliver broader opportunities for our local communities.</p> <p>In September 2021, the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council have relaunched the Council's commitment to</p>

	<p>Business Breakfast events in Oldham which bring together a range of businesses to promote, showcase and highlight the incredible businesses that are on offer in Oldham.</p>
<p>Work with partners in the VCFSE to formalise a framework setting out how the council works with the sector, building on the good practice already being seen</p>	<p>Oldham continues to have strong working relationships with the VCFSE sector and very much sees them as an equal partner in delivering vital services to our communities. This has been even more evident during our response to the Covid-19 Pandemic.</p> <p>A MOU is in place with Greater Manchester and the sectors and Oldham continues to adopt the principles of this.</p>
<p>Consider holistically how the energy, commitment and creativity of the workforce across Team Oldham can be optimised</p>	<p>Prior to the peer challenge process, work had progressed at pace on developing a new workforce strategy for Team Oldham which aligns to the priorities as set out within the Covid-19 Recovery Strategy. This strategy is now in place and compliments the delivery of the transformation programme and business as usual activity. It also ensures that the workforce is fully supported to deliver against our priorities.</p> <p>The Cabinet agreed to the workforce strategy in June 2020.</p>

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