



Hinckley & Bosworth  
Borough Council

*A Borough to be proud of*

## FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND DECISION MAKING

EXECUTIVE BRIEFING  
SCRUTINY COMMISSION

23 November 2016  
08 December 2016

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

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### LGA PEER CHALLENGE - SEPTEMBER 2016

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#### **Report of Chief Executive**

##### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For Members to receive and comment on the formal report from the LGA Peer Challenge Team (Appendix A) and be assured as to the actions being taken in response to the recommendations in that report.

##### 2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members consider the report of the LGA Peer Challenge Team and
- i) note and welcome the many positive comments made by staff, businesses and partners about how the Council operates.
  - ii) note and welcome the many positive comments about what the Council has achieved/will achieve in the future.
  - iii) endorse and comment on the action plan to address the recommendations, which is attached as Appendix B.
  - iv) formally thank the team for their thorough and professional approach to the overall challenge.

##### 3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Council invited a Peer Challenge from the Local Government Association, as a means of securing an independent assessment of its strengths and areas for improvement. The Council provided the Challenge Team, led by the Chief Executive of South Lakeland District Council, with a great deal of information in advance of the 'on site' visit, which took place from the 21 to 23 September 2016.

- 3.2 The Council asked that the team focus on five main areas:
- Understanding of the local place and priority-setting
  - Leadership of place
  - Forward planning and viability
  - Organisational leadership and governance
  - Capacity to deliver
- 3.3 In addition, the team was asked to look at how well the Council is meeting its aim of 'creating a vibrant place to work and live'.
- 3.4 The team gave some initial feedback to the Leader of the Council and senior officers at the conclusion of the on-site visit and has now followed that up with a final report, which has been published and circulated to all those who participated. A copy is attached to this paper at Appendix A. Members should view the overall report as very positive - both about what the Council has achieved and its potential for further achievements under the guidance of the new Senior Management Team from January 2017.
- 3.5 The team membership, their methodology, the overall scope of the Challenge and the team's conclusions are all set out on the attached report.
- 3.6 The final report sets out eight recommendations, but acknowledges that some refer to work which is underway already. Officers have sought to react quickly to the recommendations - as they would anyway - but particularly in order to ensure that the new Senior Management Team 'hits the ground running' from January 2017.
- 3.7 The recommendations, the proposed Action Plan and timescales are attached at Appendix B.
- 3.8 Members are asked to clarify/expand on these responses, so that the recommendations can be addressed as robustly as possible.
4. EXEMPTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES
- 4.1 The report will be considered in open session at the Scrutiny Commission.
5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [AW]
- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [AR]
- 6.1 None.
7. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS
- 7.1 This report and its outcomes contribute to all the Council aims, but particularly that of 'Providing value for money and proactive services'.
8. CONSULTATION
- 8.1 Consultation on the final version of the LGA report has taken place with the Leader of the Council, Opposition Leader, Chair of Scrutiny Commission and the Strategic Leadership Board (SLB). The draft Action Plan has been prepared by SLB.

## 9. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion, based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.
- 9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report/decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
The LGA report and its recommendations are an opportunity for the Council to learn and further improve its operation.	Adopt and implement the Action Plan in this paper.	Chief Executive

## 10. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY - EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Council Plan development and associated Budget Plan process will impact on all areas of the Borough and all groups within the population

## 11. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
- Community Safety implications
  - Environmental implications
  - ICT implications
  - Asset Management implications
  - Procurement implications
  - Human Resources implications
  - Planning implications
  - Data Protection implications
  - Voluntary Sector

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Background papers: Correspondence with members, Officers and stakeholders who agreed to participate in the Peer Challenge Process

Hard copies of information presented to the Review Team

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