REPORT TO	ON
CABINET COUNCIL	23 January 2019 6 February 2019

TITLE	PORTFOLIO	REPORT OF
Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan and Response to External Auditors Statutory Recommendation Update	**Leader of the Council**	**Chief Executive**

Is this report a **KEY DECISION** (i.e. more than £100,000 or impacting on more than 2 Borough wards?)	**No**
Is this report on the **Statutory Cabinet Forward Plan**?	**Yes**
Is the request outside the policy and budgetary framework and therefore subject to confirmation at full Council?	**No**
Is this report confidential?	**No**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report and the attached appendix aims to provide the Cabinet with an overarching progress report on the actions taken, and outcomes, in relation to the Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan and to provide updates on the response to the external auditors' statutory recommendation update.

2. PORTFOLIO RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

2.1 Note the report, appendices, and their content; and

2.2 Note that South Ribble Borough Council is now in a position where significant actions have now been taken and significant improvement have been made, and is continuing to be made, in the ongoing running of the Council.

2.3 Following the recommendation of the Improvement Reference Group a focused peer review will be carried out in October 2019.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

3.1 To provide Members with an update on the work undertaken as a Council to incorporate the recommendations from the Corporate Peer Challenge Review and the External Audit Recommendations.

4. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4.1 The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Excellence and Financial Sustainability	X
Health and Wellbeing	X
Place	

Projects relating to People in the Corporate Plan:

People	X

5. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

5.1 The attachment provides an overarching view of progress from numerous reports produced over the past year. Key achievements and completion of areas can be noted with clear plans in place for continuous improvement.

5.2 A detailed action log confirming completion of initiatives is attached to this report for information.

6. PROPOSALS (e.g. RATIONALE, DETAIL, FINANCIAL, PROCUREMENT)

6.1 Assurance can now be given that these issues are now being addressed through our newly designed PDA process (being developed by the staff) and also our corporate planning and service planning work. Capacity for delivery is now in place with the new leadership team being fully staffed.

7. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

7.1 The Improvement Reference Group have noted the significant improvements made on the peer review action plans and are looking to close the group with a further focused LGA Peer review in October 2019 to ascertain that the implemented actions as set out in the attached appendix, are embedded into the day to day workings of the Council.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

10. HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

10.1 HR & Organisational Developments implications are outlined within the report and the attached Appendix A: Action Log.

11. ICT/TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no specific ICT / Technology implications as a result of this report.

12. PROPERTY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no property and asset management implications as a result of this report.

13. RISK MANAGEMENT

13.1 The programme for improvement is set in the context of delivering quality services in a timely manner within budget. The Council has set out its new MTFS and this will be monitored quarterly by Cabinet. The Council's performance on service delivery will also be monitored closely through the delivery of its Corporate Plan on a quarterly basis. The key areas of risk around staff morale, financial budgeting and effective delivery are all captured in the Council's Risk Register.

14. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT

14.1 Equality and diversity implications have been considered as part of the undertaking of the recommendations and this will continued to be assessed on a quarterly basis alongside the monitoring of the delivery of the Corporate Plan.

15. RELEVANT DIRECTORS RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 Note that all recommendations put forward from the LGA Peer Review have been completed, or a plan is in place to embed changes.

15.2 Note that all External Audit Recommendations have been considered and actioned as complete.

15.3 Note the exception of actions relating to Shared Services Implementation which has been deferred to May/June 2019.

15.4 Take reassurance that External Auditors are comfortable with the intermediate plans in place covering the vacant shared service roles.

15.5 Recognise the achievements made by Officers, and all Members, in completing above recommendations.

16. COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

16.1 This report recognises the significant progress made by the authority to deliver the Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan and responds to the Statutory Auditors report for 2017/18.

17. COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

17.1 A great deal of work has been done in this regard by both officers and members. Significant improvements have clearly been made. This is a trajectory that we need to continue with.

18. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

18.1 LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report April 2017

18.2 Corporate Peer Challenge Action plan and response to Statutory Recommendation (under s24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014) Paper for Council on 26th September 2018.

21. APPENDICES

Appendix A: LGA Action log.

Heather McManus
Chief Executive

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