

EREWASH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report of the Leader of the Council and the
Chief Executive to Council Executive

27 February 2024

LGA Corporate Peer Challenge 2023

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To advise the Executive of feedback given to the council following the Corporate Peer Challenge of November 2023 and to suggest a response to it.

2 Recommendations

That the Council Executive:

- (a) notes the feedback from the Corporate Peer Challenge team;
- (b) approves the response to it contained in this report;
- (c) publishes the Corporate Peer Challenge feedback report and also this council's response to that report.

3 Information, issues and options

- 3.1 The Local Government Association (LGA) provides a Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) product of which it says: "CPC is [a] tried and trusted method of improvement. It provides councils with a robust and effective improvement and assurance tool which is owned and delivered by the sector, for the sector". CPC's are free to the host authority (Erewash) and funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) by way of grant to the LGA. Erewash hosted a CPC team in November 2023. The team's ways of working are described in its feedback report.
- 3.2 The feedback report is a snapshot, through the eyes of the peer team, of the journey the council is undertaking and makes recommendations it believes will take the council forward. The tone chosen by the authors of the feedback report is rather dramatic. That said, leading councillors and officers recognise that much of its content is a reflection back to Erewash Borough Council (EBC) of what we ourselves have said to the team. The council is embarked on a journey of renewal; of purposeful change to ensure that EBC can deliver the objectives of the new administration and continue to discharge successfully its local government functions. That this is so is a measure of our self awareness.
- 3.3 The feedback report is attached as Appendix 1.

- 3.4 The council's response is in Appendix 2.
- 3.5 It is for the council to decide on the actions it takes in response to the feedback which is from our peers. It can accept all recommendations or none or some. The council must determine its own priorities and emphases in implementing change.
- 4 Risk and financial implications
- 4.1 Implementing changes the council wishes to make will inevitably need resources to be allocated to them. Those resources are primarily human – the commitment of member and officer time which, of course, are both constrained. There can be expected also to be a need for expenditure. The draft 2024/25 budget does allow for some investment in the necessary organisational infrastructure.
- 5 Legal implications
- 5.1 As always, the council will comply with legal requirements.
- 6 Human Resources implications
- 6.1 As recognised in paragraph 4.1 the actions that are in hand or will be undertaken are heavily dependent on the people involved in their delivery. Their engagement and consultation are crucial; to this the council is committed.
- 7 Alignment to council priorities
- 7.1 The actions to be taken or in hand support all the council's priorities, whether established or emerging.

Background papers

None.

Contacts

Councillor James Dawson, Leader of the Council

Telephone 0115 9071099. E-mail james.dawson@erewash.gov.uk

Jeremy Jaroszek, Chief Executive

Telephone 0115 9071199. E-mail: jeremy.jaroszek@erewash.gov.uk

Key decision status (Executive decisions only)

Forward Plan reference

Not applicable.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – LGA Corporate Peer Challenge feedback report.

Appendix 2 – The council's response to the recommendations.

Note: in preparing this report, due regard has been had to human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental, efficiency and health considerations as appropriate. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed or is not required. Relevant officers have been consulted in relation to any legal, financial, human resources or property implications and comments received are reflected in the report.