

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	13 November 2025	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3660
TITLE:	Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: 1) LGA Corporate Peer Review Final Report 2) Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with the draft action plan, reflecting the feedback and recommendations from the Local Government Association's (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge that took place in July 2025.

2 RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet is asked to;

2.1 Approve the draft action plan

- 2.2 **Agree to a follow up visit in Summer 2026 to help the council assess the impact of the peer challenge and demonstrate the progress made in response to the review's recommendations.**

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 Corporate Peer Challenges (CPCs) are a form of sector-led improvement arranged by the LGA.
- 3.2 They are improvement-focused and tailored to meet individual councils' needs, designed to complement and add value to a council's own performance and improvement.

3.3 They are not inspections and do not provide a detailed diagnosis or scored assessment.

3.4 All CPCs assess councils against five key themes:

- i. Local priorities and outcomes
- ii. Organisational and place leadership
- iii. Governance and culture
- iv. Financial planning and management
- v. Capacity for improvement

3.5 In advance of their visit to Bath & North East Somerset, the peer team reviewed a range of documents shared by the council, to ensure familiarity with the organisation particularly in relation to the challenges.

3.6 The team then spent four days onsite from 8 - 11 July 2025, speaking to more than 120 people - including a range of council staff together with councillors and external stakeholders - and attending in excess of 30 meetings.

3.7 The team consisted off the following officers and elected members:

- Denise McGuckin, Managing Director, Hartlepool Borough Council
- Councillor Ruth Dombey, London Borough of Sutton (Liberal Democrat)
- Councillor Jim Robbins, Leader, Swindon Borough Council (Labour)
- Gary Fielding, Corporate Director of Resources, North Yorkshire Council
- Stuart Wright, Director of Place Strategy, South Tyneside Council
- Chris Bowron, LGA Peer Challenge Manager

3.8 The peer review report recognised delivery of many good things where the council is making a difference; including climate action, place-shaping, community wellbeing, staff culture, and financial management.

3.9 There were also a range of suggestions and observations within the main section of the report that will inform some practical actions and quick wins. This includes an immediate response of undertaking a communications peer review **7-9 October 2025** to further embed the council's core policy of 'giving people a bigger say' by reaching more widely and deeply into communities.

3.10 The peer team identified eight key recommendations. The proposed method of addressing these is outlined in the draft action plan (appendix 2).

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 None

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 The action plan will be delivered using existing resources.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 The action plan (appendix 2) details the council's response to the recommendation relating to equalities, diversity and inclusion.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 The report highlighted that the council has a very clear focus on climate and nature, with a reduction in the organisation's greenhouse gas emissions of 36% in the period from 2016/17 to 2023/24.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 Monitoring officer and S151 officer.

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Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	