	Council	Tuesday, 20 June 2017	Matter for Information and Decision

Title: Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge

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1.   Introduction

1.1.   The Council voluntarily agreed to take part in an Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge which took place in March 2017. The purpose of this challenge was to provide the Council with a general "health check", to consider how well it has appraised its own situation and how well prepared and focussed it is for the opportunities and challenges ahead. In delivering this challenge the Peer Team also explored the core components (the underpinning features of good performance) that all corporate peer challenges cover. The report is attached as an ***Appendix***.

2.2.   Janet Waggott, the Lead Chief Executive of the LGA Team, and Ernest Opuni, the LGA's Improvement Manager, will present the report to all Members in a Members' Briefing Session which is to be held prior to the Council meeting at 6:00 pm.

2.   Recommendations

2.1.   That the Council accepts the report (as set out in the appendix).

2.2.   That a proposed Action Plan resulting from the report will be presented to the Change Management Committee at its meeting on 26 July 2017 for its consideration.

3.   Information

3.1.   The Peer Challenge was carried out between 21 and 23 March 2017. The LGA Team provided a headline summary of their findings on 23 March.

3.2.   Overall the team made many positive comments about the Council. The areas they focused on in their briefing were:

- Does the Council understand the local place, i.e the Borough, and use that to set its priorities?
- Does the Council provide effective leadership of place, i.e the Borough, and play an effective role in the wider place i.e Leicestershire?
- Does the Council have a financial plan in place to ensure its long-term viability and is it being implemented successfully?
- Is there effective political and managerial leadership that responds to the key challenges and opportunities and enables changes and transformation to take place?
- Is the organisational capacity being used to best effect to deliver the Council's priorities?

To each of these questions the LGA challenge team concluded that the answer for Oadby & Wigston Borough Council was "Yes".

3.3.   The report also highlights that the Council is amongst some of the best that the Team have seen in the country at some of the things it does. The LGA Team were also very complimentary about the staff and were impressed that everybody they met seemed to be very happy and contented working for the Council and that staff felt very strongly about providing good services for the residents.

3.4.   The report also sets out a series of recommendation which includes making better use of ICT, making bigger decisions more timely (particularly financial ones) and bringing in additional resources when necessary to ensure that the Council has the capacity to deliver its transformation agenda.

3.5.   The LGA Challenge Team consisted of six independent and experienced people from different Councils. The team was lead by a very experienced Chief Executive and also consisted of two directors from other Councils and a Liberal Democrat and Conservative Councillor both who had been the Leaders of their respective Councils. They were also supported and guided by an LGA Improvement Manager. The team talked with over 60 people, all with different perspectives and experiences including residents, Councillors, staff, businesses, community and voluntary groups, volunteers, the Police, the health service, contractors and other Councils who all interact with the Council. They also looked at a huge amount of paperwork.

Background Documents:-

Verbal update entitled 'Local Government Association Peer Review Challenge' given by the Chief Executive at the meeting of the Council on 23 May 2017.

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Implications	
Financial (CR)	No implications arising directly from this report.
Legal (AC)	No implications arising directly from this report.
Risk (MHa)	*CR8 - Organisational Transformational Change*.
Corporate Priorities (MHa)	The report and proposed Action Plan will seek to strengthen all the Council's Corporate Priorities.
Vision and Values (MHa)	The report and proposed Action Plan will seek to strengthen the Council's Vision and all Values.
Equalities (MHa)	No implications arising directly from this report.
	Equality Assessment:-
	☐ Initial Screening ☐ Full Assessment ☒ Not Applicable