



REPORT TO:	Council
DATE:	23 rd January 2023
SUBJECT:	LGA Peer Review Report and Action Plan
PURPOSE:	To note the findings of the LGA Peer Review and associated Action Plan
KEY DECISION:	No
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Cllr Paul Skinner, Leader of the Council
REPORT OF:	James Gilbert, Assistant Director - Corporate
REPORT AUTHOR:	Suzanne Rolfe, Group Manager – Insights & Transformation
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

The Local Government Association (LGA) undertook a Peer Review of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (S&ELCP) in October 2022. They have provided a report detailing their findings and an action plan has been developed in response to the recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- To note the LGA Peer Review Report and Action Plan

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

It is good practice to publish the LGA Peer Review Report and to agree the resulting actions

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

1. LGA Peer Review Report

- 1.1 The LGA Peer Review took place from 10th to 14th October 2022.
- 1.2 Eight peers spent five days onsite across the three council locations, preceded by reviewing a range of documents and information provided in advance. They had over 50 meetings and spoke to almost 200 people including external stakeholders.
- 1.3 The team considered the five themes which form the usual core components of a Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) but uniquely through the prism of the Partnership.
 - Local priorities and outcomes
 - Organisational and place leadership
 - Governance and culture
 - Financial planning and management
 - Capacity for improvement
- 1.4 The peers found that the Partnership has been a good thing for the Councils. It has raised aspirations and brought together shared expertise, learning and capacity. Externally it has secured greater visibility and profile. The next step is to translate exciting ambitions into reality. The recommendations and action plan provide the framework to build on the strong foundations identified in the report.
- 1.5 The full report is attached at Appendix 1.

2. LGA Peer Review Action Plan

- 2.1 Actions have been identified against each of the recommendations, with a lead and timescale recorded for each action.
- 2.2 The delivery of the actions will be monitored by the Leadership Team at their monthly governance meeting and by Stakeholder Board and Joint Strategy Board. Delivery will also be reported in the six monthly Partnership Performance Report to each Council.
- 2.3 The LGA offer a six-month Progress Review session to share progress against the action plan and discuss next steps. This is being arranged for mid-2023.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The LGA Peer Review has provided us with an independent external assessment of the Partnership – what is working well and opportunities for improvement. The monitoring and delivery of the action plan will enable us to take those opportunities and continue to work collaboratively across the Partnership for our communities.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

The LGA Peer Review has provided us with an independent external assessment of the Partnership – what is working well and opportunities for improvement. The process itself and the resulting recommendations and action plan provide the framework to build on the strong foundations identified in the report.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH & EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

One of the key themes of the Peer Review was “organisational and place leadership.”

The Peer Review Action Plan will be implemented across the Partnership. For example, developing and communicating widely a collective understanding of the Partnership’s purpose, future direction, and timescales for delivery.

The Partnership annual scrutiny review aligns with the Peers’ recommendations.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

One of the key themes of the Peer Review was “priorities and outcomes.”

One of the recommendations is to “define long term strategic place shaping ambitions across the Partnership and consider if appropriate committing to one shared set of priorities.” In response, an action has been identified to agree the future approach to Corporate Plans by January 2023.

In addition, a further action is to identify opportunities for key shared priorities as part of the development/refresh of the Partnership Plan/Corporate Plans by November 2023.

STAFFING

There are a number of recommendations and actions which will have implications for staffing. In particular, service integration, use of Section 113 agreements and review of terms and conditions.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

One of the key themes of the Peer Review was “governance and culture.”

There is an action to undertake a Constitutional Review to continue to seek opportunities for alignment.

DATA PROTECTION

No implications specific to data protection in this report.

FINANCIAL

One of the key themes of the Peer Review was “financial planning and management.”

RISK MANAGEMENT

One of the key themes of the Peer Review was “governance and culture.”

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

Stakeholders were involved in the Peer Review process and the details are set out in the report.

The action plan includes timescales for delivery of each of the actions.

REPUTATION

The report notes that externally, the Partnership has secured greater visibility and profile on particular issues, such as its growth activities. It recommends that establishing a collective understanding of its future direction and single approach for key place-based issues will provide clarity, foster collective buy-in, and enhance the Partnership's long-term strategic place shaping influence.

CONTRACTS

One of the key themes of the Peer Review was "governance and culture."

CRIME AND DISORDER

No implications specific to this report.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

No implications specific to this report.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

No implications specific to this report.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No implications specific to this report, although climate adaptation is mentioned as one of the areas of opportunity for a single Partnership-wide approach.

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

No implications specific to this report, although one of the actions is to report sub regional Indices of Multiple Deprivation data as part of the Performance Framework.

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the follow Missions outlined in the Government's Levelling Up White paper.	
Living Standards	By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
Research and Development	By 2030, domestic public investment in Research & Development outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40% and at least one third over the Spending Review period, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.
Transport Infrastructure	By 2030, local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.
Digital Connectivity	By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.
Education	By 2030, the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the follow Missions outlined in the Government’s Levelling Up White paper.	
Skills	By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
Health	By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.
Wellbeing	By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
Pride in Place	By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
Housing	By 2030, renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the government’s ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.
Crime	By 2030, homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.
Local Leadership	By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.

ACRONYMS

- CPC: Corporate Peer Challenge
- LGA: Local Government Association
- MTFs: Medium Term Financial Strategy
- PPSL: Public Sector Partnership Services Ltd
- S&ELCP: South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership
- SLT: Senior Leadership Team

APPENDICES	
Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -	
APPENDIX A	LGA Peer Review Report
APPENDIX B	LGA Peer Review Action Plan

BACKGROUND PAPERS
No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body. This is being reported directly to Council to inform all Members.

REPORT APPROVAL

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