

Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council – Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan

Key Recommendations

Recommendation	Response / Action	Lead Officer	Timescale
<p>Recommendation 1 <i>The council needs to review its strategic priorities and realign resources accordingly.</i></p> <p>Getting the right priorities in place to maximise emerging opportunities and deal with the challenges will provide the council with the strategic framework for engaging with citizens, collaborating with partners, improving the quality of life for residents, facilitating the transformation of the organisation, and will enable everybody to better understand their place and role in delivering for Redditch.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree with the recommendation. The Management Team will work with the Executive (RBC) and Cabinet (BDC) to review the priorities and non priorities. This work will start immediately with a view to seeking agreement to new Council Plans (in both Councils) in September. The new Council Plans will drive the review of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. • Action Plan attached 	Kevin Dicks / Deb Poole	September 2023 (for new Council Plan)
<p>Recommendation 2 <i>The organisation should consider a governance review to improve decision-making.</i></p> <p>There is room for improvements in the council's governance arrangements and a review will strengthen decision-making through more Member engagement and provide a greater level of scrutiny, challenge and assurance. It will also improve the processes and support arrangements across the council to enable Members to deliver on their democratic and leadership responsibilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree with the recommendation. Significant work is already being undertaken in this regard (attached) – members are asked to identify what if anything else is required. Depending on this there may be a requirement to commission external support (LGA/Peer lead(s)) 	Kevin Dicks / Claire Felton	TBC

<p>Recommendation 3 <i>Embed the 2022-2026 Workforce Strategy and develop an action plan which needs to be implemented at pace.</i></p> <p>This will help to align organisational capacity, corporate resources, transformation, workforce development, succession and talent management, and performance management to the new priorities. It will also strengthen the link between the council's ambitions and delivery as well as providing a clear corporate line of sight on how resources are being deployed, what is being achieved and how the organisation is feeling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree with the recommendation. Members agreed the Strategy commencement date should be 2023. • Action Plan attached 	Sue Hanley / Deb Poole	As per Action Plan
<p>Recommendation 4 <i>Agile working principles and policies need to be implemented consistently.</i></p> <p>This calls for flexible and hybrid-working plans to be supported by clear management and staff guidance on how this will work in practice for the whole workforce in an equitable way. Not having clear guidelines and parameters in place exposes the council to potential unequal and discriminatory practices leading to inconsistencies across the organisation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree with the recommendation. • Implementation Plan attached 	Sue Hanley / Deb Poole	As per Action Plan

<p>Recommendation 5 <i>Ensure the Section 24 Notice and Interim Annual Audit Report recommendations are fully implemented.</i></p> <p>This is a key priority for the council as it impacts on the reputation of the council and statutory compliance. Furthermore, the implementation of the recommendations will lead to improved governance and financial management in the organisation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree with the recommendation. • Action Plan Attached 	Pete Carpenter / Michelle Howell	As per Action Plan
<p>Recommendation 6 <i>Use engagement, shared values, and improved processes to create a positive democratic culture.</i></p> <p>This means finding ways to involve a greater number of Members in the work of the council and fostering a more supportive and cordial culture between Members and enhanced understanding and joint working between Members and staff to strengthen the democratic process.</p>	Agree with the recommendation. Significant work is already being undertaken in this regard (attached) – members are asked to identify what if anything else is required. Depending on this there may be a requirement to commission external support (LGA/Peer lead(s))	Kevin Dicks / Claire Felton	TBC