

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PEER CHALLENGE

ACTION PLAN

No.	Peer challenge recommendations	Actions	Accountable officer	Completed
A. Corporate				
A1	Develop a clearer, shared narrative about Rossendale as a place, its future and the Council's role within this.	Viva PR to work with the members and CMT to develop a clear narrative	Neil Shaw	Q4 21/22
		Use the narrative in council communications and staff engagement sessions to explain service performance and the rationale for key projects	CMT	Q1 22/23
A2	Prioritise partnership engagement and activity to focus on the things that can have the greatest impact.	Ensure member briefings are undertaken ahead of Board/ partnership meetings	CMT	Ongoing
		Review how the council engages with communities with a focus on identifying where the council should be focusing its community engagement energy	Adam Allen	Q1-2 22/23
A3	Work with partners to bring a renewed focus and thinking on tourism within Rossendale.	Review how the Visitor Economy Strategy can be driven more effectively in partnership with tourism stakeholders	Mandy Lewis	Q1-Q2 22/23
A4	Consider how to build more corporate capacity to fulfil ambitions	Cabinet/CMT roundtable discussion to agree 2022 key projects to better manage capacity across the council	Cabinet/CMT	Q4 21/22
		Use the service planning process to manage the key priorities for each service year annually	CMT	Q4 each year
		Cabinet and CMT to jointly 'gate keep' potential new projects to ensure there is sufficient capacity before commencement of new projects	Cabinet/CMT	Ongoing
A5	Consider how best the Council can set out and deliver its strategic housing ambitions for Rossendale in support of the new Local Plan	Review housing statistical information, housing demand data and engage with Housing Associations and landlords	Ged Gallagher	Q4 21/22
		Develop a new Housing Strategy with early input from the portfolio holder and Overview & Scrutiny	Ged Gallagher	Q4 21/22 to Q2 22/23
		Agree the Housing Strategy	Ged Gallagher	Q3 22/23
A6	The Council should continue to prioritise work with the auditors to ensure closure of accounts from 2017/18 onwards.	Agree final position with Grant Thornton on 17/18 accounts	Karen Spencer	Q4 21/22
		Work with Mazars on the audit of the 18/19, 19/20 and 20/21 accounts to enable closure	Karen Spencer	Q1-Q3 22/23
A7	Review the Council's approach to councillor queries to ensure greater consistency in response across services	Democratic Services to survey all members on current views on response to member enquiries	Carolyn Sharples	Q4 21/22

		From the survey identify specific actions/approach to improve response time	Clare Birtwistle	Q4 21/22
A8	Review the scrutiny function to ensure it has maximum impact. This includes how it holds the Executive to account and its role in informing both policy development and providing service performance challenge.	Ensure all new strategies are considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at an early stage to enable identification of strategic priorities for the strategy to be developed appropriately	Relevant Head of Service	On-going
		Assign new CMT lead to support Overview & Scrutiny	Mandy Lewis	Q4 21/22
		Undertake development work with Overview & Scrutiny members to enable clearer focus on strategic issues to support strategy development	Mandy Lewis & Clare Law	On-going
		Quarterly performance reports are scheduled at Cabinet meetings alongside financial monitoring reports	Cabinet/CMT	Q4 21/22
A9	Develop a strategic communications plan including how the Council can make best use of social media channels to engage audiences and promote the work of the Council.	Agree annually four quarterly comms campaigns	Viva PR	Q1 each year
		Reflect council successes in staff engagement/comms more consistently	CMT	Q3 21/22
		Produce the annual 'Key Achievements' video	Kaya Payne	Q4 21/22
		Publicise more 'good news' stories to the public on an ongoing basis including social media	Viva PR	Ongoing
B. Tackling climate change				
B1	Strengthen climate change leadership at all levels of the organisation.	Integrate climate change actions/responsibilities into new job descriptions where relevant	Kelly Forrest and all managers	Q4 21/22
		Embed climate change objectives within appraisal objectives for key officers starting in 2022/23	All managers	Q1 22/23
		Include climate change heading on the committee report template	Carolyn Sharples	Q4 21/22
		Introduce climate change champions in each service area	CMT	Q4 21/22
		Following each carbon audit, clear targets for projects and the programme will be set	Adam Allen	Q3 22/23
B2	Ensure climate action initiatives are co-designed and co-created working alongside local communities.	Build on the existing climate emergency network (of community members, a headteacher and pupils) to build a wider virtual network online	Adam Allen	Q2 22/23
C. Being a more commercial council				
C1	Agree what developing a commercial approach means for the Council in the short, medium and longer term.	Produce a clear statement on the council's commercial approach as part of the MTFs each year	Neil Shaw & Karen Spencer	Q4 each year
		Review fees and charges annually including statistical neighbours and East Lancs authorities	Karen Spencer	Q4 each year

		Undertake commercialisation training for middle managers based on the LGA development offer	Clare Law	Q2 22/23
		Run 'Dragons Den' activity with middle managers to identify income generation business ideas	Adam Allen	Q2 22/23
C2	The Council should accelerate the property asset review.	Review Property Officer fixed term roles using 'invest to save' principles	Lucie Greenwood	Q4 21/22
		Model the income generation opportunities for developing out Plots 3 and 4 at Futures Park	Mandy Lewis	Q1 22/23