

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**CORPORATE AND PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****20th June 2016****LGA CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE****Purpose of Report**

1. To brief the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the finding of the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge

(The full LGA report is attached in Annex A)

2. LGA Corporate Peer Challenge

When we approached the LGA to conduct a corporate peer challenge we set the scope to be around our preparedness to meet the demands of the year 2020, we were also assessed against the five LGA themes: Understanding of Local Place & Priority Setting; Leadership of Place; Organisational Leadership & Governance; Financial Planning & Viability and Capacity to Deliver. As this type of review is part of the LGA's 'sector-led' improvement offer, the peer team was made up of people with a wealth of local government experience:

- Pete Rentell – LGA representative
- Gill Steward – Interim CEO, West Sussex County Council (now CEO London Borough of Bexley)
- Robert Flinter – Deputy Director of People and Head of Transformation, Staffordshire County Council
- Rob Ayliffe – Head of Policy & Performance, Gloucestershire County Council
- Cllr Colin Noble – Leader Suffolk County Council

3. Peer Review Findings

“North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) is a very good council – its services are highly regarded and the peer review team witnessed areas of excellence.” This is the conclusion reached by the LGA during their peer review which took place between 8th to 11th March.

In addition to the headline statement above, the key messages from the review are:

- The voice of the service user comes through loud and clear and there are many examples of good and excellent delivery of outcomes for users and residents.
- The County Council has a clear understanding of the challenges and the opportunities that they and the County face.
- NYCC has a very sound financial position and has a tremendous grip of its budget.

- There are well thought through delivery and improvement plans, as well as evidence of a very strong record of delivery.
- NYCC has strong and well-regarded political and managerial leadership recognised across the organisation and amongst most stakeholders and partners.
- The NYCC staff is extremely committed and willing to go the extra mile (not only in times of emergency, but also on a day-to-day basis); they are engaged and proud to work for the Council.
- There is good enabling ICT infrastructure being implemented and great use of business intelligence and self-service options.
- The County Council understands the opportunities devolution and economic growth hold for the County and wider region.

4. Areas for Consideration

Responding to the original scope question being asked (meeting the demands of the year 2020), as noted above, the peer team concluded NYCC was in a good position compared to other local authorities. However they were keen to explore what the future for North Yorkshire looked like *beyond* 2020 by asking the following questions:

- What kind of Council are you going to be?
- How are you going to be different?
- How are you going to maintain excellent service delivery?

They also urged us to maintain a focus on growth & devolution, in addition to the commercial agenda and generating a trading profit into the Council. The recommendation was that these offer a solution to preserving financial resilience for the County in the longer term, whilst not reducing the quality or breadth of service delivery.

5. Discussion for the Committee

- How should the Council form a view on the three questions posed by the LGA?
- In which ways can a Corporate Performance function ensure NYCC are achieving the priorities laid out in the Council Plan (see Annex B)?
- Are there any additional mechanisms Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee would like to see put in place with regards to how performance is managed and improved corporately?

Recommendations

6. Note the findings of the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge.
7. Offer advice on how to take forward the areas for consideration presented by the LGA. This advice will be used as part of the a review of the Performance Management Framework.

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Background Documents: None

Annex A: LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report (embedded)



North Yorkshire CC
CPC Final report 03C

Annex B: NYCC Council Plan (linked) & Priorities

http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/media/27528/Council-plan/pdf/Council_plan_2016-20.pdf

Children and young people

- Children and young people have a great education in schools that are good or outstanding and that they go on to make good career choices and access relevant skills or higher education programmes.
- Children and young people live safely and happily with their natural or extended family, and where that is not possible, they grow up in stable and secure arrangements and are well supported to leave the care system.
- Children and young people lead healthy lives, no matter what their age or where they live.

Health and wellbeing

- People in North Yorkshire live longer, healthier, independent lives.
- Support is centred on the needs of people and their carers, enabling them to take control of their health and independence - we want people to have more choice and control over the support to meet their social care needs.
- Good public health services and social care are available across our different communities.
- Vulnerable people are safe, with individuals, organisations and communities all playing a part in preventing, identifying and reporting neglect or abuse.

Growth

- North Yorkshire is a place with a strong economy and a commitment to sustainable growth that enables our citizens to fulfil their ambitions and aspirations.
- Critical to achieving this ambition is delivering the right housing and transport infrastructure, alongside high speed broadband and mobile phone connectivity, whilst protecting the outstanding environment and heritage.

Modern council

- We will be a modern council which puts our customers at the heart of what we do.

- We will increase efficiency and productivity and reduce our carbon footprint by modernising the way we work so that we use technology smartly and reduce our office space requirements.