

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Local Government Association Planning Peer Challenge – Quarterly Update

25 October 2023

Report of Chief Officer – Planning and Climate Change

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the Update Report regarding the recent Planning Peer Challenge.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) **That Members note the Update Report.**

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This is the second Quarterly Update Report following Lancaster City Council's Peer Challenge (November 2022). The Peer Challenge was requested by the City Council, and it was co-ordinated by the Local Government Association (LGA), working with the national Planning Advisory Service (PAS). The aim of the Peer Challenge was to independently review the local planning authority's operations and performance and consider how it can respond to the present and future challenges.
- 1.2 Details of the Peer Challenge process, including the LGA/PAS report (January 2023) and the City Council's subsequent response (the Implementation Plan 2023/24) were set out at the 12 July 2023 Overview and Scrutiny Meeting. Both documents were appended to the July Meeting report.

2.0 Update Report

- 2.1 The Update Report Table is appended to this covering report. It provides details of progress in addressing the recommended actions. Each workstream is given a Red, Amber, Green (RAG) rating.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 The LGA/PAS Peer Challenge was a positive experience for internal and external participants, with some pleasing outcomes. The recommendations of this independent review were fair.

3.2 The next Update Report will be provided in January 2024.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing):

Some of the measures described in the Implementation Plan 2023/24 will have a positive impact in terms of service delivery, particularly regarding accessing relevant planning application information.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications stemming from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces

None, all recommendations can be addressed within current resources.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Update Report Table, October 2023

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