

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	LGA PEER CHALLENGE		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	14 <sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2013		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Suki Sitaram</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 023 8083 2060
	<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:Suki.sitaram@southampton.gov.uk">Suki.sitaram@southampton.gov.uk</a>	
<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>			
None			

### **BRIEF SUMMARY**

This report outlines the recommendations from the LGA Peer Challenge conducted at the end of July 2013 and the council's action plan which is in response to the recommendations.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

- (i) That the Committee considers the report.

### **REASON FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. In response to a request for this item to be discussed at the OSMC meeting in November 2013.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

2. None.

### **DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

3. The Leader and Chief Executive have aspirations for the council to become an outstanding council. Therefore, to benefit from an independent assessment of the progress we are making and an opportunity to learn from best practice, the Leader and Chief Executive invited the Local Government Association (LGA) to undertake a Corporate Peer Challenge of the council from 22<sup>nd</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup> July 2013.
4. The Peer Challenge is part of the benefits we receive from our membership of the LGA and involved an experienced team, including the Leader of Bury Council, a chief executive, directors and a senior officer from the Audit Commission, visiting the council and speaking with various groups of staff, councillors and partners.
5. The Peer Challenge recommendations are attached as Appendix 1 and the Council's Action Plan is detailed in Appendix 2. To ensure that the recommendations of the Peer Challenge are implemented the council is taking advantage of the offer of support from the LGA. Discussions have taken place in the areas of medium term planning, HR, performance management, communications and decision making processes.

6. Cabinet and the Council's Management Team will be monitoring progress on the Action Plan.
7. The Leader and Chief Executive have embarked on a regular programme of visits to staff teams. The LGA have also facilitated joint sessions for Cabinet and CMT to develop medium term priorities from the Council Plan that will drive budget proposals and resource allocation. As a result of these sessions, a predominantly online consultation exercise was completed to seek feedback on medium term priorities. This received over 2,600 responses and the results were analysed to provide feedback to the Cabinet.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

**Capital/Revenue**

8. None.

**Property/Other**

9. None.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

10. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.

**Other Legal Implications:**

11. None

**POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

12. Council Plan 2013-16.

**KEY DECISION?** No

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None directly as a result of this report
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**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices**

1.	LGA Peer Challenge letter
2.	Council's Action Plan

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None
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**Equality Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	No
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**Other Background Documents****Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:**

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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1.	None	
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