

## Finance Peer Review – Council Action Plan

The following Action Plan has been developed to address the LGA Finance Peer Review recommendations. The Council's proposed actions are allocated to a responsible officer, with a clearly defined success measure and target date.

LGA Peer Recommendation		EEBC Action	Responsible Officer(s)	Success Measure	Target Date
1	Bring together into a clear strategic statement the change and recovery intentions of the Council.	<p>1. The Covid-19 recovery plan - Build Back Better - was approved at Strategy &amp; Resources (S&amp;R) Committee on 19 March 2021.</p> <p>2. Financial implications of the recovery will be assessed and factored into the Council's budget setting process for 2022/23.</p>	Chief Finance Officer	<p>1. The Council's budget framework and projections for 2022/23 will be reported to S&amp;R Committee in September 2021.</p> <p>2. A balanced budget for 2022/23 will be presented to Full Council in February 2022.</p>	<p>1. September 2021</p> <p>2. February 2022</p>
2	Review the approach to financial decision making and scrutiny.	<p>1. The Chief Finance Officer will review the Financial Regulations and relevant sections of the Constitution, including the roles and responsibilities of different Committees.</p> <p>2. The review will report to S&amp;R Committee in November 2021.</p>	Chief Finance Officer	The review will report to S&R Committee in November 2021, with any changes to the Financial Regulations/Constitution presented to Full Council for approval in February 2022.	February 2022

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3	Consider how members and officers can adapt to support each other through the forthcoming period of change.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Chief Executive will meet the new Group Leader to establish new working relationships.</li> <li>2. The Chief Finance Officer will devise a four-year training programme on local government finance for members – with a minimum of one session per year.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chief Executive</li> <li>2. Chief Finance Officer</li> </ol>	Training programme presented for approval at S&R Committee, with members subsequently offered at least one training session per year on aspects of local government finance.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. June 2021</li> <li>2. March 2022</li> </ol>
4	Ensure budget monitoring is considered by the relevant committee(s).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Material budget variances in excess of £100k are already reported to Committees, as per the Financial Regulations.</li> <li>2. The Chief Finance Officer will review budget monitoring procedures within the Financial Regulations and report to S&amp;R Committee in November 2021.</li> <li>3. In the meantime and pending the outcome of the above review, quarterly budget monitoring reports will be presented to Audit, Crime &amp; Disorder &amp; Scrutiny Committee, commencing 2021/22 Quarter 1.</li> </ol>	Chief Finance Officer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Financial Regulations review to be presented to S&amp;R Committee.</li> <li>2. 2021/22 Quarter 1 budget monitoring report presented to Audit, Crime &amp; Disorder &amp; Scrutiny Committee.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. November 2021</li> <li>2. September 2021</li> </ol>

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5	Refresh the approach to the Capital Programme.	<p>1. The Chief Finance Officer will review the Financial Regulations and relevant sections of the Constitution, including the approach to the Capital Programme.</p> <p>2. The review will report to S&amp;R Committee in November 2021.</p>	Chief Finance Officer	The review will report to S&R Committee, with any changes to the Financial Regulations/Constitution presented to Full Council for approval in February 2022.	November 2021 / February 2022
6	Agree a new Local Plan as soon as possible.	<p>1. A programme for producing the Local Plan by December 2023 was agreed by Licensing &amp; Planning Policy Committee on 4 March 2021.</p> <p>2. Funding for the Local Plan programme was agreed by Strategy &amp; Resources Committee on 30 March 2021.</p> <p>3. Progress against the programme will be reported twice yearly to Licensing &amp; Planning Policy Committee. Should funding implications arise, these would be reported to S&amp;R Committee as appropriate.</p>	Head of Planning	Local Plan to be agreed by December 2023	December 2023

7	LGA Peer Recommendation	EEBC Action	Responsible Officer(s)	Success Measure	Target Date
	<p>Given the Council's commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2035, assess the costs of delivering this plan both in terms of revenue and capital</p>	<p>1. The Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration will assess the cost of delivering the Climate Change Action Plan and report the updated, costed plan to Environment and Safe Communities Committee.</p> <p>2. The Chief Finance Officer will include any known/agreed financial implications in the Council's updated Medium Term Financial Strategy projections.</p>	<p>1. Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration</p> <p>2. Chief Finance Officer</p>	<p>1. An updated, costed Climate Change Action Plan will be reported to Environment &amp; Safe Communities Committee by January 2022 at the latest.</p> <p>2. Updated MTFs projections presented to Full Council in February 2022 to include known/agreed financial implications of the Climate Change Action Plan.</p>	<p>1. January 2022</p> <p>2. February 2022</p>
	<p>Collectively reflect further on...progressing the work on shared services...in a phased and managed way.</p>	<p>1. On 16 March 2021, S&amp;R Committee authorised the Chief Executive to progress further collaboration opportunities in the following service areas: waste, building control, IT infrastructure, housing, revenues and benefits, procurement, economic development and leisure services.</p> <p>Authorisation was also given to explore opportunities for collaboration on other service areas and with other local authority partners outside the above priority areas.</p> <p>2. Any concrete collaboration proposals that do arise will be presented to the relevant Committee with a business case to include the financial implications.</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p>	<p>At least one collaboration proposal, if viable, presented to Committee in the current financial year.</p>	<p>March 2022</p>