

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO THE
MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL

2 July, 2015

LGA PEER REVIEW

Submitted by: Chief Executive
Portfolio: Finance IT and customer
Ward(s) affected: Non-specific

Purpose of the Report

To advise Members on the recommendations of the LGA Peer Review and its implications for the Committee Structure.

Recommendations

(i) That the Panel comment upon the recommendations of the Peer Review report

Reasons

To review the Council's decision making process

1. **Background**

1.1 In the autumn of 2014 an LGA Peer Review team carried out a review of the council's democratic decision-making arrangements. The team made their report in January 2015. In light of this the Group Leaders asked the Chief Executive to draft a report which could be considered by Council to give effect to the recommendations made by the Peer Review report. The draft council report sought to implement the Peer Review recommendations but also to take account of some initial comments which had been made by the Group Leaders on the Peer Review Report.

2. **Scrutiny of Peer Review recommendations**

2.1 In view of the fact that the proposals made by the Peer Review have implications for all of the council's Committees it has been considered prudent for the proposals to be considered by the relevant committee.

2.2 The attached report was considered by the Finance, Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 15 June. The Committee has resolved that each Committee be asked to consider the proposals made by the LGA Peer Review and the draft report to Council in as far as they relate to that particular Committee and to feed back these comments.

3. **Actions for the Committee**

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to consider the recommendations for changes to the Council's democratic decision-making arrangements, Peer Review Recommendations 1 and 2 and draft Council report in as far as they relate to the work of the Committee.
- 3.2 To comment of the wider proposals made by the Peer Review Recommendations 3, 4 and 5 having particular consideration of these matters in respect of the work of the Committee.
- 3.3 The Committee is asked to record the summary of its responses on these matters and to forward them to the Chief Executive so these can be collated with the comments of all other Committees and considered by the Finance, Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee.
4. **Legal and Statutory Implications**
 - 4.1 There are no legal implications directly associated with this report although it may affect the Council's Primary Charter status.
4. **Equality Impact Assessment**
 - 4.1 There are no equalities implications directly associated with this report.
5. **Financial and Resource Implications**
 - 5.1 There are no financial or resource implications other than your officers' time at meetings.
7. **Major Risks**
 - 7.1 There are no major risks associated with this report.
8. **Key Decision Information**
 - 8.1 The proposals within this report are not regarded as Key Decisions in the sense that it should be included within the Forward Plan. However, as this is not regarded as a non-Executive function, a Cabinet (executive) decision is required to give effect to the proposals.
9. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Report to the Finance, Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
10. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

4 June, 2015