

Report to Council – 30 January 2018

Report of Cabinet – 4 December 2017

Cabinet met on 4 December 2017. The minutes are published on the Council's website.

The following Members were present at the meeting:

Present: Mayor Thornhill (Chair)
Councillor Taylor (Deputy Mayor and Portfolio Holder for Client Services)
Councillor Collett (Portfolio Holder for Community)
Councillor Johnson (Portfolio Holder for Property and Housing)
Councillor Sharpe (Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Development)
Councillor Watkin (Portfolio Holder for Resources and Customer Service)

Non Cabinet Members: Councillor Nigel Bell (Labour)

The following was a recommendation to Council:

47 Corporate Peer Challenge Final Report

Cabinet received a report of the Managing Director

The Mayor introduced the report and explained it would also be going to Full Council. The feedback had been good; particularly that staff liked working for the council and the encouragement to share best practice with other organisations. There was also sensible challenge in the report around having the right skills in place to deliver the council's ambitions.

The Managing Director described the review as the equivalent of a CQC inspection or OFSTED. It was the sector's way of reviewing how well a council was performing. The peer review found Watford's performance to be in the top 10% of district councils in the country. The feedback concluded that the council was bold, progressive and ambitious. Areas for improvement included enhancing capacity and skills which was recognised and being addressed through the People Strategy. The council was also aware of the need to join up the Medium Term Financial Strategy with Watford 2020 and the Commercial Strategy to become more integrated. It was recognised that the council's partners were very supportive and engaged and that they had offered to be ambassadors for the council. The Local Government Association was not aware of the level of creativity at Watford which other districts would benefit from and there

should be opportunities for two way learning across the district network.

Councillor Taylor thanked the Head of Corporate Strategy and Communications for the level of detail included in the preparation for the peer challenge.

RESOLVED –

that Cabinet:

1. notes the final Corporate Peer Challenge report and recommends the report to Council
2. notes that the Corporate Peer Challenge actions based on the recommendations will be incorporated into the council's strategic planning at both corporate and service planning level.
3. notes that the Corporate Peer Challenge team will re-visit Watford next year to assess progress against the team's recommendations