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## REPORT ON PEER REVIEW

To: **COUNCIL 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2014**

By: **Director of Community Services**

Classification: **Open**

Ward: **N/A**

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**Summary: To agree the process for implementing the Peer Review**

### **For Decision**

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#### **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The Peer Review under the aegis of the Local Government Association reported on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014. A copy of the Report is attached at Annex 1.
- 1.2 The Council is now asked to consider taking forward the Peer Review recommendations through its normal governance structure, potentially augmented by the establishment of an Improvement Board
- 1.3 By implementing the Peer Review recommendations, the Council will be able to demonstrate continuing improvement in its services and governance.
- 1.4 The Corporate Performance Review Working Party have already considered the Peer Review at their 8<sup>th</sup> of May meeting and determined:
  - 1.4.1 That the executive seek to prioritise the Corporate Plan and make it clear where key priorities lie in light of the Peer Review Report and what actions will be taken to implement those priorities;
  - 1.4.2 That documentation that was prepared for the staff restructure be made available to Members in order for Members to understand the rationale for the restructure
  - 1.4.3 That a report be brought back to the Corporate Performance Review Working Party detailing the shape and terms of reference of the Improvement Board and the proposed membership;
  - 1.4.4 That the report back provides an analysis on what impact the proposed changes to the corporate priorities would have on the Council budget that key issues facing the Council had been identified
- 1.5 Recommendation 1.4.1 will be considered by the Cabinet in taking forward the Peer Review.
- 1.6 Recommendation 1.4.2 has already been addressed and the information made available to all members.
- 1.7 Recommendation 1.4.3 is the subject of this report that is being considered both by Corporate Performance Review Working Party and the Council.

1.8 Recommendation 1.4.4 will be addressed in preparing the 2015-16 budget and updating the Medium term Financial Strategy

## **2.0 Improvement Board.**

2.1 The establishment of an Improvement Board with some independent membership is recommended by the Local Government Association and has proved a successful vehicle in other similar local authorities. It is intended the Board should be established by end of July 2014.

2.2 The standard terms of reference provided by the LGA will be considered by the Corporate Performance Review Working Party with a view to determining a final draft for approval by the Improvement Board.

2.3 It is proposed in the case of Thanet that the membership be as follows:

- \*Improvement Board Chair – Senior Manager from another local authority
- Leader of Thanet District Council
- Deputy Leader of Thanet District Council
- Leader of the main opposition group, Thanet District Council
- Leader of the largest group of Independents
- Independent Chair of the Thanet DC Standards Committee
- Thanet DC Chief Executive
- Thanet DC Monitoring Officer
- \*Three Peer Councillors

2.4 The Independent places \* will be drawn from the original Peer Review Team or suitable LGA nominations to be determined by the Thanet Group Leaders and the Independent Groups representative.

2.5 One of the first actions of the Improvement Board will to be to approve a detailed action plan. A summary of the detailed list of actions recommended by the Peer Review is attached at Annex 2.

## **3.0 Corporate Implications**

### **3.1 Financial and Risk**

Some LGA funding may be available for the Improvement process. Any net cost will be contained within existing budgets.

### **3.2 Legal**

3.2.1 Having had recommendations provided through the peer review challenge it would be appropriate for the Council to implement the recommendations

### **3.3 Corporate**

3.3.1 Prompt response to the Peer review will enhance the Council's corporate reputation.

### **3.4 Equity and Equalities**

3.4.1 The equalities issues raised by the Peer Review will be addressed by the Improvement Board.

### **4.0 Recommendations**

4.1 That the Council approve the appointment of an Improvement Board on the terms set out in this report

### **5.0 Decision Making Process**

Contact Officer:	Paul Cook Interim Director of Corporate Resources
Reporting to:	Madeline Homer, Director of Community Services

#### ***Annex List***

Annex 1	Report of Local Government Association
Annex 2	List of Actions

#### ***Background Papers***

<b>Title</b>	<b>Details of where to access copy</b>
N/A	

#### ***Corporate Consultation Undertaken***

Legal	Steven Boyle, Interim Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer
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