

Corporate Peer Challenge	
<b>Title of Report</b>	Corporate Peer Challenge
<b>For Consideration By</b>	Corporate Committee
<b>Meeting Date</b>	18 March 2026
<b>Classification</b>	Open
<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	All
<b>Group Director</b>	<a href="#">Dawn Carter-Mcdonald</a>
<b>Report Author</b>	Cara Tooher, Strategy and Policy Manager, <a href="mailto:cara.tooher@hackney.gov.uk">cara.tooher@hackney.gov.uk</a>

## 1. **Introduction**

- 1.1. This report provides the Corporate Committee with the final progress update on the Council's response to the recommendations arising from the Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC).
- 1.2. Members will recall that the initial CPC took place in September 2024. The peer team returned for a one-year follow-up visit in October 2025.
- 1.3. The Council accepted all eleven recommendations and developed a detailed Action Plan to drive delivery in early 2025.
- 1.4. The Progress Review report received in late 2025 recognised the significant progress made over the previous twelve months in addressing the eleven recommendations arising from the original review.
- 1.5. This report provides:
  - A summary of key highlights identified by the peer team in the follow up visit;
  - Confirmation that formal engagement with the LGA peer team is now complete.

## 2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1. **There are no official recommendations contained in this report. This report is for informative purposes to update the Corporate Committee**

### **3. Reason(s) for decision**

- 3.1. This report is provided for information to update Members on the revisit from Corporate Peer Challenge team and subsequent feedback as part of the Council's wider organisational improvement programme.

### **4. Background**

- 4.1. The LGA Corporate Peer Challenge is a voluntary improvement process delivered by sector peers. Hackney undertook its CPC in September 2024, receiving eleven recommendations across governance, financial sustainability, transformation, and partnership working.
- 4.2. The peer team returned in October 2025 for a one-year progress review. Their final report recognised:
- A renewed sense of confidence and organisational reset;
  - Stronger alignment between Mayoral priorities and corporate delivery;
  - Improved governance arrangements
  - Progress on transformation and digital recovery;
  - Strengthened partnership and economic development activity.

#### Strategic Policy Context

- 4.3. The CPC recommendations have been integrated into:
- The Medium-Term Financial Plan;
  - The Transformation Programme;
  - The new Strategic Plan (in development following the forthcoming election).
- 4.4. This ensures CPC delivery becomes business-as-usual rather than a standalone improvement programme.

#### Options appraisal

- 4.5. Not applicable.

#### Equality, inclusion, diversity and belonging (including statutory equality impact assessment)

- 4.6. The CPC recommendations support improved outcomes for residents through:
- Stronger performance monitoring;
  - Financial sustainability;
  - Strengthened oversight of Adult Social Care;
  - Inclusive economic development initiatives.
- 4.7. Individual transformation programmes continue to be subject to Equality Impact Assessments where required.

## Sustainability and climate change

- 4.8. Climate change remains a Mayoral priority embedded in service plans and performance reporting. The strengthened governance and performance framework supports delivery of climate commitments.

## Consultation/engagement

- 4.9. Engagement has included:

- LGA peer team interviews and workshops;
- Staff roadshows and mobilisation events;
- Cabinet and CLT structured sessions;
- Cross-party engagement ahead of the 2026 election.

## Risk assessment

- 4.10. Key risks identified by the peer team remain:

- Continued reliance on reserves if overspends persist;
- Pace in asset disposals;
- Long-term sustainability of Adult Social Care spend;
- Failure to embed transformation fully.

- 4.11. Mitigations are in place through strengthened governance, financial boards, and transformation oversight.

## **5. Financial implications**

- 5.1. There are no direct financial implications as a result of the recommendation of this report. The recommendations within the peer challenge and any financial implications arising from those recommendations will continue to be considered as part of the Council's Medium-Term Financial Planning processes.

Financial Implications prepared on behalf of the Group Director Finance & Corporate Resources by: John Holden, Assistant Director of Finance - Sustainability, Public Realm and Special Projects, [john.holden@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:john.holden@hackney.gov.uk), 4/3/2026

## **6. HR/OD implications**

- 6.1. Implementation of the Target Operating Model, recruitment to transformation roles, and enhanced member development programme have HR and OD implications, all being managed within approved policies frameworks.

HR/OD implications prepared on behalf of the Director of HR/OD by: Tina Dempsey, AD HR & OD, [Tina.dempsey@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:Tina.dempsey@hackney.gov.uk), 5/3/26

## **7. Legal implications**

- 7.1. This report is for informative purposes in order to update corporate committee of revisit from the Corporate Peer Challenge team and subsequent feedback as part of the Council's wider organisational improvement programme. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Legal implications prepared on behalf of the Director of Legal, Democratic & Electoral Services by: Josephine Sterakides, Team Leader,  
[josephine.sterakides@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:josephine.sterakides@hackney.gov.uk) 11.03.2026

## **Appendices**

None

## **Background documents**

- Document 1 - [LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report January 2025](#)  
Document 2 - [LBH Action Plan March 2025](#)  
Document 3 - [Action Plan Update 3.9.2025](#)  
Document 4 - [LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Progress Review](#)