LGA Corporate Peer Review



Working as One Council in the historic capital of the Black Country



LGA Corporate Peer Review Scope

Peer team considered:

- 1. Our local priorities and outcomes
- 2. Organisational and place leadership
- 3. Governance and culture
- 4. Financial planning and management
- 5. Capacity for improvement

Reviewed our commercial approach





LGA Corporate Peer Review Feedback

Finance:

- Financial sustainability of the Council requires urgent attention now
- Consider external strategic support to turn around the medium-term financial position
- Alignment of the Council Plan to the MTFS in the current financial climate
- Internal Audit recommendations need to be addressed as a priority
- Completion and adoption of the Economic & Regeneration Strategy underpinned by a fully costed delivery plan
- Deliver the asset management disposal plan
- Clearly differentiate between investment and commercialisation





LGA Corporate Peer Review Feedback

Governance

- Improve the internal control and assurance
 environment
- Develop a 'golden thread' throughout the organisation to ensure the vision contained in the Council Plan is reflected in service strategies and team plans
- Roll-out training and support around the roles and responsibilities of Members and officers
- Keep the scrutiny function under review, including the work programme and adequate resources to ensure that it is fit for purpose





LGA Corporate Peer Review Feedback

Capacity

- Review the organisational structure and consider how to best to utilise the resources the Council already has
- Transform to release savings and invest in key services
 Culture
- Focus on getting the basics right

Vision

- Develop a clear vision for the Council linked to financial sustainability
- Develop a place marketing approach for the visitor economy





Our Response

- Independent Assurance Board (IAB) has been stood up to govern the programme and includes external experts to ensure the Council is supported and held to account for Programme delivery.
- Internal Delivery Group (IDG) SEB will meet as the Internal Delivery Group and will manage strategic Programme delivery.
- Spending Controls Group (SCG) CEx, DCEx and Section 151 Officer; approve Spending controls exceptions and monitor service impact.
- **Programme and Project Management:** will underpin the programme with clear and measurable definitions of success. Projects will have an accountable owner will report into the Programme/IDG/IAB.





Improvement & Sustainability Programme

'Establish the foundations required to assure delivery of Dudley Borough's Vision, Forging a Future for All, through effective Strategy, Governance and Financial Sustainability'.

The Programme is in 3 Phases:

- **Phase 1 (Mobilising)** will establish urgent financial controls, align the Council Plan to the current financial situation, and define future phases.
- Phase 2 (Fit for Purpose) will design the future organisation, including a Financially sustainable Corporate Strategy, improve Governance arrangements and resolve root causes of the current situation.
- Phase 3 (Transformation) will deliver the future organisation and financially sustainable Corporate Strategy which delivers Dudley Borough's vision.



