

24 January 2017

Independent evaluation of the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge programme

Purpose

For information and discussion.

Summary

An independent evaluation of the Corporate Peer Challenge Programme is currently being carried out by the Centre for Local & Regional Government Research at Cardiff University. Dr James Downe will be in attendance to present the interim findings from the evaluation.

Recommendations

The Improvement and Innovation Board is asked to:

1. **Note** the interim evaluation findings presented.
2. **Note** that a final evaluation report will be available in due course.

Action

As agreed by members.

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Independent evaluation of the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge programme

Background

1. The Centre for Local & Regional Government Research at Cardiff University are currently undertaking an evaluation of the Corporate Peer Challenge programme. Dr James Downe, part of the team leading the research, has been invited to attend the Board meeting to present the interim findings.

Issues

2. Corporate Peer Challenge is a core element of the LGA's support to sector-led improvement launched in 2011. Feedback is regularly and routinely collated from councils who have had a peer challenge. External challenge and independent assessment is sought on a regular basis to ensure the offer remains fit for purpose and continues to be an effective tool to support improvement in councils. Independent evaluations of the Corporate Peer Challenge programme were commissioned in 2012 and 2014.
3. The Centre for Local & Regional Government Research at Cardiff University were appointed (in August 2016) to carry out an independent evaluation of the Corporate Peer Challenge programme. The purpose of the evaluation is to provide an independent assessment of the effectiveness, impact, and value for money of the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge programme.

Implications for Wales

4. The Corporate Peer Challenge programme applies to councils in England only. The WLGA does not commission us to work on wider improvement issues, including peer challenge.

Financial Implications

5. No financial implications arising directly from this report.

Next steps

6. Members are asked to note the interim feedback from Centre for Local & Regional Government Research at Cardiff University. A final evaluation report will be available in due course (February 2017) and a copy will be sent to members of the Board.