

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL  
 COUNCIL 26/11/2020  
 LGA RESPONSE & RECOVERY PANEL  
 REPORT OF DAVID SIDAWAY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
 LEAD CABINET MEMBER SHAUN DAVIES, COUNCIL LEADER**

**PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT**

**1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

In July, the LGA undertook a Response & Recovery Panel Peer Review of the Council’s response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The purpose of the Review was to identify areas of good practice to share with other local authorities and to offer challenge to our approach. This report presents the findings of the Panel.

**2. Recommendations**

**It is recommended that Cabinet:-**

**2.1 Endorses the LGA Response & Recovery Panel report that highlights the strength of the Council’s response to the pandemic and its ambition to drive and support recovery.**

**3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

<b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	<i>Impacts on all Priorities</i>
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	<i>Borough-wide impact</i>
<b>TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE</b>	<i>Corporate LGA Peer review scheduled for week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> November</i>	
<b>FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b>	No	<i>There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.  TAS 28.8.2020</i>
<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	Yes/No	There are no legal implications directly associated with this report. However, the positive report reflects the efforts the Council has made to adapt to the regularly changing legislative position with regards to

		the pandemic and the associated government guidance. AL 24.08.2020
<b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b>	No	
<b>IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS</b>	No	<i>Borough-wide impact</i>

## **PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **4. INFORMATION**

4.1 To support and benefit from the LGA’s sector-led improvement, the Council participated in the LGA’s very first Response & Recovery Peer Review. The purpose of this Panel was to explore the Council’s response to the pandemic and understand how we are planning for and driving recovery with the objective of identifying best practice to share with other authorities and also to offer challenge to our approach.

4.2 The Panel members were:

- Nick Carter, Chief Executive of West Berkshire Council
- Councillor Chris Read, Leader of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

4.3 The all-day Panel took place virtually on Wednesday 15 July, and was structured around sessions exploring the following themes:

- Understanding of the local place and priority setting
- Leadership and communications
- Communities
- Local economy
- Environment
- Support for the care sector – children and adults

4.4 Following the Panel, the LGA produced a brief report which is presented in Appendix One. Although there is no overall grade or assessment, the report was very positive and highlights the strength of the Council’s response to the pandemic stating ***“there has been impressive delivery by the council, both independently and with and through others, and it is making a difference.”***

4.5 At this core of the Council’s response was leadership: ***“A strong underlying narrative comes across from the senior leadership of the authority – one of a ‘Co-operative Council’ that is competent, caring and pragmatic; an organisation that is keen to learn and develop; and an authority that has seen a huge amount delivered through its communities as a result of adopting an enabling approach.”***

4.6 The Panel specifically recognised the strength of the Council’s approach to communications, which “**during the crisis has been very impressive. A strong social media presence with very high levels of reach has been established. Within this, creativity has been shown in the production of videos that convey impactful and helpful messages, reflecting the council’s objective of providing reassurance and hope to communities; demonstrating that it is on the side of local people; and being seen as a trusted source of information.**”

4.7 Our approach to partnership working was seen as core to our response to the pandemic: “**The council has worked hard in recent years to establish strong relationships with partners and the Covid-19 crisis is seen to have moved these up a level.**”

4.8 Finally, the Panel also recognised the Council’s ambition to drive the recovery from the pandemic: “**Through the plan, the council is demonstrating its leadership of place and, through ‘Reset and Reform’ is seeking to cement or establish new approaches and ensure any return to what went before is through conscious choice rather than by default and a ‘race back to normality’.**”

4.9 The Response & Recovery Panel provided an effective means by which we could take stock and reflect on our response to the pandemic and our recovery plans and, importantly, have that exposed to external scrutiny and challenge. The report from the Panel provided assurance that our approach was seen as well-managed, effective and was seen to have impact. Subsequently, we have been asked to produce a series of case studies to share through the LGA with other local authorities.

#### Next Steps

4.10 As part of the Council’s continued engagement with the LGA sector-led improvement ‘offer’, the postponed March Corporate Peer Challenge will take place in the week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> November. As well as looking at the organisation’s priorities and how it uses its resources to deliver them, this will provide an opportunity to continue the theme of the Response & Recovery Panel and facilitate further reflection on the progress we are making to drive and support the borough’s recovery from the impact of Covid-19.

#### **5. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

None

#### **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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