

These are the recommendations from the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge November 2017 – they reflect the narrative of the report. Some of these are short term, whilst others may take longer to explore. The peer team has suggested that taken together implementing these recommendations would leave us better placed to face the future. These are now open for discussion and prioritising.

The overarching aim is to develop a vision for the next five years for both Councils working together and use this 'vision' to develop a narrative/story of where we have been and where we are going.

Many of the comments/actions could fit under a number of the recommendations.

Recommendation/ Project	Comment/actions	Owners	Deadline (to be discussed/agreed)
<p><b>1. Further strengthen partnership identity and reduce duplication by:</b></p> <p>a. creating joint email addresses e.g. <a href="mailto:rprance@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk">rprance@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk</a> <b>(internal and external)</b></p> <p>b. creating joint social media accounts e.g. @chiltern_southbucks <b>(external)</b></p> <p>c. explore co-location options <b>(internal and external)</b></p>	<p>a.The process to get a .gov domain name is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Our Internet Service Provider (ISP) has to make an application on our behalf via a form on the Joint Information Systems Committee (Jisc) website</li> <li>2. The Naming and Approvals Committee (NAC) assesses the application</li> <li>3. Within 5 working days, a decision will be communicated to our ISP, either an approval or a rejection with the accompanying reason</li> <li>4. We can appeal the NAC's decision up to 14 working days following a rejection</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sim Dixon</li> <li>b. Rachel Prance</li> <li>c. Cabinet decision</li> </ol>	

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	<p>There will be some work required to move to a single, shared .gov domain for officers.</p> <p>Sim has booked a Fordway engineer to come in to look at the options for reconfiguring the network this way. He will produce a report documenting the recommending the optimum route with a plan including timeframes and resource implications.</p> <p>Sim is awaiting Member/MT instruction on how to proceed from here.</p> <p>b. This can be done easily and we would just need to direct the current followers on the individual Council 'sites' to the new joint one</p> <p>c.an existing building? A new building? Where would be acceptable to both authorities/its</p>		
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	residents?		
<p><b>2. Celebrate success consistently (internal and external)</b></p>	<p>Develop a communications strategy, based on the five 'C's that provides a route map for how we celebrate success. This needs to be both internally and externally and focused on our values (the five Cs – collaboration, challenge, commitment, courtesy, customer focused )</p> <p>Suggestions include: entering national awards, ensuring good practice is shared through traditional media and social media, staff awards (thank yous), community awards, opportunities to share story with partners, businesses, residents and other local govt. peers etc.</p>	<p>Communications team (with Leaders)</p> <p>Strong input will be required from service areas to identify 'what' to celebrate</p>	

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<p><b>3. Invest in programme and project management capacity (internal)</b></p>	<p>Create a Project Management Office to provide senior management oversight of major projects .</p> <p>Update the Councils' financial reporting and planning</p>	<p>Directors</p>	
<p><b>4. Be clear about leadership roles and responsibilities for transformation (internal)</b></p>	<p>This will need to be shared with staff and members</p>	<p>Cabinets and MT</p>	

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<p><b>5. Explore wider options for shared services (internal and external)</b></p>	<p>a. Develop a joint housing strategy</p> <p>b. Consider adopting a joint approach to the delivery of affordable housing</p> <p>c. Explore options for sharing services with existing and new partners</p>	<p>a and b. Director of Services/Head of Healthy Communities/Portfolio Holders</p> <p>c. all Heads of Service/Directors</p>	

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<p><b>6. Maximise out leverage within the growth corridor (external)</b></p>	<p>a. Recruit a new Economic Development team</p> <p>b. Play an active role in the Oxford-Cambridge corridor growth boards</p>	<p>a. Director of Services</p> <p>b. Leaders/CEX/Director of Services</p>	
<p><b>7. Invest in engaging systematically with our residents, staff and members. (internal and external)</b></p>	<p>a.Undertake an independent staff survey based around the five 'C's</p> <p>b.Undertake an independent resident's survey based around the five 'C' s (see recommendation 12)</p> <p>c.Develop a new approach to service planning based around our 'vision' and the five 'C's</p>	<p>a. HR Manager</p> <p>b. Communications Manager</p> <p>c. Communications Manager/ MT/Leaders</p>	

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<p><b>8. Ensure equity of support from our partners , particularly towns and parish councils (external)</b></p>	<p>Consider whether responsibilities can be devolved to Parish Councils</p> <p>Implement a Parish and Town Chairman's meeting at South Bucks along the lines of the current Chiltern model (chaired by the Leader)</p>	<p>Cabinets/MT</p> <p>Communications team</p>	

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<p><b>9. Ensure the Joint Local Plan is enabling and allows us to maximise benefits of development e.g. infill, greenbelt, as all are opportunities for place shaping and income generation (external)</b></p>	<p>Draft joint Local Plan is out to consultation in Summer 2018. Opportunity to incorporate representations from respondents?</p>	<p>Planning policy</p>	

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<b>10. Maximise and bid for funding opportunities that fit with our wider vision e.g. LEP (external)</b>	Develop a funding strategy to ensure more funds can be levered into the area through the LEP	MT	
<b>11. Develop a pipeline for capital and place shaping projects with communities and partners front and centre – that deliver our wider ambition / vision (internal and external)</b>	TBC – subject to unitary debate	MT/Cabinets	

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<p><b>12. Undertake a Resident's Survey in 2018, and repeat on a regular basis and feed this into our vision (external)</b></p>	<p>Preparation for this is already in progress – LGA has provided details of potential questions and external polling companies. These will be incorporated/combined to bring out how we measure up against our five 'C's</p> <p>Timeline for the survey was to be early April (just after Easter) – postponed until we know more about the unitary debate</p> <p>Budget will depend on sample size and methodology used.</p>	<p>Communications Manager</p>	