

# Bolton CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE 2024

## Position Statement – Executive Summary

### WHAT IS A CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE?

The Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) is a local government sector led improvement and assurance process. Senior local government councillors and officers (Peer Team) review a pack of information provided by the council before spending four days on site where a series of robust and challenging conversations take place with elected members, officers at all levels, partners and residents.

At the end of the four days they provide some initial feedback with draft recommendations. Within a short period a report is produced that the council must publish and shortly after produce an action plan to address the final recommendations that are set out in the report. Finally the council is expected to invite an LGA delegation to come back within a year to overview the progress that the council is making against the recommendations.

The LGA recommend that areas undertake a CPC every five years or so and Bolton Council's previous CPC was undertaken in 2018, so it was the right time for the council to undertake the process again.

### WHAT ROLE DOES THE POSITION STATEMENT PLAY IN THE CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE?

The position statement provided by the council in advance of the onsite visit is a critical part of the process as it allowed the council to outline its strengths, challenges and opportunities for improvement with respect to the following Key Lines of Enquiry:

- Local priorities and outcomes
- Organisational and place leadership
- Governance and culture
- Financial planning and management
- Capacity for improvement

The council is also able to ask the Peer Team to have a deeper look at some specific issues that the council is grappling with. We asked the Peer Team to review our approaches to dealing with demand management pressures and how we are engaging and working with our local communities.

The position statement was reviewed in depth by the Peer Team and it was the key document that informed their discussions and challenge sessions when onsite in Bolton.

### WHAT IS CONTAINED WITHIN THE POSITION STATEMENT?

The Bolton scene was outlined in a foreword by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive. This was followed by a series of facts and figures relating to Bolton the place and its residents.

The remainder of the document provides the self-assessment from the council with respect to the Key Lines of Enquiry. Effectively this provided a rich and detailed overview of how Bolton Council works to deliver a very comprehensive and complex set of services. We set out and highlighted how we are governed and our appetite to improve as a council.

We would invite you to delve into the document to help you gain a fuller understanding of what this council does.

