

18th December 2024

LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Update

Progress Review

Statement by the Mayor of Newham and the Chief Executive

Newham Council invited the Local Government Association (LGA) to undertake a Corporate Peer Challenge in November last year as part of our ongoing commitment to learn and improve how we work to ensure that we deliver sustainable improvements for our residents. As we said then, and still, being a better Council and delivering for our residents is a must.

The main LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report was published in March this year and our Action Plan published in May 2024 are available [here](#).

As part of the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge process, the LGA Peer Review team came back to Newham Council for a 'progress' visit in October 2024 and the [Progress Review](#) has been published today, Wednesday 18th December 2024.

Firstly, we want to again thank the Peer Challenge Team for the continued support they have provided. Already, it has shaped the development of our Transforming Newham for the Future Programme, and we look forward to our ongoing partnership with the LGA on key areas set out in our LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan.

The report highlights that in seven out of the eleven recommendations the Peer Team confirms that the Council is either on target to complete the objective in the agreed timeframe or has already completed it. We also know, despite the significant progress across all areas of our LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan, that there is a lot more that we still have to do.

Delivering on the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan, as we prioritise our *Building a Fairer Newham* corporate plan, will be critical as we respond to the significant financial context facing us and all of local government because of growing pressures and demands; improve service delivery; and deliver excellence for Newham residents and our communities. As we transform the Council and deliver savings, we will set out clear priorities to achieve the *Building a Fairer Newham* outcomes.

While acknowledging these challenges, we also want to take this opportunity to reflect on the many successfully delivered initiatives that have demonstrated our continued commitment and progress made in responding to the LGA Peer Challenge.

Since the initial report the Council has:

- Launched the Workforce Strategy in May 2024, focusing on key areas like recruitment, retention, induction, equality, diversity, inclusion (EDI), and performance management to build a supportive, inclusive, and high-performing organisation.
- Developed our transformation plan to more strictly align with our budget process and refreshed Building a Fairer Newham priorities.

- Refreshed and reframed our governance framework, which is centered around three core components: Organisation Governance; Mayor, Cabinet and Corporate Leadership Board Accountability Model; and Partnerships and Place Leadership.
- Accelerated the development of comprehensive Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) that aligns with the strategic vision of the Council's Building a Fairer Newham purpose alongside its transformation strategy.
- Delivered an updated Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan to ensure we are aligning housing-related finances with the broader MTFS.
- Established a whole-council Temporary Accommodation and Housing Supply Board, bringing together Housing, Children's Services, Adults & Health, Property, Finance, and Transformation.

Moving forward, our focus on our transformation programme will be crucial to the future of Newham Council as we meet the obligations we have to our residents and support them to navigate the challenges our communities face at a time of great change and opportunity in the UK.



Rokhsana Fiaz OBE
Mayor of Newham



Abi Gbago
Chief Executive