

Notice of Motion : Council 13 December 2023

Cheshire East Council should embrace an urgent Peer Review to investigate its in year overspend of £18.7 million

Proposer Cllr Rachel Bailey
Seconder Cllr Russell Chadwick

Cheshire East conducted a Corporate Peer Challenge in January 2020. The report, approved by Cabinet in June 2020, clearly evidenced an emerging pattern of budgetary overspend and advised that whilst, 'this reflects challenges which are faced by many organisations, the council should consider their approach towards savings across the organisation, to share ownership and encourage informed approaches to financial risk'.

The benefits of the Local Government Association's Peer support are well known to those councils who embrace it and in view of 'our Council's' recently announced 'in year' overspend of £18.7 million pounds, I propose that this Council immediately engages with the LGA to seek guidance via an urgent Financial Peer Review or Corporate Peer Challenge.

Background/References:

<https://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/documents/s76797/Corporate%20Peer%20Challenge%20-%20appendix.pdf>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/council-assurance-and-peer-support/peer-challenges-we-offer/corporate-peer-challenge-4>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/council-assurance-and-peer-support/peer-challenges-we-offer/finance-peer-challenge-and>