

Report for: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 4 June 2024

Subject: Productivity Plan

Cabinet Member: Cllr Luke Taylor

Responsible Officer: Andrew Jarrett Deputy CEO (S151)

Enclosures: Appendix 1 - Letter from Local Government Minister
Appendix 2 - Productivity Plan

Executive Summary

This report introduces and looks for the approval of our Productivity Plan before submitting to the Dept. for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities.

Recommendation(s):

1 – That the Cabinet approves the attached Productivity Plan for submission to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 As part of the 2024/25 Local Govt. financial settlement the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has required that all Councils produce a Productivity Plan. Rather unusually, these plans have not been requested in a formulaic template, but we have received a letter from the Minister outlining key areas to consider. This letter has been attached as appendix 1 to this report.

2.0 Our Productivity Plan

2.1 As requested, we have produced an overarching Productivity Plan (included as appendix 2), that has focused on the many areas where we have already made our services more productive/effective. Much of this work has been as a direct consequence of seeing the Council's government funding reduce by over £4m since 2010/11.

2.2 This plan also indicates our continued efforts to become even more productive and highlights a number of areas where further efficiencies could be made. The plan also, importantly, concludes by referencing a number of barriers to further efficiencies that the Government should/could reflect on and then take some remedial action.

3.0 Conclusion

3.1 The Minister in his guidance letter, is expecting all Councils to provide member oversight and endorsement of their plan. It is also fair to say that some of the areas focused on seemingly have very little to do with productivity; a point that has been addressed in the plan by way of response.

3.2 In addition to this member "sign-off" the letter also references the inclusion of relevant metrics and key performance indicators. As the Council is currently finalising a new Corporate Plan and has agreed a new/improved performance dashboard that will track both service and budget performance it is felt that these 2 processes will deliver the necessary internal and external check and challenge on Council productivity.

Financial Implications: None emanating directly from this report.

Legal Implications: The Council is required to produce a Productivity Plan as part of the Local Govt. finance settlement.

Risk Assessment: None emanating directly from this report.

Impact on Climate Change: None associated with this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment: None associated with this report.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: Key productivity improvements and measurements will be embedded in the new Corporate Plan.

Statutory Officer sign-off

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett
Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151
Date: 21/5/24

Chief Officer: Stephen Walford
Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director
Date: 21/5/24

Cabinet member notified: Yes

Contact Details and Background Papers

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Background papers: None