

Title of Report	PRODUCTIVITY PLAN	
Presented by	Councillor Nick Rushton Corporate Portfolio Holder PH Briefed <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Background Papers	None.	Public Report: Yes
		Key Decision: No
Financial Implications	No financial implications arising from this report.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	No legal implications arising from this report.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	No staffing or corporate implications arising from this report.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To provide Cabinet with details of the Government's requirement to produce a productivity plan by 19 July 2024 and to provide Cabinet with a copy of the Council's Plan for approval prior to its submission to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.	
Reason for Decision	To ensure that the Council is complying with the Government's requirement to publish and submit a Productivity Plan by the deadline of 19 July 2024.	
Recommendations	THAT CABINET: 1. NOTES THE DETAILS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REQUIREMENT TO PRODUCE A PRODUCTIVITY PLAN AS SET OUT IN APPENDIX ONE. 2. NOTES AND APPROVES THE COUNCIL'S PRODUCTIVITY PLAN AS SET OUT IN APPENDIX TWO.	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report outlines the requirements, background, and completion timescales of the Government's Productivity Plans. These plans are a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing productivity across the public sector, with a focus on long-term investment and promoting a dynamic economy.

2.0 GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 The Final Local Government Finance Settlement 2024/25 announced on 5 February 2024, confirmed the requirement for local authorities to develop and share productivity plans. This is part of the Government's efforts to return the sector to sustainability in the future.
- 2.2 The requirement was for plans to be published by 19 July 2024 before the House of Commons rises for the summer recess and despite the call of the General Election this requirement is still in place. Plans must be agreed by Council Leaders and Members and published on local authority websites, together with updates on progress. The Government expects them to cover four main areas:
1. Transformation of services to make better use of resources.
 2. Opportunities to take advantage of advances in technology and make better use of data to inform decision making and service design.
 3. Ways to reduce wasteful spend within systems, including specific consideration of expenditure on consultants and discredited staff Equality, Diversity and Inclusion programmes designed to promote integration and civic pride, and counter-extremism.
 4. Barriers preventing activity that Government can help to reduce or remove.
- 2.3 Alongside this, the Government will establish a new productivity review panel, made up of sector experts including the Office for Local Government and the Local Government Association.
- 2.4 The Government has requested that the Plans should be short and draw on work which councils have already completed.
- 2.5 On 16 April 2024, the Minister for Local Government, wrote to local authorities, providing further information on the requirements confirming that the plans should consider a range of themes which are set out in further detail in the letter. Where appropriate, the Plans should reference the work councils undertake alongside other public services, such as the NHS and police. A copy of the letter is shown at Appendix One

3.0 PRODUCTIVITY PLAN

- 3.1 The Council has developed a Productivity Plan in response to the requirements set out by the Government. This Plan underscores the Council's commitment to collaborating with local partners to foster development throughout the area. Furthermore, it highlights the barriers currently faced by the Council, such as funding uncertainty and difficulties with staff recruitment and retention. The Plan can be reviewed in detail in Appendix Two.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	A well-run council
Policy Considerations:	Council Delivery Plan.
Safeguarding:	None.
Equalities/Diversity:	None.

Customer Impact:	None.
Economic and Social Impact:	None.
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon:	None.
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	None.
Risks:	The Council is required to submit its response by 19 July 2024.
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