



Council: 17 July 2024

Report of: Chief Executive

Lead Member: Councillor Yvonne Gagen

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SUBJECT: DLUHC - Productivity in Local Government

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To set out the Council's proposed response to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to its letter to all Council Chief Executives in England on 16th April 2024 requesting the submission of Productivity Plans by 19th July 2024.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

2.1 That the Council's response to DLUHC on Productivity Plans is approved.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The recent Local Government Finance Settlement announced that Council's would be required to produce Productivity Plans. On the 16th of April 2024 the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) wrote to all Council Chief Executives in England setting out the requirements for these plans.

3.2 The letter acknowledged "the huge amount of work done in recent years to improve productivity and efficiency" and the challenge that local Councils have faced during and post lockdown. Because of these challenges Councils were required to look further at introducing measures to improve efficiency.

3.3 No template was provided to complete the plans however the expectation would be that the response should be brief in length and set out what the Council has done in recent years alongside its current plans to transform the organisation and services. There is a requirement to upload the plan onto the website so that it is visible to residents.

3.4 The Council was asked to respond under the headings of 4 themes:

- How have you transformed the way you design and deliver services to make better use of resources?
- How do you plan to take advantage of technology and make better use of data to improve decision making, service design and the use of resources?
- Your plans to reduce wasteful spend within your organisation and systems?
- The barriers preventing progress that Government can help reduce or remove?

4.0 PRODUCTIVITY PLANS

4.1 The Council has completed a significant amount of work over recent years to transform the way it operates to make efficiencies. The summary of this work is set out in the attached response to the letter at Appendix 1.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council's transformation programme is monitored closely through the Our Futures Board. This helps ensure that the Council remains able to deliver its key transformational projects over the medium term. Through an on-going programme of transformation, the Council will ensure that its services are fit to meet future requirements and deliver them in the most efficient manner.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct financial implications to this report.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

7.1 The report ensures that the Council meets its requirement to produce a Productivity Plan as requested under the Local Government Finance Settlement announced on the 16th of April 2024 by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) plans.

8.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The health and wellbeing implications arising from this report will be dependent on the delivery of the transformation work set out in Appendix 1.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D (5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Appendices

1. Productivity Plan