

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRODUCTIVITY PLAN</b>
<b>DIRECTORATE:</b>	<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK</b>
<b>REPORT AUTHORS:</b>	<b>JACLYN GIBSON, CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER, EMILY HOLMES, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, TRANSFORMATION &amp; STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT</b>

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to submit the Council's Productivity Plan. This has been developed in response to the Productivity in Local Government request from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 Productivity across all public services, including local government is reviewed by the Government. The Local Government Finance Settlement 2024/25 announced that Councils would be asked to produce productivity plans and correspondence was received on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 to formally start the process.
- 2.2 The submission deadline for plans is 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Given the need to rearrange some committee meetings following the announcement of the General Election, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities have confirmed that submission following July's Executive would be permitted for City of Lincoln Council's Plan.

## **3. Information**

- 3.1 There was no prescribed format given for the presentation of the Productivity Plan but key areas to consider were presented in the request from Government. These can be summarised as;
- How services have been designed, delivered or transformed to make better use of resources
  - How Councils plan to use technology and make better use of data to improve decision making, service design and use of resources
  - Plans to reduce waste, be efficient and spend effectively.
  - Assurances on governance, financial approach and performance.
  - Any barriers to productivity that Government can help to reduce or remove.
- 3.2 The draft Productivity Plan in Appendix A provides a narrative of progress already made by the Council. It gives assurance on our approach, outlines next steps and articulates the challenges faced by local government as a sector and the specific impact this has on delivery of services and on our communities. It sets out areas that Government could consider to assist local councils to further improve productivity.

## **4. Strategic Priorities**

- 4.1 Productivity and efficiencies impact delivery of all Strategic Priorities and services. The way that the Council operates is underpinned by the One Council approach which covers Organisational Development, Best Use of Assets, Technology & Creating Value Processes.

## **5. Organisational Impacts**

### **5.1 Finance**

There are no specific financial implications arising from the development of the Productivity Plans. This document highlights the Council's approach to financial planning, as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

### **5.2 Legal**

There are no direct legal implications arising from the development or submission of the Productivity Plans. The Government introduced the concept of productivity plans when it announced the Local Government Financial Settlement 2024/25. The Government requirement is that Productivity Plans are submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Council's must ensure that there is member endorsement of the Plan before it is submitted.

### **5.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights**

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

There are no direct implications from the Productivity Plans.

## **6. Risk Implications**

### **6.1 (i) Options Explored**

Do not approve and publish the Productivity Plan. This is not recommended, as it would contravene the request from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

### **6.2 (ii) Key Risks Associated with the Preferred Approach**

There are no direct risks arising from the development or submission of the Productivity Plan.

## **7. Recommendation**

- 7.1 That Executive approves the submission of the Council's Productivity Plan to the Government
- 7.2 That Executive approves the publication of the Productivity Plan on the Council's website following the submission.

**Is this a key decision?** No

**Do the exempt information categories apply?** No

**Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply?** No

**How many appendices does the report contain?** 1

**List of Background Papers:** None

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