

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CABINET – 9 JULY 2024
REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (FINANCE & TRANSFORMATION)

PRODUCTIVITY PLAN

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 In the Final Local Government Finance Settlement 2024/25, dated 5 February 2024, the Government set out its expectation that Local Authorities will be required to set out and share productivity plans. Their intention is to set up a productivity review panel to review these plans.
- 1.2 The Minister for Local Government wrote to Local Authorities on 16 April 2024 (appendix A), to provide more detail on the requirements and timeframes for these plans.
- 1.3 This report provided the councils response to the Government, for submission by the deadline of 19 July 2024.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Cabinet endorse the Productivity Plan attached in appendix B.
- 2.2 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Leader of the Council to make changes that may be required before submission to the Government.

3 Explanation

- 3.1 In the Final Local Government Finance Settlement 2024/25, dated 5 February 2024, the Government set out its expectation that Local Authorities will be required to set out and share productivity plans. Their intention is to set up a productivity review panel to review these plans.
- 3.2 The Minister for Local Government wrote to Local Authorities on 16 April 2024 (appendix A), to provide more detail on the requirements and timeframes for these plans.
- 3.3 The letter sets out the expectation that the plans will have member oversight and endorsement before submission.
- 3.4 The council already has clear transformation plans in place for service change and improvement, and strategies for delivering sustainable budgets as set out in its medium-term financial strategy, so it is not appropriate to draft a stand-alone plan. Instead the response outlines the things we already have in place to ensure we minimise wasteful spend and to drive service improvements and efficiency.
- 3.5 Since the announcement of the plan, the General Election has been called. It is unclear whether an incoming Government would still expect plans to be delivered, or if any changes to expectations around plan content might change.

As such delegations have been included to allow for any changes that may be required, and to allow refinement of the plan before submission.

Implications

Legal Implication(s)

3.6 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

4 Financial Implication(s)

4.1 There are no direct financial implications from the plan, which has been drafted on the basis of our existing transformation strategy and medium-term financial strategy.

5 Risk Management Implications

5.1 There are no direct risk implications arising from this report.

6 Security and Terrorism Implication(s)

6.1 There are no direct security and terrorism implications arising from this report.

7 Procurement Implication(s)

7.1 There are no direct procurement implications arising from this report.

8 Climate Change Implication(s)

8.1 There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.

9 Human Resources Implication(s)

9.1 There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.

10 Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)

10.1 There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.

11 Communication and Engagement Implication(s)

There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.

12 Link to Corporate Priorities

12.1 The subject of this report is linked to the Council's Corporate Priority to 'Run an Effective Council'

13 Equality and Diversity

14.1 An EqIA was not completed because this report does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies.

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Title

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Date

21 June 2024