

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	25 JUNE 2024	5
THE PRODUCTIVITY PLAN			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

RELEVANT LEAD MEMBER

This item is within the remit of Lead Member for Finance and Resources, Councillor Ellie Gaunt.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To present the content of the Council’s Productivity Plan in response to the Productivity in Local Government request, from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for member approval.

RECOVERABILITY

This decision is recoverable under section 7 of part 3 of the constitution.

RECOMMENDATION

- Members are asked to approve the content for the productivity plan, included as Appendix 1 to the report, prior to submission to DLUHC ahead of the deadline of 19th July 2024.

REPORT

- The Government is reviewing productivity across all public services and local government is included in this approach. The 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement in December 2023 included the announcement that councils would be asked to produce productivity plans.
- The guidelines for productivity plans were published on 16th April 2024 with a submission deadline of the 19th of July 2024. The guidance encourages councils to think broadly when drafting a Productivity Plan and confirmed that there is no formal template or set criteria to be included. The Productivity Plan should set out what councils have done in recent years to achieve productivity gains and outline plans to achieve further efficiency through the transformation of service delivery.
- The Productivity Plan is included at Appendix 1 and has been structured in accordance with the guidance from DLUHC to cover 4 key headings:
 - How you have transformed the way you design and deliver services to make better use of resources.
 - How you plan to take advantage of technology and make better use of data to improve decision making service design and use of resources.
 - Your plans to reduce wasteful spend within your organisation and systems.
 - The barriers preventing progress that the Government can help reduce or remove.

4. Individual plans will not be rated or scored by DLUHC, there will not be a league table produced. Instead, central government will identify common themes, challenges, shared issues, as well as good practice that can be used to identify opportunities for the public sector and individual authorities to achieve productivity gains.
5. The guidance states that elected members must endorse the plan before it is submitted to DLUHC, and the plans must be uploaded to the council's website for residents to see. DLUHC stated that a panel will be created to consider the themes and evidence that come from the plans. The panel, which will be chaired by Simon Hoare, will also consider the implications for future policy design, the role of Government in supporting further change "and the role of the sector in going further".
6. The guidance did not state whether the productivity plan will be an annual requirement or any formal process for review of the plans however, it will be monitored and included as part of the existing performance management framework where the measures and metrics are published to inform residents on how we are performing. The content and nature of the productivity plan for Fylde is consistent with the approach taken to service review, efficiency, and value for money that has been at the forefront of organisational behaviour since 2009. Key performance measures which measure productivity (inputs, outputs, and outcomes) have been in place for many years which are published, reviewed, and reported to scrutiny. The range and number of key performance measures in the performance framework at Fylde is greater than the Oflog requirement providing a comprehensive picture of service delivery across the council.

CONCLUSION

7. The productivity plan is a new requirement for local authorities for 2024 announced alongside the finance settlement, the content of the plan for Fylde is included in Appendix 1, members are asked to consider and approve the content for the plan.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	None arising directly from this report
Legal	None arising directly from this report
Community Safety	None arising directly from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising directly from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising directly from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising directly from this report

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS		
There are no previous decisions in relation to Productivity Plans as these have been introduced as a new requirement from 2024.		
LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Chief Executive	allan.oldfield@fylde.gov.uk 01253 658500	June 2024

Appendix 1 – The Productivity Plan