

CABINET
16 JULY 2024

PRODUCTIVITY PLAN 2024/25

**Responsible Cabinet Member -
Councillor Mandy Porter, Resources Portfolio**

**Responsible Director -
Elizabeth Davison, Group Director of Operations**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To present the 2024/25 Productivity Plan for member oversight and endorsement before submission on the 19 July 2024.

Background

2. As part of the 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement the Government announced the requirement for all Councils to produce a productivity plan. Subsequently the Minister for Local Government, Simon Hoare MP, wrote to Council Chief Executives outlining what the plans should include noting that Local Government had already done a huge amount in recent years to improve productivity and efficiency and that the plans would help the Government understand what is working well across the country, what the common themes are, whether there are any gaps and what more the government could do to unlock future opportunities.
3. The four questions posed were:
 - (a) How have you transformed the way you design and deliver services to make a better use of resources.
 - (b) How you plan to take advantage of technology and make better use of data to improve decision making, service design and use of resources.
 - (c) Plans to reduce wasteful spend within your organisation and systems.
 - (d) The barriers preventing progress that the Government can help to reduce or remove.
4. Darlington Draft Plan is attached at **Appendix 1**, must be returned to the Government by 19 July 2024 and subsequently uploaded on the Council's website.

Recommendations

5. It is recommended that:-
- (a) Members endorse the Productivity Plan
 - (b) The plan is uploaded onto the council's website.

Reasons

6. The recommendations are supported in order to fulfil the Department for Levelling up Housing and Communities requirements.

Elizabeth Davison
Group Director of Operations

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Elizabeth Davison : Extension 5403

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no specific crime and disorder implications in this report.
Health and Wellbeing	There are no issues relating to health and wellbeing which this report needs to address.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no specific carbon impact issues in this report.
Diversity	The report does not contain any proposals that impact on diversity issues.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected.
Groups Affected	No specific groups are particularly affected.
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	The report does not require a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This requires an urgent decision as the Council is required to submit the productivity to government by 19 July 2024
Council Plan	The Productivity Plan links to the core principle of Efficient and Effective use of resources in the Council Plan.
Efficiency	The report contains information on how the council has transformed service delivery and future use of technology which lead to efficiency savings contained in the MTFP.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers.