

<b>Policy &amp; Resources Meeting</b>	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	15 July 2024
<b>Report Title</b>	Productivity Plan
<b>EMT Lead</b>	Larissa Reed, Chief Executive
<b>Head of Service</b>	Lisa Fillery, Director of Resources
<b>Lead Officer</b>	
<b>Classification</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Recommendations</b>	1. That P&R committee approve the productivity plan to be submitted to Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

## **1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement announced that councils would be asked to produce productivity plans. This report details the plan produced for Swale Borough Council to submit to DLUHC by 19 July 2024.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 Following the initial announcement that local councils would be required to submit productivity plans to central governments as part of their review of productivity across all public services, the minister for local government has written to all council Chief Executives formally beginning the process for local government.
- 2.2 The letter (Appendix II) lays out the expectation to produce a plan of between three to four pages in length setting out what the council has achieved and our current plans for transforming the organisation and our services. It also provides 4 key themes and questions to consider in providing our plan details as a formal template or detailed list of criteria have not been provided for this exercise.
- 2.3 The themes that have been asked to be considered are as follows:
1. How you have transformed the way you design and deliver services to make better use of resources.
  2. How you plan to take advantage of technology and make better use of data to improve decision making, service design and use of resources.
  3. Your plans to reduce wasteful spend within your organisation and systems.
  4. The barriers preventing progress that the Government can help to reduce or remove.

- 2.4 Once received, the plans will be reviewed by a panel set up by DLUHC with the aim of identifying common themes and issues across the sector.
- 2.5 It is not proposed that the productivity plans submitted will be rated or scored and there are no plans to produce a league table based on the plans.

### **3 Proposals**

- 3.1 As member oversight and endorsement of the plan has been requested, it is proposed Policy & Resources approve that the productivity plan (Appendix1) is submitted to the Levelling Up team for their consideration.

### **4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected**

- 4.1 The council could chose to not submit a productivity plan, but this is not recommended

### **5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed**

- 5.1 The plan has been compiled in consultation with Service Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs and Strategic Management Team.

### **6 Implications**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Implications</b>
Corporate Plan	Service and organisational transformation are included in the delivery of the corporate plan priorities.
Financial, Resource and Property	The production, reporting and updating of the productivity plan will need to be appropriately resourced across the service areas.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	Not applicable to this decision
Crime and Disorder	Not applicable to this decision
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	Not applicable to this decision
Health and Wellbeing	Not applicable to this decision

Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	Not applicable to this decision
Risk Management and Health and Safety	Not applicable to this decision
Equality and Diversity	The productivity guidance letter, specifically asks for the details of the time and money spent on training staff in the Equality and Diversity.
Privacy and Data Protection	Not applicable to this decision

## **7 Appendices**

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Proposed Productivity Plan

## **8 Background Papers**

Appendix II – Letter from Minister for Local Government.