

Blaby District Council

Cabinet Executive

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| Date of Meeting | 24 June 2024 |
| Title of Report | Productivity Plan 2024/25 This is not a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan |
| Lead Member | Cllr. Terry Richardson - Leader of the Council |
| Report Author | Chief Executive |
| Strategic Themes | All Themes: Enabling communities and supporting vulnerable residents; Enhancing and maintaining our natural and built environment; Growing and supporting our economy; Keeping you safe and healthy; Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people |

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to obtain member approval and oversight of the productivity plan submission to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

2. Recommendation(s) to Cabinet Executive

- 2.1 That the Productivity Plan at Appendix A, be approved for submission to DLUHC and delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to update the Plan from time to time in consultation with the Leader.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 To deliver on the Governments requirement and demonstrate the Councils commitment to being an ambitious and well managed council.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

When the Local Government finance settlement for 24/25 was published in late 2023, it included a requirement for local authorities to develop and share Productivity Plans on their website. These plans, which must be published by the 19th July, should set out how Councils will improve service performance and become more efficient.

The Government has requested that the Plans should be short and draw on work councils have already done, identifying ways to unlock productivity improvements and setting out the key implementation milestones.

The Government expects the Productivity Plans to cover four main areas:

- a) transformation of services to make better use of resources;
- b) opportunities to take advantage of advances in technology and make better use of data to inform decision making and service design;
- c) ways to reduce wasteful spend within systems;
- d) barriers preventing activity that Government can help to reduce or remove.

Alongside this, the Government will establish a new productivity review panel, made up of sector experts including the Office for Local Government and the Local Government Association.

4.2 Proposal(s)

The attached productivity plan (Appendix A) is based on our recently published Blaby District Plan 2024 – 2028, Medium term Financial Strategy, Transforming Blaby Together Strategy and our Corporate Action Plan 24/25. All of which clearly demonstrate our commitment to being as efficient and effective as possible within the constraints placed upon us.

No formal template was provided but we have been asked to restrict the submission to four pages.

The plan is structured in accordance with the four areas identified in section 4.1 of the report. The plan will be submitted to DHLUC and be uploaded to our website to meet with the conditions imposed upon us by DHLUC. We have been assured that the plans will not be rated or scored and will help identify common themes across the sector and help identify best practice to aid learning.

The submission also allows us the opportunity to highlight how productivity is often stifled through the approach to funding through single year settlements, expensive and resource intensive competitive bidding and the introduction of new burdens with limited if any funding.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

There has been no consultation on this specific item – however, there has been extensive consultation on the documents that have fed into this such as the corporate plan.

4.4 Significant Issues

There have been significant issues identified as arising from this report.

5. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

5.1 There are no additional financial implications arising as a result of this report.

6. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

6.1 There are no risks that have been identified as a result of this report.

7. Other options considered

No other options have been considered.

8. Environmental impact

No environmental impacts have been identified as a result of this report.

9. Other significant issues

9.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

10. Appendix

10.1 Appendix A – Productivity Plan 24/25

11. Background paper(s)

11.1 The following background papers have been utilised to produce this report:-
The Blaby District Plan 24-28
Medium term Financial Strategy
The Transforming Blaby Together Strategy

12. Report author's contact details

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