

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of Council on 31st July 2024

Productivity Plan

Report of the Chief Executive

Classification	This report is public
Report By	Karen Hanson, Chief Executive Officer

PURPOSE / SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To provide Council with details of the Productivity Plan submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
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REPORT DETAILS

1 **Update**

1.1 On 16th April 2024, Simon Hoare MP, and the *then* Minister for Local Government, wrote to all Councils requesting the submission of a Productivity Plan by 19th July 2024 (**see Appendix 1**). This request was received following the Local Government Finance Settlement.

1.2 His letter states, *‘Local Government has already done a huge amount in recent years to improve productivity and efficiency. However, lockdown and post-lockdown has proved challenging, and you are looking for new ways to go further. These new plans will help us to understand what is already working well across the whole country, what the common themes are, whether there are any gaps and what more we need to do to unlock future opportunities.’*

1.3 The letter also stated the Government was not looking to impose ‘excessive burdens’ and would not be issuing a formal template. It requested a few pages of narrative from each council to set out what we have done in recent years, alongside our current plans to transform the organisation and services. The letter then provides 25 suggested questions under 4 main headings as a guide. These headings are:

- 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 to reduce or remove.

The full set of questions are contained within **Appendix 1**.

- 1.4 The Minister has been clear that “Individual plans will not be rated or scored”, and that the plans are being commissioned to provide an “understanding of what is happening across the sector”.
- 1.5 As with other Councils, Bolsover District Council uses a range of frameworks, to monitor and oversee our efficiency and effectiveness. These include our performance framework, our financial management and budget setting processes, and our overarching governance frameworks, several of which have been refreshed recently.
- 1.6 The Council’s Productivity Plan, attached at **Appendix 2**, was taken to a meeting of Cabinet and Junior Cabinet Members on 15th July 2024 for discussion and endorsement. It was then submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government by the deadline of the 19th July, and uploaded to the Council’s website as required.
- 1.7 Following the General Election, the new Government have not yet confirmed whether they will require Productivity Plans in the future or whether a different mechanism for measuring productivity will be developed.

2 **Reasons for Recommendation**

To ensure all Councillors receive a copy of the Council’s Productivity Plan for information.

3 **Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

Member oversight of the Productivity Plan is a requirement set out in **Appendix 1**. Therefore, there is no alternative option.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the Council’s Productivity Plan.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder – Finance

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details: There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details: There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Environment: Yes No

Details: There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

Staffing: Yes No

Details: There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report
On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No

District Wards Significantly Affected	
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Details: Portfolio Holder- Finance

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No.	Title
Appendix 1	Letter from Simon Hoare MP dated 16 th April 2024
Appendix 2	Bolsover District Council's Productivity Plan 2024