

OPEN

Council

17 July 2024

Productivity Plan

Report of: Rob Polkinghorne - Chief Executive

Report Reference No: C/9/24-25

Ward(s) Affected: All

Purpose of Repor

- 1 To provide Council with an oversight of Cheshire East Council's Productivity Plan prior to submission to government on 19 July 2024.

Executive Summary

- 2 This report provides a response to the request from the Minister of State for Local Government, for local authorities to provide Productivity Plans to set out how they will improve service performance and reduce wasteful expenditure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the publication of the Productivity Plan by the Council and submission to the government by 19 July 2024 deadline, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report.

Background

- 3 On 24 January 2024, the then Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) announced further financial support for local government with a requirement for local authorities to produce Productivity Plans setting out how they will improve service performance

and reduce wasteful expenditure to ensure every area is making best use of taxpayers' money.

- 4 The announcement was followed in April by a letter from the Minister for Local Government setting out the information expected to be reflected in the Productivity Plan and requiring them to be submitted by all local authorities by 19 July 2024. The letter is attached at Appendix 1.
- 5 The plans are expected to provide a summary of what councils are already doing and 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 the Government can help to reduce or remove.
- 6 Cheshire East Council's Productivity Plan is at Appendix 2 and reflects current challenges and work underway to make improvements in the context of the four areas set out above.

Consultation and Engagement

- 7 Not applicable. The plan provides a summary of information already available or signposts to emerging work also on this agenda such as the council's Transformation Plan.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 8 Council is asked to provide oversight and endorsement of Cheshire East Council's Productivity Plan as requested in the letter from DLUHC.

Other Options Considered

- 9 Not applicable.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 10 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 11 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, the Productivity Plan is an important part of demonstrating our compliance with Best Value principles.

Policy

- 12 No direct impact. The plan references the Cheshire East Plan 2024/25.

An open and enabling organisation.	A council which empowers and cares about people.	A thriving and sustainable place.
---	---	--

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 13 No direct impact

Human Resources

- 14 No direct impact

Risk Management

- 15 No direct impact

Rural Communities

- 16 No direct impact

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

- 17 No direct impact

Public Health

- 18 No direct impact

Climate Change

- 19 No direct impact

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Phil Christian – Acting Head of Business Change Phil.christian@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Letter from DLUHC Appendix 2 - Cheshire East Council Productivity Plan
Background Papers:	None