



REPORT TO:	Cabinet
DATE:	26 th June 2024
SUBJECT:	Productivity Plan
PURPOSE:	To agree the Productivity Plan
KEY DECISION:	No
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Leader of the Council
REPORT OF:	Assistant Director - Corporate
REPORT AUTHOR:	James Gilbert, Assistant Director - Corporate
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	n/a
EXEMPT	No

SUMMARY

When the Local Government Finance Settlement was published in late 2023, there was a requirement placed on Councils to publish a Productivity Plan.

This report brings forward the proposed approach for the Council's Productivity Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Productivity Plan at Appendix A, underpinned by the items listed at 2.4 in the report, be approved, and delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director – Corporate to update the Plan from time to time in consultation with the Leader.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To deliver on the Government's requirement and demonstrate the Council's commitment to collaborative working to deliver efficiency and improved outcomes for communities.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Do nothing – not an option due to the Government's requirement to publish a Productivity Plan.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. 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 summer Parliamentary recess, should set out how Councils will improve service performance and become more efficient.
- 1.2. 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.
- 1.3. 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.
- 1.4. Alongside this, Government will establish a new productivity review panel, made up of sector experts including the Office for Local Government and the Local Government Association.
- 1.5. Councillors will already be aware of the formation of the Office for Local Government in 2023 and that part of its role will be to review the performance of Local Government.

2. REPORT

- 2.1. When the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership formed in October 2021, the Councils agreed an ambitious Business Case that set out a range of opportunities for the sub-region and Councils by the three Councils working together. Those opportunities included:
 - a) the ability to shape policy at a regional level to help address the challenges the sub-region faces;
 - b) secure more resources to deliver on sub-regional and local priorities
 - c) be more efficient in the way the Councils operate.
- 2.2. The Business Case identified the opportunity to secure £42m in savings/efficiencies over a 10-year period through the Partnership working.
- 2.3. Three years into the Partnership, over 50% of the savings/efficiencies have already been identified and over £180m of external funding has been attracted to the sub-region for significant projects that support service improvements and economic regeneration. In addition, the Councils operate several shared services and share a Corporate Management Team.
- 2.4. The Partnership is underpinned by a range of documents that deliver on the Government's Productivity Plan requirements, including:
 - a) The Partnership Business Case
 - b) The Sub-regional Strategy, which includes a specific priority, 'Efficient and Effective'
 - c) The Partnership Performance Framework
 - d) Partnership Digital Strategy
 - e) Partnership Workforce Strategy
 - f) Partnership Asset Management Strategy
 - g) The Annual Delivery Plan

h) The Annual Budget for each Council

2.5. The Council is intending to publish these documents online by the Parliamentary summer recess, with Appendix A, to deliver on the Government's Productivity Plan requirement.

2.6. These key documents demonstrate the Partnership's ambition to work collaboratively to continue driving efficiency in the way we operate and secure resources to improve services to our communities.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The Government's request for Productivity Plans is welcomed and this Council, through its work with partners in the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, is already delivering against the requirements set by the Secretary of State and this is evidenced in Appendix A and the suite of documents identified at 2.4 in this report.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

The opportunity to demonstrate to Government the quantity of work already underway in the sub-region to drive efficiency and create opportunities for our communities through improved service provision and economic regeneration.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

None as a direct result of this report.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

None as a direct result of this report.

STAFFING

None as a direct result of this report.

WORKFORCE CAPACITY IMPLICATIONS

None as a direct result of this report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None as a direct result of this report.

DATA PROTECTION

None as a direct result of this report.

FINANCIAL

None as a direct result of this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT

None as a direct result of this report.

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

None as a direct result of this report.

REPUTATION

The Production and publication of this suite of documents in the form of a Productivity Plan demonstrates the Partnership’s commitment to Government and other partners to driving efficiency and collaborative working to secure improved outcomes for communities.

CONTRACTS

None as a direct result of this report.

CRIME AND DISORDER

None as a direct result of this report.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

None as a direct result of this report.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

None as a direct result of this report.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None as a direct result of this report.

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the following Missions outlined in the Government’s Levelling Up White paper.	
Living Standards	By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
Research and Development	By 2030, domestic public investment in Research & Development outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40% and at least one third over the Spending Review period, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.
Transport Infrastructure	By 2030, local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.
Digital Connectivity	By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.
Education	By 2030, the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.
Skills	By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
Health	By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.
Wellbeing	By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
Pride in Place	By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
Housing	By 2030, renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the government’s ambition is for the

	number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.
Crime	By 2030, homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.
Local Leadership	By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.

APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX A	Productivity Plan
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Local Government Finance Settlement 24/25	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/final-local-government-finance-settlement-england-2024-to-2025

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

Name of body	Date
None	

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	Assistant Director - Corporate
Signed off by:	Assistant Director - Corporate
Approved for publication:	Leader of the Council