

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 16</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>20 JUNE 2024</b>	<b>CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES AND TRANSFORMATION</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS’ CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>CHARLOTTE JACKSON</b> <a href="mailto:charlotte.jackson@south-derbyshire.gov.uk">charlotte.jackson@south-derbyshire.gov.uk</a>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>PRODUCTIVITY PLAN</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM13</b>

## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That the Committee approve the draft Productivity Plan and delegate approval to the Executive Director – Resources and Transformation to make any final amendments in consultation with the Finance and Management Committee Chair.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To set out the Productivity Plan for South Derbyshire District Council, as required by the Office for Local Government (OFLOG).

## **3.0 Detail**

### **Background**

- 3.1 As part of the 2024/25 Final Local Government Finance Settlement, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations, Michael Gove MP, set out that the ask of local authorities to develop and share productivity plans. The Minister’s statement said that authorities were to set out how they would improve service performance and reduce wasteful expenditure, for example on consultants or discredited equality, diversity and inclusion programmes. He also said that Government will monitor these plans, and funding settlements in future will be informed by performance against these plans.
- 3.2 In April 2024 the Council received a letter from the Minister for Local Government setting out the requirement for the Council to submit a Productivity Plan by 19 July 2024 once Members have “endorsed” the plan. The key message from the Minister is included below:

*“Productivity is not one-dimensional, and I would encourage you to consider the various facets that encompass the drive for greater productivity....I am not looking to impose excessive burdens. I am not issuing you with a formal template or a detailed list of criteria to meet. I expect your plans to be three or four pages in*

*length, and to set out what you have done in recent years, alongside your current plans, to transform your organisation and services. I do not want to specify a list of metrics you must report, but I do want to understand how you will monitor and assess your plans to assure yourselves and your residents that they will be delivered.”*

3.7 The Government has highlighted that Productivity Plans should cover the way in which organisations will:

- Transform the way services are designed and delivered;
- Taking advantage of technology and using data to make better decisions;
- Plan to reduce wasteful spend within the organisation and its systems; and

3.8 It is also requested that organisations to advise Government of the barriers preventing progress and what they can do to unblock these.

3.9 The draft South Derbyshire District Council Productivity Plan is at Appendix A.

3.10 The draft plan sets out the achievements of the Council in transforming services, making the best use of technology and data and reducing wasteful spend, and, work currently underway and the Council's future plans in these areas.

3.11 The draft plan also lists several asks of Government to remove the barriers to preventing progress. This section remains incomplete, and will be finalised by the Executive Director – Resources and Transformation in consultation with the Finance and Management Committee Chair. It is intended that this area will include messages around barriers preventing progress which are common to local and national peers.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 Delivery of the Council's Productivity Plan, via the Sustainable Finance Plan, is targeted to deliver £11 million of savings to 2029.

4.2 It has cost the Council circa £2,500 in senior officer time to produce this Productivity Plan.

4.3 There are no other financial implications arising directly from this report.

#### **5.0 Corporate Implications**

##### **Employment Implications**

5.1 There are no direct employment implications arising from this report.

##### **Legal Implications**

5.2 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

##### **Corporate Plan Implications**

5.3 Transformation forms a key priority of the Council Plan 2024-2028. Delivery of effective services is essential to delivery of the Council Plan and the financial sustainability of the Council.

## **Risk Impact**

- 5.4 Failure to deliver the Productivity Plan will impact on the quality of provision of services. Failure to deliver savings over the medium term will impact on the financial sustainability of the Council.

## **6.0 Community Impact**

### **Consultation**

- 6.1 None.

### **Equality and Diversity Impact**

- 6.2 There are no implications arising from this report. The Council continues to ensure it's services and employment practices are fair and do not discriminate against any person or groups of people.

### **Social Value Impact**

- 6.3 There are no implications arising from this report

### **Environmental Sustainability**

- 6.4 There are no implications arising from this report.

## **7.0 Conclusions**

- 7.1 The Productivity Plan for South Derbyshire District Council, as required by the Office for Local Government (OFLOG) at Appendix A summarises the key activities of the Council in ensuring it continuously improves services and how it will continue to do so into the future.

## **8.0 Background Papers**

- 8.1 Medium Term Financial Strategy, Council, 11 April 2024.