

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE (SECTION 151 OFFICER)

TITLE: BARNSLEY MBC PRODUCTIVITY PLAN 2024/25

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	10 July 2024
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Core Services
Key Decision	No
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

To present to Cabinet the councils 'Productivity Plan' for 2024/25 as required by the Government (pre election).

Council Plan priority:

Enabling Barnsley: - The attached productivity plan demonstrates the councils' achievements and future plans that support the delivery of the enabling Barnsley priority that ensures the council is modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high-performing.

Recommendations:

- 1. That Cabinet endorses the Productivity Plan for 2024/25 for submission to Government and publication on the council's website.**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** In February 2024 as part of the 2024/25 final local government funding settlement, the Government (pre-election) announced a requirement for Local Authorities to produce and publish annual productivity plans. These plans should set out the work already done by councils to increase productivity / efficiency and plans for future improvement.
- 1.2** The productivity plans should be agreed by Council Leaders and Cabinet, published on council websites and submitted to Government by 19th July 2024, with regular updates provided on progress.
- 1.3** The plans will be reviewed by a productivity panel made up of sector experts, including OFLOG and LGA, who will use the plans to assess how well a

council is taking actions to improve performance and reduce wasteful expenditure and use them to inform future funding settlements.

1.4 The plans should focus on four key areas:

1. Transformation of services to make better use of resources.
2. Opportunities to take advantage of advances in technology and make better use of data to inform decision making and service design.
3. Plans to reduce wasteful spend within organisation and systems.
4. Barriers preventing activity that Government can help to reduce or remove waste.

PROPOSAL

2.1 The Department for Levelling Up (DLUC) set out draft guidance to support authorities in preparing their plans, setting out a series of areas for consideration, these have been considered when preparing the plan for Barnsley.

2.2 Barnsley Councils Productivity Plan is attached at appendix 1.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

3.1.1 Whilst there are no direct financial implications arising from the productivity plan, it should be noted that the outcome of productivity plan submissions to Government is intended to support and drive future changes to the local government funding system which may result in changes to how and to what level of government funding the council receives in future years.

3.2 Legal

3.2.1 There are no legal implications associated with the production or publication of the productivity plan as this is a publication of council activity already achieved or future plans as agreed as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy which is subject to separate approval and scrutiny. Any specific proposals mentioned in the plan will be subject to legal considerations in their own merits.

3.2.2 Central Government requires Productivity Plans to be produced and published by councils and further endorsed by members each council and the function of such is designated to Cabinet through the Constitution at 3c, Part 2: Terms of Reference of the Cabinet and Arrangements for Delegated Decision Making by Cabinet, specifically paragraph e, which sets out that Cabinet can approve, or approve variations to, strategies and policies, operational plans, programmes, and procedures, which are consistent with the budget and policy framework determined by the full Council.

3.3 Equality

3.3.1 There are no equality issues associated with the production or publication of the productivity plan as this is a publication of council activity already achieved or future plans as agreed as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy which is subject to separate approval and scrutiny. Any specific proposals mentioned in the plan will be subject to equality impact assessments as necessary.

3.4 Sustainability

3.4.1 There is no requirement to complete the sustainability decision making wheel as there are no decisions required as part of the producing and submitting the productivity plan.

3.5 Employee

3.5.1 There are no employee implications associated with the productivity plan.

3.6 Communications

3.6.1 The Government require the productivity plan to be published on the council's website by no later than the 19th July 2024.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 The productivity plan has been produced in consultation with representatives from the Core Directorate including Finance, HR and IT services.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 There are no alternative options associated with this proposal, the productivity plan is a requirement of local authorities by central government.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 To enable the council to comply with the government requirement to submit a productivity plan by no later than 19th July 2024.

7. GLOSSARY

N/A

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Productivity Plan 2024-25

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

10. REPORT SIGN OFF

Financial consultation & sign off	Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date Cat Pantry 27 June 2024
Legal consultation & sign off	Legal Services officer consulted and date Andrew Perriman 28 June 2024

Report Author: Catherine Pantry
Post: Head of Financial Services
Date: 03.06.24