

## **LOCAL AUTHORITY PRODUCTIVITY PLAN 2024**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Local Authority Productivity Plan 2024 (The Plan) provides a summary of the following key areas and outlines how the council:
- a. has transformed the way that services are designed and delivered to make better use of resources
  - b. plans to take advantage of technology and make better use of data to improve decision making, service design and use of resources; and
  - c. plans to reduce wasteful spend within the organisation and systems.
- 1.2 The Plan also describes any barriers that are preventing progress that The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) could help to reduce or remove.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In December 2023 as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, DLUHC announced that all local councils would be asked to produce a Productivity Plan.
- 2.2 The Plan is to set out 'how the authority will improve service performance and reduce wasteful expenditure'.
- 2.3 Recognising the vast amounts of work already done in this area by local authorities, the aim of The Plan is to understand what is working well and what DLUHC could do to unlock future opportunities for the organisation.
- 2.4 DLUHC set the deadline for submission of The Plan by 19/07/2024 and required approval by council Leaders and elected members. The snap parliamentary general election means that timescales do not allow for formal Cabinet approval and as such a Portfolio Holder decision is required to approve the document for submission.
- 2.5 Once submitted, The Plan will be reviewed by an expert panel including representatives from the Office for Local Government (OFLOG) and the Local Government Association (LGA).

### **3. GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE**

- 3.1 DLUHC provided detail stating that 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'
- 3.2 No template or standard was outlined by DLUHC, but councils were provided with twenty-four prompting questions to inform the content and scope of The Plan.
- 3.3 The attached plan answers and expands upon these questions where relevant to New Forest District Council service delivery.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The Plan describes activity already in place through existing policies as well as the key themes and strategic outcomes from the Future New Forest transformation programme.
- 4.2 DLUHC stated that the plan should be published and regularly updated with progress and performance monitoring.
- 4.3 Monitoring of the projects progress and any improvements outlined in The Plan form part of the strategic Performance Management Framework and 'Future New Forest' Transformation Programme.
- 4.4 Regular progress updates will be published on the newforest.gov.uk website.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Any financial considerations or budget impacts included in the plan are borne from existing approved policies and programmes.

#### **6. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are none arising directly from The Plan.

#### **7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are none arising directly from The Plan.

#### **8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are none arising directly from The Plan.

#### **9. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are none arising directly from The Plan.

#### **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 It is recommended that the Portfolio Holders:
  - a. note the contents of the Local Authority Productivity Plan 2024 (The Plan); and
  - b. approve The Plan for submission to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

#### **11. PORTFOLIO HOLDERS ENDORSEMENT**

**I have agreed to the recommendations of this report.**

**Sign: Cllr Jill Cleary**

**Date: 3 July 2024**

**Sign: Cllr Jeremy Heron**

**Date: 3 July 2024**

**For further information contact:**

Rebecca Drummond  
Assistant Director - Transformation  
023 8028 5080  
[rebecca.drummond@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.drummond@nfdc.gov.uk)

**Background Papers:**

The Local Authority Productivity Plan 2024

Date on which notice given of this Decision – 3 July 2024

Last date for call in – 10 July 2024