



<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Councillor Michael Vincent, Leader of the Council Sarah Palmer, Director of Transformation and Change	Cabinet	17 July 2024

### Wyre Council Productivity Plan

**Key decision:** No

#### **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1** On 24 January 2024 the Government announced a new efficiency drive for local government. As part of this, local authorities were asked to produce Productivity Plans setting out 'how they will improve service performance and reduce wasteful expenditure'.
- 1.2** Cabinet is asked to review and approve Wyre Council's Productivity Plan attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.3** Following approval by Cabinet, the Productivity Plan will be submitted to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLHUC) by the deadline of 19 July 2024.

#### **2. Council priorities**

- 2.1** Innovative and customer focused - a well run, forward-thinking council that puts customers first.

#### **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1** That Cabinet is asked to review and approve Wyre Council's Productivity Plan attached at Appendix 1.

#### **4. Background**

- 4.1** On 24 January 2024 the Government announced a new efficiency drive for local government. As part of this, local authorities were asked to produce

Productivity Plans setting out 'how they will improve service performance and reduce wasteful expenditure'.

- 4.2** The Government has indicated that councils should continue preparing Productivity Plans despite the uncertainty caused by the general election.
- 4.3** Councils have been encouraged to take a wide view of productivity and have been given a prompt on key areas to cover in Productivity Plans, including:
- How services have been transformed to make better use of resources;
  - How technology has been used to make better use of data to improve decision making, service design and use of resources;
  - Plans to reduce wasteful spend in the organisation and wider system; and
  - Barriers preventing progress that the Government can help to reduce or remove.
- 4.4** Productivity Plans will be reviewed by an expert panel, to be established by DLUHC. The panel will include representatives from the Office for Local Government (OFLOG) and the Local Government Association (LGA).
- 4.5** It is intended that the Productivity Plans will be monitored by DLUHC, and future funding settlements will be informed by performance against these plans. The expert panel will also consider emerging themes and issues from Productivity Plans and advise the government and the sector on future national policy design.
- 4.6** On 5 February 2024, DLUHC provided further details on the Productivity Plans indicating that they should be short and draw on work councils have already done, identify ways to unlock productivity improvements, and set out key implementation milestones. Councils should publish progress updates on their websites. Furthermore, DLUHC indicated that the plan should be agreed by council Leaders and elected members, although councils will have flexibility in how they decide to approve their plan.

## **5. Key issues and proposals**

- 5.1** On 24 January 2024 the Government announced a new efficiency drive for local government. As part of this, local authorities were asked to produce Productivity Plans setting out 'how they will improve service performance and reduce wasteful expenditure'.
- 5.2** Wyre Council's Productivity Plan is attached at Appendix 1.

**6. Alternative options considered and rejected**

**6.1** The production of a Productivity Plan is a requirement from DLHUC. No alternative options were considered or rejected.

<b>Financial, Legal/MO, and Climate Change implications</b>	
Finance	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
Legal/MO	There are no legal / MO implications arising directly from this report.
Climate Change	There are no climate change implications arising directly from this report.

**Other risks/implications: checklist**

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
community safety	<b>x</b>
equality and diversity	<b>x</b>
health and safety	<b>x</b>

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
asset management	<b>x</b>
ICT	<b>x</b>
data protection	<b>x</b>

**Processing Personal Data**

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a ‘privacy impact assessment (PIA)’ is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Sarah Palmer, Director of Transformation and Change	01253 887285	sarah.palmer@wyre.gov.uk	18 June 2024

**List of background papers:**

name of document	date	where available for inspection
N/A	N/A	N/A

**List of appendices**

Appendix 1 – Wyre Council Productivity Plan