

Productivity Plans

To: Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee

Meeting Date: 9 July 2024

From: Executive Director of Finance and Resources

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: Yes

Forward Plan ref: 2024/014

Executive Summary: Government requested that local authorities publish Productivity Plans by 19 July 2024 for both the Council and Pension Fund. This report contains the proposed submission for the County Council for comment, along with the Pension Fund submission to be discussed at the Pension Committee.

Recommendation: The Committee is asked to:

- a) consider the attached Productivity Plan submission to Government, noting any changes and agree to delegate to the Executive Director of Finance and Resources in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of this Committee, to submit before the 19 July deadline.
- b) note the submission relating to the Pension Fund's productivity plan that will be discussed and agreed at the 18 July Pension Committee.

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1. Creating a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire

- 1.1 This report and the attachment relates to the overall organisation and processes within the Council in response to a request from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). As such this reflects how the Council is structuring its services to enable the delivery of all of the Council's seven ambitions.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 6 March 2024 the Chancellor announced, as part of the Spring Budget, a Public Sector Productivity Plan which will reportedly invest £800m and deliver up to £1.8bn of benefits by 2029. As part of that there was a requirement for all local authorities to produce and publish their own Productivity Plans by 19th July 2024. On 16 April 2024, the Minister for Local Government, Simon Hoare MP, wrote to all local authority Chief Executives to set out further guidance (Appendix A). A similar request was made to pensions funds (Appendix B).

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 In response to the request, officers have provided a suggested response for publication at Appendix C. This highlights the key work the Council has been undertaking to continue to drive efficiency across the whole organisation, whilst at the same time invest in key areas such as equality, diversity and inclusion to retain, recruit and maintain a motivated and diverse workforce as well as their well-being, and one that is also able to recognise the impact on our communities.
- 3.2 A separate response for the Cambridgeshire Pension Fund is to be discussed at the next Pension Committee (18 July 2024) and the draft is attached at Appendix D for noting.

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 The Council has set out responses to Government's requests and the attached Appendix C is submitted for Committee's consideration.

5. Significant Implications

5.1 Finance Implications

There are no finance implications.

5.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

5.3 Risk Implications

At this stage DLUHC have not identified how these Plans will be considered or any potential responses. As such this could include requests for further clarity or work. This will be managed as and when known.

5.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

The submission reflects the investment provided by the Council to maintain a strong equality, diversity and inclusion commitment and delivery.

5.5 Climate Change and Environment Implications

There are no climate change or environment implications.

6. Source Documents

6.1 All supporting documentation is referenced and linked in the attached submission.