



## Overview & Scrutiny Board

23 July 2024

**Subject Heading:**

DLUHC New Productivity Plan

**SLT Lead:**

Kathy Freeman | Strategic Director Resources

**Report Author and contact details:**

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**Policy context:**

The recent Local Government Finance Settlement announced that all councils would be asked to produce productivity plans.

**Financial summary:**

There are no specific financial issues arising from the approval of the plan. It is expected that the Productivity Plan will be delivered within approved budgets. Financial implications of specific proposals will be assessed on an individual basis as part of the relevant decision-making process.

### The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

People – Supporting our residents to stay safe and well X

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy X

Resources – Enabling a resident-focussed and resilient council X

## SUMMARY

The Government is reviewing productivity across all public services and local government is included in this exercise. Local Government have done a huge amount in recent years to improve productivity and efficiency, however, lockdown and the more recent cost of living crisis have proved challenging.

The recent Local Government Finance Settlement announced that councils would be asked to produce productivity plans. A letter received 16th April 2024 formally started that process with a submission deadline for plans on the 19th July 2024. DLUHC will use the plans to understand what is working well, and what more is needed to unlock future opportunities and any gaps.

Productivity is a particular challenge for Havering council, due to the significant systemic underfunding since 2020 and the low costs, actions already taken to date.

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Board note and endorse the plan and associated actions and decide if they wish to receive future monitoring progress reports.

## REPORT DETAIL

The purpose of this report is to present the content of the Council's Productivity Plan in response to the Local Government request from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

DLUHC asked all councils to complete a Productivity plan, which must have member oversight and endorsement before it is submitted and published on our website by the 19<sup>th</sup> July.

The plan considers 4 themes, and references the work we, the council, undertakes alongside other public services.

**Theme one:** How we have transformed the way we design and deliver services to make better use of resources.

**Theme two:** How we plan to take advantage of technology and make better use of data to improve decision making, service design and use of resources.

**Theme three:** Our plans to reduce wasteful spend within our organisation and systems.

**Theme four:** The barriers preventing progress that the Government can help to reduce or remove.

The plan has been approved at Cabinet on the 17<sup>th</sup> July and aligns with the Councils Improvement and Transformation Plan, which is one of the Conditions of the Capitalisation Direction the Council applied for in February 2024.

## **IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

**Financial implications and risks:** None of this covering report.

**Legal implications and risks:** None of this covering report.

**Human Resources implications and risks:** None of this covering report.

**Equalities implications and risks:** None of this covering report.

**Environmental and Climate Change implications and risks:** None of this covering report.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None