



REPORT OF CABINET

Full Council: 24 July 2024

Improvement and Transformation Plan

Council have been asked to note and endorse the Improvement and Transformation Plan.

The Council takes its financial responsibilities very seriously. We have maximised Council Tax income, have one the lowest unit costs in the country, we have sold assets, we don't have high levels of borrowing and now we are depleting our reserves.

After significant systemic underfunding since 2010, the Council's financial challenge is no longer one we could manage without Government intervention. A Capitalisation Direction was applied for to prevent us from issuing a S114 for this financial year (2024/25). In order for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to provide a final capitalisation direction, the Council is required:

1. To undergo an external assurance review which will include, but will not be limited to, an assessment of the Council's financial position and financial management practices and the Council's work to improve its productivity and efficiency, linked to the broader work expected by the Department to produce productivity plans to improve service performance and reduce wasteful expenditure.
2. To produce an improvement and transformation plan within six months of the date of this letter that is focused on delivering the Council's key objectives and securing the medium-term financial position. The plan should take into account broader work required by the Department to produce productivity plans to improve service performance and reduce wasteful expenditure. This plan should be rooted in clear deliverables and tangible, measurable outcomes over the next 12-months and beyond. The plan should incorporate any recommendations identified as part of the external assurance review once that review is completed and a commitment to ongoing reporting on the progress that is made."

Our Improvement & Transformation Plan sets out how we intend to respond to these challenges and aligns with the Governments Productivity plan.

Accordingly, it is RECOMMENDED:

That Council approves and endorses the Improvement and Transformation Plan and associated actions.