

REPORT OF Chief Executive
To: Full Council
Subject: Productivity in Local Government – Torridge Productivity Plan 2024
Date: 15 July 2024 **Reference:**

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

For Full Council to consider the Draft Torridge Productivity Plan 2024, which is required to be submitted the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) by 19 July 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

During the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024-25 the Government announced that every Local Authority was required to produce a Productivity Plan. Whilst recognising the huge effort Local Government has done to improve productivity and efficiency the Government indicated the need and desire to go further and to enable the sector to learn from one another by highlighting what works well, what the common themes are, where there any gaps and what more we need to do to unlock progress.

Productivity Plans must be returned to DLUHC by 19 July 2024

2. REPORT

Attached to this covering report is the Draft Productivity Plan for Torridge for 2024, which Members are asked to consider enabling a submission to be made to DLUHC by the deadline of 19 July 2024.

This forms part of the requirement imposed by the Government that Productivity Plans must have Member oversight and endorsement of the plan before it is submitted. There is also a further requirement that it is published on the Council's website.

The draft plan has been developed outlining the progress the Council has made since the District Elections in May 2023, which include:

Developing and approving:

- Councils Strategic Plan 2024-2029
- North Devon and Torridge Economic Strategy
- The North Devon and Torridge Clean Maritime Growth Vision

Highlighted performance during 2023-24 and the outputs from the recent Corporate Peer Challenge led by the Local Government Association (LGA), which took place in April 2024.

3. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications



There is a required for the Productivity Plan to be considered and approved by Full Council before being submitted to DLUHC by 19 July 2024

Financial Implications

None directly related to this report

Human Resources Implications

None directly related to this report

Sustainability/Biodiversity Implications

None directly related to this report

Equality/Diversity

None directly related to this report

Risk Management

None directly related to this report

Compliance with Policies and Strategies

The report and Productivity Plan refer to the Council's Policies and Strategic plans

Data Protection (GDPR) Implications

None directly related to this report

Climate Change

None directly related to this report

Ward Member and Lead Member Views

Is a Council-wide report and plan so Ward member views not applicable

Comment from Leader of the Council:- Cllr Ken James

This new requirement was put in place by the Government before the General Election was called, which we still need to adhere to. It is not wholly clear the purpose behind DLUHC collating these documents from all councils, however, it is really pleasing to be able to highlight the great work Torridge has done, is doing and is committed to going forward.

Date of Consultation – 27 June 2024



4. CONCLUSIONS

The Productivity Plan is a new requirement imposed by Central government during the Financial Settlement process for 2024-25. It is not clear whether following the general election that this will continue in this form, however, DLUHC have confirmed that plans need to be submitted for 2024.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

That:

- Members consider the Torridge Draft Productivity Plan 2024 attached to the report and approve a final version to be submitted to DLUHC by 19 July 2024 and to be posted on the Council's website.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Consultations: Date of Consultation –
 Officers Consulted –
 Sean Kearney – Head of Communities and Place
 Staci Dorey – Head of Legal and Governance

Contact Officer: Steve Hearse, Chief Executive

Background Papers:

