

**CLIMATE TRANSITION,
CORPORATE & ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES POLICY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

8 July 2024

Productivity in Local Government

Timetable	
Meeting	Date
Climate Transition, Corporate and Environmental Services Policy Advisory Committee	8 July 2024
Leader Decision	18 th July

Will this be a Key Decision?	No
Urgency	Not Applicable
Final Decision-Maker	Leader
Lead Head of Service	Mark Green, Director of Finance, Resources & Business Improvement
Lead Officer and Report Author	Adrian Lovegrove, Head of Finance Anna Collier, Head of Insight, Communities & Governance
Classification	Public
Wards affected	All

Executive Summary

This report sets out a proposed response to the Productivity in Local Government request received by the Minister for Local Government in April 2024.

The response follows the recommended format and shows how MBC has delivered transformation in its services and how it will deliver further improvements in the future. There is also a section on barriers to productivity, which we have used to highlight changes which will aid us to be more efficient and effective in the future.

Purpose of Report

The report enables the Committee to consider and comment on our draft response to the request for a Productivity Plan from the Minister for Local Government in April 2024.

This report makes the following recommendations to the Climate Transition, Corporate and Environmental Services Policy Advisory Committee:

1. That the response to the request for a Productivity Plan be noted.

Productivity in Local Government

1. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	There are no specific issues arising.	Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement (Section 151 Officer)
Cross Cutting Objectives	There are no specific issues arising.	Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement (Section 151 Officer)
Risk Management	This is addressed in Section 5 of this report.	Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement (Section 151 Officer)
Financial	There are no specific issues arising.	Senior Finance Manager (Client)
Staffing	There are no specific issues arising	Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement (Section 151 Officer)
Legal	There are no specific issues arising and the report is just for noting.	Deputy Head of Legal
Information Governance	The recommendations do not impact personal information (as defined in UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018) the Council processes.	Policy and Information Team
Equalities	There are no specific issues arising.	Equalities and Communities Officer
Public Health	There are no specific issues arising.	Senior Public Health Officer

Crime and Disorder	There are no specific issues arising.	Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement (Section 151 Officer)
Procurement	There are no specific issues arising.	Director of Finance, Resources and Business Improvement (Section 151 Officer)
Biodiversity and Climate Change	There are no specific issues arising.	Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

2.1 The Minister for Local Government wrote to all public services and local authorities in April 2024 (Appendix 1) regarding productivity in local government. The purpose of the request was to gather information to understand what is working well, to identify gaps and to consider what is needed to unlock further opportunities.

2.2 We have prepared a response to the request. It follows the format requested of four pages covering the four key questions:

1. How you have transformed the way you design and deliver services to make better use of resources.
2. How you plan to take advantage of technology and make better use of data to improve decision making, service design and use of resources.
3. Your plans to reduce wasteful spend within your organisation and systems.
4. The barriers preventing progress that the Government can help to reduce or remove.

2.3 The full draft response is at Appendix 2. We would like your feedback to the draft response. The final version will be signed off by the Leader and the response from the Chief Executive is due to be with the Minister by the 19th July, subject to any new direction received from government following the General Election on 4th July.

3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

3.1 There are no matters for decision in this report. The Committee is asked to note the report but may choose to comment.

4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Committee is requested to note the content of the report.

5. RISK

- 5.1 This report is presented for information only and has no direct risk management implications.
- 5.2 From 2010, successive governments have adopted a relatively light touch approach regarding Productivity and Value for Money as compared with the previous regime. If this area were to become more structured and require additional reporting there would be time and resource implications for the Council.
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6. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- 6.1 The response has been shared with the Wider Leadership Team in the council to ensure it reflects views from all relevant services.
- 6.2 It is now being presented to members, who are asked to feedback comments on the draft response.
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7. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

- 7.1 The Leader has delegated power to sign off the response, which needs to be returned by the Chief Executive by 19th July 2024, subject to any new direction received from government following the General Election on 4th July.
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8. REPORT APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Consultation request regarding Productivity in Local Government from the Minister of Local Government
 - Appendix 2: Draft response to the consultation
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9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.