


<b>Cabinet</b>  10 July 2024	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Steve Halsey, Chief Executive	<b>Classification:</b> [Unrestricted]
<b>LBTH Productivity Plan</b>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Mayor Lutfur Rahman</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Ayesha Hakim Rahman, Acting Deputy Director Strategy, Improvement & Transformation
<b>Wards affected</b>	All
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Reason for Key Decision</b>	This report has been reviewed as not meeting the Key Decision criteria.
<b>Forward Plan Notice Published</b>	N/A
<b>Exempt information</b>	None
<b>Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome</b>	All

### Special Circumstances Justifying Urgent Consideration/ 'Reasons for Urgency

This report was published after the statutory publication deadline due to delays with internal consultation. It is important that this report is considered at this Cabinet meeting due to the requirement from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to publish a Productivity Plan by 19 July 2024.

### Executive Summary

The LBTH Productivity Plan responds to a Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) request for all councils to assess and report on efficiency improvements. The plan details our approach to service delivery, organisational structure, and resident value.

Key points:

- **Submission deadline:** 19 July 2024
- **Public transparency:** Plan will be uploaded to the council website

#### Benefits:

- Contributes to national efforts to identify best practices and enhance local government.
- Provides council residents with insight into our commitment to efficiency.

#### **Recommendations:**

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the LBTH Productivity Plan (Appendix 1). This plan fulfils the government's request for councils to assess and report on efficiency improvements.
2. Acknowledge the submission deadline of 19 July 2024 and website publication requirements. The council will ensure timely submission and public accessibility of the plan.
3. Recognise the LBTH productivity plan as a positive reflection of ongoing efforts to strengthen its efficiency framework. The plan demonstrates the council's commitment to continuous improvement and resident value.

## **1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

The following factors necessitate the recommendations outlined in this report:

- 1.1 Government mandate: The Minister for Local Government requested all councils develop Productivity Plans to identify best practices and areas for improvement (Appendix 2).
- 1.2 Transparency and accountability: Councillor oversight and public access to the plan (published on the council website) are crucial, as mandated by the department.
- 1.3 Meeting the deadline: Timely submission of the LBTH Productivity Plan (Appendix 1) by 19 July 2024 ensures compliance with department requirements.

## **2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

Recommended option:

- 2.1 The plan incorporates a visual dashboard on the final page of the LBTH Productivity Plan (Appendix 1). This dashboard highlights key metrics showcasing areas of productivity across the council. We believe this format offers a unique and impactful way to present our achievements.

Alternative approaches considered:

- 2.2 Narrative-only plan: Plans from other councils may only present a narrative. However, omitting the dashboard could limit the opportunity to showcase best practices through data visualisation.
- 2.3 Addressing all sub questions: The narrative can address all sub-questions provided by the department, but these were optional and the plan is limited to four pages (relevant sub-questions have been addressed within the narrative).

### **3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The LBTH Productivity Plan (Appendix 1) responds to a directive from the Minister for Local Government dated 19 April 2024 (Appendix 2), for all councils to develop productivity plans. The plans are designed to:
- Identify national best practices in service delivery and efficiency.
  - Uncover common challenges and opportunities for improvement across local government.
  - Inform future strategies for enhancing resident value.
- 3.2 The department provided the following guidelines for plan development:
- **Length:** 3 – 4 pages.
  - **Content:** Focus on recent and ongoing initiatives to transform the council's organisation and services, with emphasis on:
    - o Efficiency of service design and delivery;
    - o Leveraging technology and data for better decision-making and resource allocation;
    - o Strategies to minimise wasteful spending; and
    - o Identification of barriers requiring government intervention.
  - **Metrics:** Inclusion of relevant metrics to track progress (addressed by productivity dashboard on the last page of the plan).
  - **Submission:** Deadline of 19 July 2024, with email submission and website publication for public access.
  - **Approval:** Councillor oversight and endorsement before submission.
- 3.3 The department will analyse submitted plans to identify common themes and best practices (individual plans will not be scored or rated). A panel of experts will be established to evaluate the findings and propose collaborative improvements for national and local government.

### **4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no equalities implications directly resulting from this report.

## **5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The LBTH Productivity Plan demonstrates the council's clear commitment to Best Value obligations as outlined in the Local Government Act 1999. The plan fosters economic, efficient, and effective service delivery while establishing a robust framework for continuous improvement in the following ways:

- By analysing national best practices identified through the plan, the council can determine and implement more cost-effective service delivery models, ensuring resources are used efficiently to enable the best possible outcomes for residents.
- The plan's emphasis on metrics fosters a data-driven approach. This enables the council to objectively assess the effectiveness of current programmes and services, ensuring resources are allocated towards initiatives with the highest impact.
- The plan's focus on recent and ongoing initiatives highlights the council's commitment to continuous improvement. Participation in the national review process allows for ongoing knowledge exchange and identification of new opportunities to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

## **6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

6.1 The approval of the Productivity Plan does not have any financial implications. The activities contained in the plan are being delivered from existing resources.

## **7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

8 The completion of a productivity plan assists in demonstrating the Council's commitment to the Best Value obligations set out in the Local Government Act 1999.

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### **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

#### **Linked Report**

- NONE

#### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1: LBTH Productivity Plan
- Appendix 2: Letter from the Minister of Local Government

**Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012**

- NONE

**Officer contact details for documents:**

Ayesha Hakim Rahman

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