

Committee:	Cabinet	Date: Thursday, 18 July 2024
Title:	Productivity Plan	
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Petrina Lees, Leader of the Council	
Report Author:	Peter Holt, Chief Executive pholt@uttlesford.gov.uk	Key decision: No

Summary

1. This report contains a draft of the first Productivity Plan for the Council, attached as Appendix A, to meet a new annual requirement introduced by the Government on 16th April, with a required submission deadline of 19th July.
2. The Government has set out its requirement of councils for what should be covered in this annual Productivity Plan, attached as Appendix B. This contains 25 detailed 'questions to consider' under four specified headings, but also sets an upper length constraint of a maximum of four pages for the Plan, so this leaves in reality no leeway to either provide substantial evidence such as actual benchmarking data, nor any space for the authority to address productivity issues beyond the Government's lengthy list of issues.

Recommendations

3. Cabinet is asked to approve the draft Productivity Plan for submission to Government by the 19th July deadline.

Financial Implications

4. None, for the purposes of this report.

Background Papers

5. No papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report beyond the letter from Government attached as Appendix B.

Impact

- 6.

Communication/Consultation	The constraints of the pre-election period have removed any realistic option to consult the public in the drafting of this report.
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Community Safety	Community safety issues are amongst the priority outcomes that the authority seeks to deliver in a productive fashion, but the production of this summary report does not in and of itself have any direct impact on community safety.
Equalities	Equality, diversity and inclusion issues are amongst the priority outcomes that the authority seeks to deliver in a productive fashion, but the production of this summary report does not in and of itself have any direct impact on that work.
Health and Safety	Health and safety issues are amongst the priority outcomes that the authority seeks to deliver in a productive fashion, but the production of this summary report does not in and of itself have any direct impact on that work.
Human Rights/Legal Implications	Government can reasonably require the submission of this report, so its production is another work pressure burden which the authority simply has to swallow.
Sustainability	Sustainability issues are amongst the priority outcomes that the authority seeks to deliver in a productive fashion, but the production of this summary report does not in and of itself have any direct impact on that work.
Ward-specific impacts	All wards.
Workforce/Workplace	The productivity of the workforce is the essential focus of this report.

Risk Analysis

7.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That the Government would take action against the authority if it were	1 - Low	3 - Moderate	Simply producing the report as required, and demonstrating as it does the authority's

either to fail to produce the report or if the report demonstrated gross inadequacy in the authority's work			competence.
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1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.