



CABINET

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**MULTI-LOCATION MEETING – COUNCIL CHAMBER PORT TALBOT
AND MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**ALL MOBILE TELEPHONES TO BE SWITCHED TO SILENT FOR THE
DURATION OF THE MEETING**

Webcasting/Hybrid Meetings:

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Part 1

1. Appointment of Chairperson
2. Chairpersons Announcement/s
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting (*Pages 5 - 12*)
5. Forward Work Programme 2023/24 (*Pages 13 - 16*)
6. Public Question Time
Questions must be submitted in writing to Democratic Services, democratic.services@npt.gov.uk no later than noon on the working day prior to the meeting. Questions must relate to items on the agenda. Questions will be dealt with in a 10 minute period.

7. Outlook (*Report to Follow*)

For Decision:

8. Council Response to the Findings of the Audit Wales - Setting of Wellbeing Objectives Examination (*Pages 17 - 38*)
9. Remembrance Parades - Neath and Port Talbot (*Pages 39 - 90*)
10. Culture and Destination Strategies* (*Pages 91 - 240*)
**Please note – The following appendices will follow as Supplements:
Appendix A - Culture Strategy
Appendix B - Destination Management Plan*
11. Heritage Strategy* (*Pages 241 - 264*)
**Please note – The following appendix will follow as a Supplement:
Appendix A - Draft Heritage Strategy*
12. Quarter 1 - Revenue Budget Monitoring (*Pages 265 - 284*)
13. Quarter 1 - Capital Budget Monitoring (*Pages 285 - 298*)

For Monitoring:

14. Treasury Management Monitoring (*Pages 299 - 306*)
15. Quarter 1 - Performance Indicators - 23/24 (*Pages 307 - 340*)
16. Compliments and Complaints Annual Report 2022-2023 (*Pages 341 - 348*)

For Information:

17. Ombudsman Annual Letter 2022/2023 (*Pages 349 - 364*)
18. Urgent Items
Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairperson pursuant to Regulation 5(4)(b) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290 (as amended).

19. Access to Meetings - Exclusion of the Public (*Pages 365 - 370*)
To resolve to exclude the public for the following items pursuant to Regulation 4 (3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290 and the relevant exempt paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Part 2

For Decision:

20. UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Exempt under Paragraph 14)
(*Pages 371 - 594*)

K.Jones
Chief Executive

Civic Centre
Port Talbot

Thursday, 14 September 2023

Cabinet Members:

Councillors. S.K.Hunt, S.A.Knoyle, N.Jenkins, J.Hurley, S.Harris,
J.Hale, A.Llewelyn, W.F.Griffiths, S.Jones and C.Phillips

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EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

CABINET

28 JUNE 2023

Cabinet Members:

Councillors: S.K.Hunt (Cadeirydd), S.A.Knoyle, N.Jenkins, J.Hurley, S.Harris, J.Hale, A.Llewelyn, W.F.Griffiths, S.Jones and C.Phillips

Officers in Attendance:

A.Jarrett, A.Thomas, N.Daniel, C.Griffiths, S.Brennan, H.Jones, C.Owen, C.Furlow-Harris, S.Griffiths, R.Headon, S.Davies, A.Thomas, P.Chivers and T.Davies

Scrutiny Invitees: Councillors P.Rogers and J.Henton

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

Agreed that Councillor S.K.Hunt be appointed as Chair for the meeting.

2. **CHAIRPERSONS ANNOUNCEMENT/S**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

That the minutes of the previous meetings, held on the following dates, be agreed as an accurate record:

9 April 2023 (Special)
25 April 2023 (Special)
10 May 2023 (Special)
17 May 2023 and
24 May 2023 (Annual Meeting)

5. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24**

That the Forward Work Programme be noted.

6. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No questions were received.

7. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022 - 2023**

Decision:

That the Annual Governance Statement 2022-2023 attached at Appendix 1 to the circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

To ensure the Annual Governance Statement meets the requirements of Regulation 5(2) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 in relation to an annual review of the effectiveness of the council's systems of internal control and the preparation and approval of an Annual Governance Statement and the duty contained under the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 to keep its performance under review.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

8. **WELSH LANGUAGE PROMOTION STRATEGY 2023-2028**

Decisions:

That having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment:

1. The Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2023-2028, be agreed.
2. The Strategy be commended to Council for formal adoption.

Reason for Decisions:

To ensure the Council meets the required contained in Welsh Language Standards 145 (promotion).

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

This item has been subject to external consultation.

9. **COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS – LONG TERM EMPTY HOMES AND SECOND HOMES**

Decisions:

That having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Screening Assessment:

1. A consultation exercise be carried out, on the proposed use of the Council's discretionary powers, in respect of long term empty homes and second homes.
2. The results of the consultation exercise be brought back to a future meeting of Cabinet, in order for a recommendation be made to full Council.

Reason for Decisions:

To determine if Council Tax premiums should be applied on long term empty properties and second homes.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

There is a requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item, details of which are set out in the circulated report.

10. **DIGITAL, DATA AND TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY**

Decision:

That the Digital, Data and Technology strategy be commended to Council for adoption on 12th July 2023.

Reason for Decision:

To ensure that the Council's Digital, Data and Technology Strategy remains current and fit for purpose.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

This item has been subject to a peer review with other organisations.

11. **THIRD SECTOR GRANTS APPLICATION ARRANGEMENTS - 2024/2025**

Decisions:

That the following be approved as the criteria for inviting bids for funds, governed by the Third Sector Grants Scheme 2024-25:

- Contribution to the delivery of key policies and priorities which are contained in the council's Corporate Plan 2023-2027.

- Reducing the demand on council services. For example, promoting and assisting citizens to use the council's digital services; promoting participation in discretionary services to increase footfall; or through early intervention and prevention activities that maintain or improve people's well-being.
- Levering in of additional resources. Applications that demonstrate how council funding will be used to lever in additional resources in support of council policies and priorities are particularly welcomed.
- Financial sustainability. The council will wish to be satisfied that the applicant is not dependent on continuing council funding to achieve financial sustainability.
- In addition to the above, applications are particularly welcome that focus on activities that will help community groups and societies impacted by the cost of living crisis, those still feeling the effect of the pandemic and applications looking to further develop community capacity/collaboration.

Reason for Decision:

To ensure funding decisions made for the 2024-25 financial year in relation to grants awarded under the Third Sector Grants Scheme, are aligned with the council's overall priorities.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

12. **QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

Decision:

That the monitoring report be noted.

13. **REVENUE OUTTURN AND RESERVES POSITION STATEMENT 2022
23**

The Chief Finance Officer placed on record his thanks to all Directors, Heads of Service and accountable managers, who manage budgets on a daily basis.

Decision:

That the monitoring report be noted.

14. **WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023**

Decision:

That the monitoring report be noted.

15. **URGENT ITEMS**

No urgent items were received.

16. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That pursuant to Regulation 4 (3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No 2290, the public be excluded for the following items of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

17. **UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF) (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Decisions:

That having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment screening:

1. The projects submitted (as detailed within the private, circulated report), under the Neath Port Talbot Skills and Multiply Open Call (round 1), subject to Subsidy Control assessments, be approved.
2. A Skills round 2, targeted call for applications, be launched, specifying those areas of Skills which are required to meet the challenges and opportunities in Neath Port Talbot.
3. The unallocated Skills allocation be included in the Skills round 2 targeted call for applications, and year 1 Multiply allocation be allocated to year 2 core Skills priority budget (subject to UK government confirmation).
4. That further consideration be given to the next steps in relation to Multiply; that the Strategic Skills Lead prepare an options paper for consideration; and delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Regeneration in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, the Leader and relevant Cabinet Member(s) to agree to launch an open call for projects under the Multiply priority.
5. That the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Neath Port Talbot Grants approval process be introduced, including delegated authority levels, with regular reporting to Cabinet.

Reason for Decisions:

To enable Neath Port Talbot Council to implement the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Implementation Plan and advise Skills and Multiply applicants of the open call funding decision.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

18. **FORMER NEATH LEISURE CENTRE AT DYFFED ROAD, NEATH
(EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Decisions:

That having had due regard to the first stage Integrated Impact Assessment:

1. The demolition and site clearance of the former leisure centre in Dyfed Road, Neath, and the allocation of the amount specified within the private, circulated report to undertake the works, be agreed.
2. Delegated authority be granted for the Head of Property and Regeneration to enter into a contract with the successful tenderer, for the above mentioned works, so that site work can begin as soon as practically possible, to ensure it can be completed during the closed cricket season.

Reason for Decisions:

To allow for the safe demolition and site clearance, and to relieve the Council of its Health and Safety obligations for the management of a high risk empty property, and to reduce its obligation to pay non domestic rates.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

The ward members have been consulted on the proposal.

CHAIRPERSON

Cabinet (All starting at 2pm unless stated differently)

Meeting Date 2023	Agenda Item and Type	Contact Officer
8 th November	Strategic Schools Improvement Programme	Andrew Thomas
	Strategic Risk Register – Review	Huw Jones
	WBO Objectives - Monitoring	Sheenagh Rees, Caryn Furlow, Louise McAndrew
	Draft Annual Report 22/23 and Self-Assessment 22/23	Caryn Furlow, Louise McAndrew
	Cash Desk	Huw Jones
	Biodiversity Duty Plan	Lana Beynon/Ceri Morris
	UK Shared Prosperity Fund Skills Round 2	Lisa Willis
	NPT Community Lottery	Huw Jones/ Nicole Blackmore

Meeting Date 2023	Agenda Item and Type	Contact Officer
13 th December	Annual Governance Statement (6 Monthly Update)	Louise McAndrew
	Third Sector Grants	Louise McAndrew
	Quarter 2 performance indicators	Sheenagh Rees, Caryn Furlow, Shaun Davies
	Treasury Management	Huw Jones
	Revenue Monitoring Report (Q2)	Huw Jones
	Capital Monitoring Report (Q2)	Huw Jones
	Celtic Leisure Report	Chris Saunders
	Pontardawe Arts Centre	Chris Saunders
	UK Shared Prosperity Fund Multiply Round 2	Lisa Willis

Meeting Date 2024	Agenda Item and Type	Contact Officer
24 th January		

Meeting Date 2024	Agenda Item and Type	Contact Officer
6 th March	Quarter 3 Performance Indicators	Shaun Davies
	Treasury Monitoring	Huw Jones
	Revenue Monitoring Report (Q3)	Huw Jones
	Capital Monitoring Report (Q3)	Huw Jones

Meeting Date 2024	Agenda Item and Type	Contact Officer
17 th April		

Meeting Date 2024	Agenda Item and Type	Contact Officer
29 th May		

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

20th September 2023

Report of the Director of Strategy & Corporate Services

Noelwyn Daniel

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Audit Wales – Setting of Well-being Objectives – Neath Port Talbot Council

Purpose of Report

1. To present Members with the council response to the above examination undertaken by Audit Wales.

Executive Summary

2. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a “well-being duty” on 48 public bodies. The duty requires those bodies to set and publish “well-being objectives” that are designed to maximise their contribution to achieving each of the Act’s seven national well-being goals.
3. Section 15(1) (a) of the above Act requires the Auditor General to carry out examinations to assess the extent to which public bodies have acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle when setting their well-being objectives.
4. The aim of the examination was to:
 - Explain how Neath Port Talbot Council applied the sustainable development principle throughout the process of setting its Well-being objectives;

- Provide assurance on the extent that the council applied the sustainable development principle when setting its Well-being objectives; and
- Identify opportunities for the council to further embed the sustainable development principle when setting Well-being objectives in the future.

Summary of Findings

5. The examination found:

The council has applied the sustainable development principle and carried out extensive engagement when setting its Well-being objectives but will need to further develop its monitoring arrangements.

A copy of the Audit Wales report is attached at Appendix 1

6. The examination concluded with the following recommendation:

R1 In order to support the effective delivery of and accountability for its Well-being objectives, the council should:

- Develop a clearer understanding of when and how partners will support the delivery of its Well-being Objectives;
- Ensure its Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023-2027 clearly considers how the council's resources support the delivery of its Well-being objectives and identifies how any future financial risks or savings might impact on the delivery of its Well-being Objectives; and
- Ensure that as it refreshes its Corporate Performance Management Framework (CPMF), it looks for opportunities to develop more outcome focused metrics that will enable it to measure its cross-cutting Well-being Objectives.

7. The council's response to the above recommendation is attached at Appendix 2.

Financial Appraisal

8. The programme of audit work undertaken by Audit Wales has been delivered within the budget allocated for audit and inspection work.

Integrated Impact Assessment

9. There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment.

Valleys Communities Impact

10. No impacts.

Workforce Impact

11. There are no workforce impacts.

Legal Impact

12. Section 15(1) (a) of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires the Auditor General to carry out examinations to assess the extent to which public bodies have acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle when setting their well-being objectives.

Risk Management

13. The findings of Audit Wales examinations are a key input into the council's corporate governance and self-assessment arrangements.

Consultation

14. There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation

15. For Cabinet to approve the council response attached at Appendix 2.

Reason for Proposed Decision

16. To enable the council to put in place the necessary arrangements to support the effective delivery of and accountability for its Well-being objectives.

Implementation of Decision

17. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

18. Appendix 1 – Audit Wales Report – Setting of Well-being objectives – Neath Port Talbot Council
Appendix 2 – Council Response Form

List of Background Papers

19. None

Officer Contact

20. Noelwyn Daniel, Director of Strategy & Corporate Services
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Setting of Well-being objectives – Neath Port-Talbot Council

Audit year: 2022-23

Date issued: August 2023

Document reference: 3739A2023

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We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg. This document is also available in Welsh.

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Background: Our examinations of the setting of Well-being objectives

- 1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (the Act) places a ‘well-being duty’ on 48 public bodies. The duty requires those bodies to set and publish ‘well-being objectives’ that are designed to maximise their contribution to achieving each of the Act’s seven national well-being goals¹. They must also take all reasonable steps, in exercising their functions, to meet those objectives.
- 2 The Auditor General must carry out examinations to assess the extent to which public bodies have acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle when setting their well-being objectives². We are carrying out a rolling programme of these examinations, up to early 2025³.
- 3 To do something in accordance with the sustainable development principle means acting ‘in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’. To achieve this, a public body must take account of the five ways of working: long term, integration, involvement, collaboration, and prevention⁴.
- 4 We designed an assessment framework to enable us to assess the extent to which public bodies have applied the sustainable development principle when setting their well-being objectives. **Appendix 1** sets out further information on our approach, including a set of ‘positive indicators’ that illustrate what good could look like.
- 5 In designing our approach, we considered what we could reasonably expect from public bodies at this point in time. Public bodies should now be familiar with the sustainable development principle and ways of working and be seeking to apply them in a meaningful way. At the same time, we appreciate that public bodies are still developing their experience in applying the sustainable development principle when setting well-being objectives. Therefore, the examinations include consideration of how public bodies are applying their learning and how they can improve in future.

¹ The seven national well-being goals are: a prosperous Wales, a resilient Wales, a healthier Wales, a more equal Wales, a Wales of cohesive communities, a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, and a globally responsible Wales.

² Section 15 (1) (a) Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

³ The Auditor General must carry out examinations over the period set out in the Act, which begins one year before a Senedd election and ends one year and one day before the following Senedd election.

⁴ Section 5 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Carrying out our examination at Neath Port-Talbot Council

- 6 The aim of this examination was to:
 - explain how Neath Port-Talbot Council (the Council) applied the sustainable development principle throughout in the process of setting its Well-being objectives;
 - provide assurance on the extent that the Council applied the sustainable development principle when setting its Well-being objectives; and
 - identify opportunities for the Council to further embed the sustainable development principle when setting Well-being objectives in future.
- 7 We set out to answer the question: To what extent has the Council acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle when setting its new Well-being objectives? We did this by exploring the following questions:
 - Was the process the Council put in place to set its well-being objectives underpinned by the sustainable development principle?
 - Has the Council considered how it will make sure it can deliver its Well-being objectives in line with the sustainable development principle?
 - Has the Council put in place arrangements to monitor progress and improve how it applies the sustainable development principle when setting its Well-being objectives?
- 8 We discussed the timing of the examination with the Council, and we tailored the delivery to reflect its specific circumstances.
- 9 We gathered our evidence in the following ways:
 - reviewing key documents;
 - running a workshop with key officers who were involved with setting the Well-being objectives; and
 - carrying out a final clarification meeting on outstanding issues with key individuals in addition to the above.
- 10 We also provided some informal feedback to officers on the key findings from our work prior to sharing this report.

How and when the Council set its Well-being objectives

- 11 The Council adopted its new Corporate Plan 2022-2027 (the Corporate Plan) 'Recover Reset Renew' on 1 March 2022. The Corporate Plan is structured around the Council's four new Well-being objectives (WBOs) these being:
 - All children get the best start in life
 - All communities are thriving and sustainable

Our local environment, heritage and culture can be enjoyed by future generations

- Jobs and skills – local people are skilled and can access high quality, green jobs

- 12 To support the delivery of these four WBOs, the Council has established an Enabling Programme focused on Organisational Development for the following areas: digital, people, assets, financial sustainability, governance and engagement. The Corporate Plan and a summary Corporate Plan on a page are published on the Council's website.
- 13 The Corporate Plan includes a specific section entitled Well-being Statement. This, the other sections of the Corporate Plan and its accompanying Integrated Impact Assessment, covers the elements for a Well-being Statement, as required by the Well-being of Future Generations Act. However, the Council could more clearly communicate how its new WBOs support the delivery of the national Goals and five ways of working.
- 14 In setting its new WBOs, the Council has applied lessons learned from the previous setting of WBOs. The key lesson learned was to ensure there was better engagement on the WBOs with officers and members and citizens.

What we found: the Council has applied the Sustainable Development Principle and carried out extensive engagement when setting its Well-being objectives but will need to further develop its monitoring arrangements

The process for setting Well-being objectives

Evidence Base

- 15 The Council used a broad range of information to support the setting of its Well-being objectives. The Council's new Corporate Plan includes a summary of the evidence that has been used to underpin the rationale for the selection of each WBO. This information includes describing 'Why is this important' and on 'What Matters to people'. This evidence has also been drawn from its comprehensive 'Let's Talk' engagement process. The new Corporate Plan also includes a section on 'mega trends' such as: digitisation, poverty, deprivation, inequality and community.
- 16 The Council has a good understanding of demonstrating emerging trends, needs and risks that have been used to help shape its WBOs and the steps needed to deliver these. Having a clear understanding of these issues should ensure that the

steps the Council is planning to take to deliver its WBOs will have the greatest impact over the short, medium and longer term. The Council's Corporate Plan also includes a description of what good will look like in 20 years' time. This will help to set the Council's actions to support its WBOs in a longer-term context.

- 17 The Council needs to more clearly demonstrate how it has used a wide evidence base to support the development of its WBOs. The Council has recognised that it needs to improve how it collects and analyses data and has recently created two data analysts' posts. It is also in the early stages of using data analytics software such as Power BI. Both actions should help to improve how data is collected and used to support its decision making and in reviewing and setting future WBOs.

Consultation and involvement

- 18 There was effective consultation. The Council undertook a comprehensive engagement process the development of its new WBOs. This process began in 2021 with an extensive engagement exercise called 'Lets Talk'. Aspects of this exercise, such as the analysis of the feedback and some focus groups were facilitated by an external organisation. It involved several focus groups, in-depth interviews with citizens, and a survey. The survey received 1,694 responses from a wide spectrum of groups, which included young people and children. The Council has effectively used the results of this engagement in the shaping of its new Corporate Plan and WBOs. The 'Lets Talk' results were also used to inform the Public Service Board's (PSB) Well-being Assessment (WBA) which in turn influenced the decision for the Council's WBOs and the PSB's WBOs to be the same.
- 19 In addition to this 'Lets Talk' engagement, the Council used other existing engagement and consultation work to help shape its new WBOs such as:
- the findings from the Canolfan Maerdy Outreach Youth Work;
 - the results of the Community Impact Assessment Survey
 - discussions with service users;
 - the results of the NPT business questionnaire; and
 - the findings from the Race Equality Action Plan Report.
- 20 The Council has effectively fed back the results of its engagement on its WBOs with its citizens. In early 2022, the Council undertook a further engagement exercise, where it tested if the results of the prior engagement exercise undertaken in 2021 had been reflected in its new WBOs.
- 21 There was improved internal engagement. In the development of its new WBOs, the Council was also keen to ensure that it fully engaged with officers and Members. It undertook extensive internal engagement, including holding detailed workshops for each of the WBOs. These workshops provided an opportunity to challenge the data and to consider the delivery steps over the short, medium and longer term.

- 22 Key stakeholders supported an external perspective on the development of the Corporate Plan. For example, the Council has directly sought the views of other organisations in the development of its new Corporate Plan including, Natural Resources Wales, the third sector and a Housing Association. This has enabled the Council to ensure that its new Corporate Plan reflects the perspectives of some of its key stakeholders.
- 23 The Council was proactive in seeking independent peer challenge for the development of its new Corporate Plan. In September 2021, the Council engaged the English Local Government Association to undertake an independent and critical friend assessment. They ran workshops with Directors and Members. In our view this provided a useful challenge to Directors and Members. We have been told that the outputs from this work was then used by the Council to further improve its Corporate Plan.
- 24 There is a good understanding of the role that citizens and business have in helping to deliver the Council WBOs. The Council has also recognised the need to work with individuals and businesses to deliver its WBOs. In recognition of this, the new Corporate Plan includes a section which details what is expected from the Council and what is expected from individuals and businesses in delivering its ambition. This helpful narrative shows consideration of the collaborative and shared approach to delivering WBOs. However, it will be important that its Service Recovery Plans (SRPs) also fully reflect this consideration.

Planning to improve well-being

- 25 The Council and the PSB have shared WBOs. This has the potential to drive stronger collaboration between the Council and the PSB. However, the Council and the PSB should be mindful to ensure that there is clarity over the respective levels of responsibilities of the PSB partners and Council in delivering the shared WBOs.
- 26 The Council recognises there is more to be done to fully understand how and when its partners will support the delivery of its WBOs. In addition to the list of partners included in the Corporate Plan for each WBOs, the guidance for the Council's Service Recovery Plans (SRP) encourages its services to think about the role of partners in delivery. It will therefore be important that, where relevant, how and when it will work with partners is included in its SRPs.

Delivering the well-being objectives

- 27 There is clear accountability for the delivery of WBOs. Each of the new WBOs has a lead Director who is responsible for their delivery. However, given the objectives are cross cutting the Council will need to consider how those Directors co-ordinate activity and information across a range of areas to support integrated delivery.
- 28 The Council needs to better integrate its corporate and service planning arrangements to support the delivery of the WBOs. The Strategic Change

Programme and its SRP will be a key mechanism for delivering the Council's WBOs. Aspects of this framework are relatively new with 2023-24 being the second year for SRPs. Therefore, these processes will need time to become fully embedded within the organisation. The Council also propose to review its Interim Corporate Performance Management Framework (CPMF) this summer (2023). This should enable it to ensure that its Corporate Plan, Business/recovery planning and performance arrangements are fully integrated (see paragraph 30).

- 29 The Council should develop a clearer understanding for how it is using its resources to deliver its WBOs. Doing this will strengthen the relationship between its resources allocation and delivering on its priorities. The Council's current finance/resourcing and budgets are allocated on a traditional service basis. Therefore, it is currently difficult to clearly see how its resources support the delivery of the cross cutting WBOs. The Council is in the process of developing its Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2023-2028. There is an opportunity to ensure that the new MTFS clearly demonstrates how the Council's resources will support the delivery its new WBOs and also identifies how any future financial risks or savings might impact on the delivery of these.

Monitoring the well-being objectives

- 30 The arrangements for monitoring delivery of WBOs need to be further developed. The Council has an interim CPMF which outlines the key mechanism for measuring and monitoring progress towards its WBOs. This will be done through quarterly monitoring of performance by the Corporate Directors Group CDG), Cabinet and Cabinet Boards, and the half yearly/annual review of its Corporate Plan/WBOs. The Council is in the process of refreshing it CPMF which will take place during the summer of 2023. The Council should ensure that any refreshed CPMF improves the way it measures the progress it is making on delivering its WBOs.
- 31 The Council could strengthen the suite of indicators it uses to monitor progress on its WBOs. The Council's current suite of performance indicators are published alongside its WBOs and are used to measure its progress and are regularly reported to CDG, Cabinet and the various Cabinet Boards. These contain a mixed set of metrics that attempt to measure improvements in wellbeing and broader impacts, which is positive. For example, 'Percentage of people satisfied with the local area as a place to live' and 'percentage of people satisfied with their ability to get to/access the facilities and services they need'. However, the other metrics used by the Council are more transactional and traditional. As part of the review of its CPMF, the Council should continue to build on its use of measures and metrics that are more outcome focused as this will help it to improve how its measures progress on the cross-cutting WBOs.

Recommendations

Exhibit 1: recommendations

- R1 In order to support the effective delivery of and accountability for its WBOs, the Council should:
- develop a clearer understanding of when and how partners will support the delivery of its WBOs;
 - ensure its MTFS 2023-2027 clearly considers how the Council's resources support the delivery of its WBOs and identifies how any future financial risks or savings might impact on the delivery of its WBOs; and
 - ensure that as it refreshes its CPMF, it looks for opportunities to develop more outcome-focused metrics that will enable it to measure its cross-cutting WBOs.

Appendix 1

Key questions and what we looked for

The table below sets out the question we sought to answer in carrying out this examination, along with some sub-questions to guide our evidence gathering. It also includes some ‘positive indicators’ that have been tailored to this examination, adapted from those we have previously used to inform our sustainable development principle examinations. This list is not a checklist, but rather an illustrative set of characteristics that describe what good could look like.

Exhibit 2: key questions and what we looked for

To what extent has the body acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle when setting its new well-being objectives?

Planning: Was the process the body put in place to set its well-being objectives underpinned by the sustainable development principle?

<p>Has the body used data and other intelligence to understand need, risks and opportunities and how they might change over time?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The body has a clear and balanced assessment of progress against previous well-being objectives that has been used to inform the body's understanding of the 'as is'/ short-term need. • The body has set well-being objectives based on a good understanding of current and future need, risk and opportunities, including analysis of future trends. This is likely to be drawn from a range of local and national sources, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Public Services Boards' well-being assessments – Regional Partnership Boards' population assessments – The results of local involvement/consultation exercises – Service monitoring and complaints – Future Trends report – Natural Resources Wales' State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) for Wales and Area Based Assessments • The body has sought to understand the root causes of problems so that it can address negative cycles and intergenerational challenges through its well-being objectives.
<p>Has the body involved others in developing its well-being objectives?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The body uses the results of involvement to help select its well-being objectives. That involvement – whether primary, secondary or a combination – reflects the full diversity of the population. • Involvement reflects good practice and advice from the Future Generations Commissioner.
<p>Has the body considered how the objectives can improve well-being and have a broad impact?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The well-being objectives have been designed to improve well-being in the broadest sense and make a contribution across the seven national well-being goals. • The well-being objectives have been designed to reflect and capitalise on the connections between different areas of work. • There is a well-developed understanding of how the well-being objectives impact on/relate to what other public bodies are trying to achieve and opportunities to work together.

<p>Has the body designed the objectives to deliver longer-term benefits, balanced with meeting short-term needs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The body has set objectives that are sufficiently ambitious and have been designed to drive activity across the organisation. • The objectives are designed to meet short and longer-term need. Where objectives are set over a short to medium timeframe, they are set in the context of longer-term considerations or ambitions.
<p>Resourcing and delivery: Has the body considered how it will make sure it can deliver its well-being objectives in line with the sustainable development principle?</p>	
<p>Has the body considered how it can resource the well-being objectives?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources have been allocated to ensure the objectives can be delivered over the short and medium-term, but the body has also considered longer-term resources, risks and/or how it can resource longer-term objectives. • The body has allocated resources to deliver preventative benefits, where these are described in its well-being objectives.
<p>Has the body considered how it can work with others to deliver their objectives?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The body is drawing on its knowledge of partners' objectives/activity, its relationships and collaborative arrangements to make sure it can deliver on cross-cutting ambitions.

Monitor and review: Has the body put in place arrangements to monitor progress and improve how it applies the sustainable development principle when setting its well-being objectives?	
Has the body developed appropriate measures and monitoring arrangements?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance measures are designed to reflect the sustainable development principle, eg by focusing on outcomes that cut across departmental/organisational boundaries and deliver multiple (including preventative) benefits over the longer term. • There is a 'golden thread' that will allow the body to clearly and transparently report on progress to meeting the objectives.
Is the body seeking to learn from and improve how it has applied the sustainable development principle to setting its well-being objectives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The body shows self-awareness and a commitment to improving how it applies the sustainable development principle so that it can do so in a meaningful and impactful way. • The body has learnt from setting previous well-being objectives and from applying the sustainable development principle more generally and has improved the process for setting its new well-being objectives. • The body has or plans to reflect on how it has applied the sustainable development principle in this round of setting well-being objectives.



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We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English.
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.

Organisational response

Report title: Neath Port-Talbot County Borough Council – Examination into the Setting of Well-being Objectives

Completion date: 12th September 2023

Document reference: 3739A2023

Ref	Recommendation	Organisational response Please set out here relevant commentary on the planned actions in response to the recommendations	Completion date Please set out by when the planned actions will be complete	Responsible officer (title)
R1	<p>In order to support the effective delivery of and accountability for its WBOs, the Council should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a clearer understanding of when and how partners will support the delivery of its WBOs; • ensure its MTFS 2023-2027 clearly considers how the Council's resources support the delivery of its WBOs and identifies how any future financial risks or savings might impact on the delivery of its WBOs; and • ensure that as it refreshes its CPMF, it looks for opportunities to develop more outcome-focused metrics that will enable it to measure its cross-cutting WBOs 	<p>This will be addressed during the development of the Council's revised Corporate Plan for the period 2024/2027.</p> <p>The Council's MTFP process continues to be developed parallel with the revised Corporate Plan for the period 2024/2027.</p> <p>A review of the Council's "interim" CPMF is planned to be undertaken during 2023/2024 and the development of more outcome focused metrics will be included in the scope of the review.</p>	<p>March 2024</p> <p>March 2024</p> <p>March 2024</p>	<p>Director of Strategy & Corporate Services</p> <p>Chief Finance Officer</p> <p>Director of Strategy & Corporate Services</p>



NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

REPORT OF

HEAD OF PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – S REES

20th September 2023

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected - All

Remembrance Parades – Port Talbot and Neath

Purpose of the report:

1. To confirm that the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (“the Council”) will act as ‘Event Organiser’ (pursuant to health and safety requirements) for the Remembrance Parades held in Neath and Port Talbot respectively on an annual basis on Remembrance Sunday and to seek approval for a budget allocation to support the events.

Executive Summary:

2. The report is being brought before Members by the Head of People & Organisational Development as Head of Service with responsibility for the Safety Advisory Group (SAG). SAG’s role is limited solely for signposting event organisers to measures which they need to give due consideration to and/or put into place in order to ensure that their events proceed in a safe manner.

For the purposes of these parades, the event organiser, pursuant to health and safety legislative requirements will be the Council. To assist in the discharge of these responsibilities officers from across the Council have

met internally and externally with key stakeholders to co-ordinate activities, reflected in the attached Event Management Plan, attached at Appendix 1. As the event organiser, the Council is responsible for having in place the correct licences, authorisations, plans, risk assessments, and insurance cover etc. for the event.

Background

3. In Port Talbot and Neath there has been a long history of parades being part of Remembrance Sunday events with both being widely supported across the armed forces community.

Port Talbot Remembrance Parade

Until and including 2021, the parade was organised by the Port Talbot branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL). In 2022, following the “Remembrance Parades Policy Update” issued by the Royal British Legion (October 2022) (“RBL”), the Remembrance Sunday event was held in the Talbot Memorial Park with no remembrance parade. The Policy update reminded RBL’s that they “must never organise, pay for or deploy a road closure (TRO). If RBL’s were to be responsible for organising remembrance events there would be no street parades and no road closure(s) unless this aspect of the event was owned by the respective local authority”.

Neath Remembrance Parade

Until 2019, the parade was organised by the Neath branch of the RBL. In 2021, following the closure of the Neath branch, the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA) branch in Neath organised the remembrance parade along with support from St David’s Church and the Clerk to the Lieutenancy. In 2022, following the closure of the RAFA branch, the remembrance parade was organised by St David’s Church, the Clerk to the Lieutenancy with additional support from staff at the MP for Neath constituency office.

In 2020, there were no events held on Remembrance Sunday due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Over the years, support for Remembrance Sunday events has been provided by the Mayor’s Office in its role providing support to civic events across the county borough.

To ensure both these long-standing parades continue as part of Remembrance Sunday events, the council has stepped up to act as the event organiser.

Costs

The estimated costs for the 2023 Remembrance Sunday Parades are outlined below:

Item	Cost
<u>Amberon:</u>	
Port Talbot	£3,763.70
Neath	£6,569.18
Total	£10,332.88
<u>St John's Ambulance:</u>	£560
<u>NPT Costs:</u>	
Barriers / 24 members of staff (marshals) / 6 x transit tippers / 2 x supervisors / 4 x marshal co-ordinators	£5,000
Letter drops to residents	£700
Radios	£500
Contingency	£1,000
Total	£7,200
Grand Total	£18,092.88

Integrated Impact Assessment

4. A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment, attached at Appendix 3, has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required due to the decision being the allocation of a budget which regarded as an internal administrative process.

Valleys Communities Impacts

5. No impacts arising from this report.

Workforce Impacts

6. There are no workforce impacts arising from this report.

Legal Impacts

7. As event organiser, the Council will have a legal responsibility, under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, to ensure the health, safety and welfare of employees, volunteers or contractors involved in arranging the parades and the public and participants attending. The Council must take all reasonable precautions to ensure the parades take place safely and in compliance with the relevant safety standards.

Risk Management Impact

8. An Event Management Plan has been developed (Appendices 1 and 2) for each parade which includes detail on the risk assessments / health and safety assessments that have been undertaken as part of the planning process for both parades.

Consultation

9. There is no requirement for external consultation on this item. However, during the planning to ensure both events take place, there has been consultation with key stakeholders.

Recommendations

10. It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - i. Notes the Council will act as 'Event Organiser' for the Remembrance Parades held in Port Talbot and Neath respectively on an annual basis on Remembrance Sunday.

- ii. Notes that a contribution from reserves of £18k will be required during 2023/24 to support the Remembrance Parades held in Port Talbot and Neath.
- iii. From 2024/25, approves an annual budget allocation to support the Remembrance Parades on an annual basis on Remembrance Sunday.

Reason for Proposed Decision

- 11. To ensure the long-standing and widely supported Remembrance Sunday parades in both Port Talbot and Neath continue.

Appendices

- 12. Appendix 1 – Event Management Plan Port Talbot
Appendix 2 – Event Management Plan Neath
Appendix 3 – First Stage Integrated Impact Assessment

Background Papers

- 13. None

Officer Contact

- 14. For further information on this report item, please contact:

Sheenagh Rees – Head of People and Organisational Development
E-mail: s.rees5@npt.gov.uk



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

Event Management Plan Remembrance Parade 2023 Port Talbot

Cynllun Rheoli Digwyddiad Gorymdaith Goffa 2023 Port Talbot

Section 1: Event Overview

Event description

Remembrance Sunday is a national opportunity to remember the people who have died in wars around the world. The Council will act as “Event Organiser” (pursuant to health and safety requirements) for the Remembrance Parades held in Port Talbot and Neath (see separate Event Management Plan in respect of Neath), working with the Royal British Legion who will organise and co-ordinate parade participants.

The Event Management Plan details the operational planning for the delivering of this event.

The event is scheduled to take place on Sunday 12th November 2023.

Location

The event will start at the Port Talbot Transport Hub and will proceed from North to South along Talbot Road to the Talbot Memorial Park, before returning back to the Port Talbot Transport Hub. Please see route map attached at Appendix 1.

Duration

9.00 a.m.	Road closures in place
9.30 a.m.	Participants muster for Parade @ Port Talbot Transport Hub
10.15 a.m.	Parade moves off
10.55 a.m.	Parade arrives at Talbot Memorial Park
11.00 a.m.	Remembrance Service at Talbot Memorial Park
11.20 a.m.	Return parade to Port Talbot Transport Hub
12.00 noon	Parade ends
1.00 p.m.	Road closures are lifted

Entrance / Exit Points

Traffic closures will be in place at the following points (refer to map attached at Appendix 1):

Port Talbot Transport Hub (hard stop) - Amberon

TCP 12 Lane rear of Grand Hotel - Streetcare

TCP 13 and 14 Petrol Station on Talbot Road - Streetcare

TCP 15 Lane between the Royal British Legion and the petrol - Streetcare

TCP 1 Eagle Street – Streetcare

TCP 2 Beverly Street - Streetcare

TCP 3 Lane between 25 and 27 Talbot Road Broad Street - Streetcare

TCP 4 Broad Street – Streetcare

TCP 5 Lane between 49 and 51 Talbot Road - Streetcare

TCP 6 Talcennau Road - Streetcare

TCP 16 Lane between 77 and 79 Talbot Road - Streetcare

TCP 8 A4107 Abbey Road - Streetcare

TCP 7 Lane rear of Cwrt Ucha Terrace - Streetcare

TCP 9 Lane Adjacent to Maes Y Cwrt Terrace - Streetcare

TCP 10 Entrance to memorial park - Streetcare

TCP 11 Chapel Terrace – Streetcare

Central Road / Talbot Road Junciton (hard stop) - Amberon

Attendance

The Royal British Legion

Parade participants

South Wales Police will support the parade*

St John's Ambulance will provide first aid services

Wreath Bearers, including Chief Executive NPT and Deputy Mayor NPT

Marshalls - 16 persons (NPT employees)

Marshalls - 11 persons (Aberavon Rugby Club)

Event Co-ordinator - 1 person

Spectators – approximately 300 persons

All user groups will be provided with appropriate briefings ahead of the event.

***SWP have made clear that their presence is subject to withdrawal should operational requirements dictate this**

Audience Profile

First Aid Provision: St John's Ambulance

Marshalls: to oversee key Traffic Closure Points.

Temporary Structures

N/A

The Event Organiser

The event is being managed by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

Address: Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ

Tree of Responsibility

Event Organiser: Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Lead Officer: Noelwyn Daniel

Senior Event Co-ordinator: Andrew Griffiths

Senior Marshall: Wayne Curtis

First aid provision: St John's Ambulance

Roles and responsibilities

Event Organiser	Overall responsibility for the event.
Lead Officer	To ensure risk assessments are in place and necessary insurance cover.
Senior Event Co-ordinator	Ensures the smooth running of the event. Ensures the event has the appropriate level of 1 st aid cover and marshalls in place. Primary link for Senior Marshall.
Senior Marshall	Responsible for ensuring all marshalls are correctly located and fully aware of their roles
First aid provision	Responsible for ensuring the appropriate level of 1 st aid cover is in place and all 1 st aid activity.

Contacts

To be provided

Senior Event Co-ordinator:

Senior Marshall:

Catering and Hospitality

No catering will be provided. Participants and marshals will be advised to bring warm / cold refreshments to the parade should they need them.

Welfare Provision

Toilet facilities

These are available in Port Talbot Transport Hub

First aid station

This will be positioned at: To be confirmed with St John's Ambulance

Litter / Cleansing Services / Grounds Maintenance

Normal service provision.

Entertainment

There is no entertainment planned for the event.

Licensing

No license is required for the event.

Noise Management

Military parade music will be restricted to the parade and remembrance service.

Section 2: Management of the Public

Security / Marshalling Arrangements

South Wales Police* have confirmed a police vehicle will be positioned at the front and back of the parade, and the deployment of officers and vehicles at identified strategic points along the route, e.g. the Traffic Closure Points.

Neath Port Talbot employees will act as marshalls during the event, supporting Traffic Closure Points. They will be provided with High Viz Vests and have Event Lanyards clearly showing that they are there in an official capacity. Marshalls will be issued with Walkie Talkie Radios for communication purposes.

***SWP have made clear that their presence is subject to withdrawal should operational requirements dictate this**

Management of Attendee Numbers

The Royal British Legion will organise and co-ordinate the participants in the parade.

The council is unable to control the numbers of members of the public who will attend the parade route to view and support the parade.

3. Communications

PA System

There will be no PA System.

Radio

Walkie Talkie Radios will be used by:

- Senior Event Co-ordinator
- Senior Marshall
- Marshalls
- First Aid Provision

Telephone

Telephones will not be used during the event

Signage and Public Information

Residents affected by road closures will receive a hand delivered letter in advance of the event date, advising of road closure arrangements.

The event will be publicised across the council's website, social media and in the local press in the weeks leading up to the event.

There will be warning signage placed along the parade route advising the public of road closures and parade arrangements.

Media Handling

The council's Communications and Marketing Team Press Desk will handle media enquiries and promote the event via appropriate media.

Section 4. Traffic Management

A Traffic Management Plan is in place for the event. Vehicles will be prevented from entering the controlled area by temporary traffic management, i.e. road closed signage, cones, barriers where appropriate and diversion signage installed and maintained by a competent traffic management contractor.

Prior to the event a letter drop will be carried out to inform all residents and businesses located within the event area that no vehicles are to be moved for the duration of the event.

South Wales Police* have confirmed a police vehicle will be positioned at the front and back of the parade, and the deployment of officers and vehicles at identified strategic points along the route, e.g. the Traffic Closure Points. SWP will make stops under their powers and enforce the temporary prohibition of traffic where necessary.

Neath Port Talbot employees will act as marshalls during the event, supporting Traffic Closure Points.

***SWP have made clear that their presence is subject to withdrawal should operational requirements dictate this**

Section 5. Medical and First Aid Cover

The medical 1st aid provision will be provided by St John's Ambulance. They will produce a Medical Event Plan for this event.

Section 6. Police

South Wales Police* have confirmed a police vehicle will be positioned at the front and back of the parade, and the deployment of officers and vehicles at identified strategic points along the route, e.g. the Traffic Closure Points. SWP will make stops under their powers and enforce the temporary prohibition of traffic where necessary.

***SWP have made clear that their presence is subject to withdrawal should operational requirements dictate this**

Section 7: Risk Management

Risk Assessment

A Risk Assessment* has been completed for the event. This is attached at Appendix 2.

***NB: this is a dynamic risk assessment which will be updated as circumstances evolve, e.g. to take account of security risk profiles, weather forecast, etc.**

Counter Terrorism

The current threat level to the UK from terrorism is SUBSTANTIAL. This will need to be reviewed closer to the date to ensure that this Event Management Plan is fit for purpose and SWP are still able to provide assistance.

Run-Hide-Tell guidance will be issued to participants via the Risk Assessment (Parade Organisers will receive a copy of the Event Management Plan and Risk Assessment with responsibility to issue instruction to parade participants), including marshalls.

If the risk level at the date of the event indicated that this is necessary, a pre-event search of the parade route and ceremonial area will be carried out prior to the commencement of the event. The search will consider all types of improvised items that could be used in a terrorist related event. Anything discovered in this search will immediately be brought to the attention of SWP.

Incident Recording

Any medical events that occur will be recorded by St John's Ambulance.

All other incidents, will be recorded on the council's Occupational Accident Recording (OARs) Database for review and where appropriate, investigation.

RIDDOR

The Reporting of Incidents, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) require certain incidents to be reported to the council's Health and Safety team and the HSE by law. RIDDOR information should be included in the OARs record.

Health and Safety Enforcing Authority

The Council will submit the Event Management Plan and risk assessments for consideration by the Safety Advisory Group on 8th September 2023.

Weather

The Lead Officer is responsible for monitoring weather conditions leading up to and during the event, and ensuring health and safety risk assessments are updated accordingly.

Section 8: Incident Management

Extreme Weather

Extreme weather may cause disruption to, or cancellation of, the event. Participant and spectator health and safety will always take precedence.

Emergency Vehicle Access

There will always be access for emergency vehicles throughout the event.

Event Evacuation Plan

Run – hide – tell guidance will be issued to all participants.

Hand-over procedures

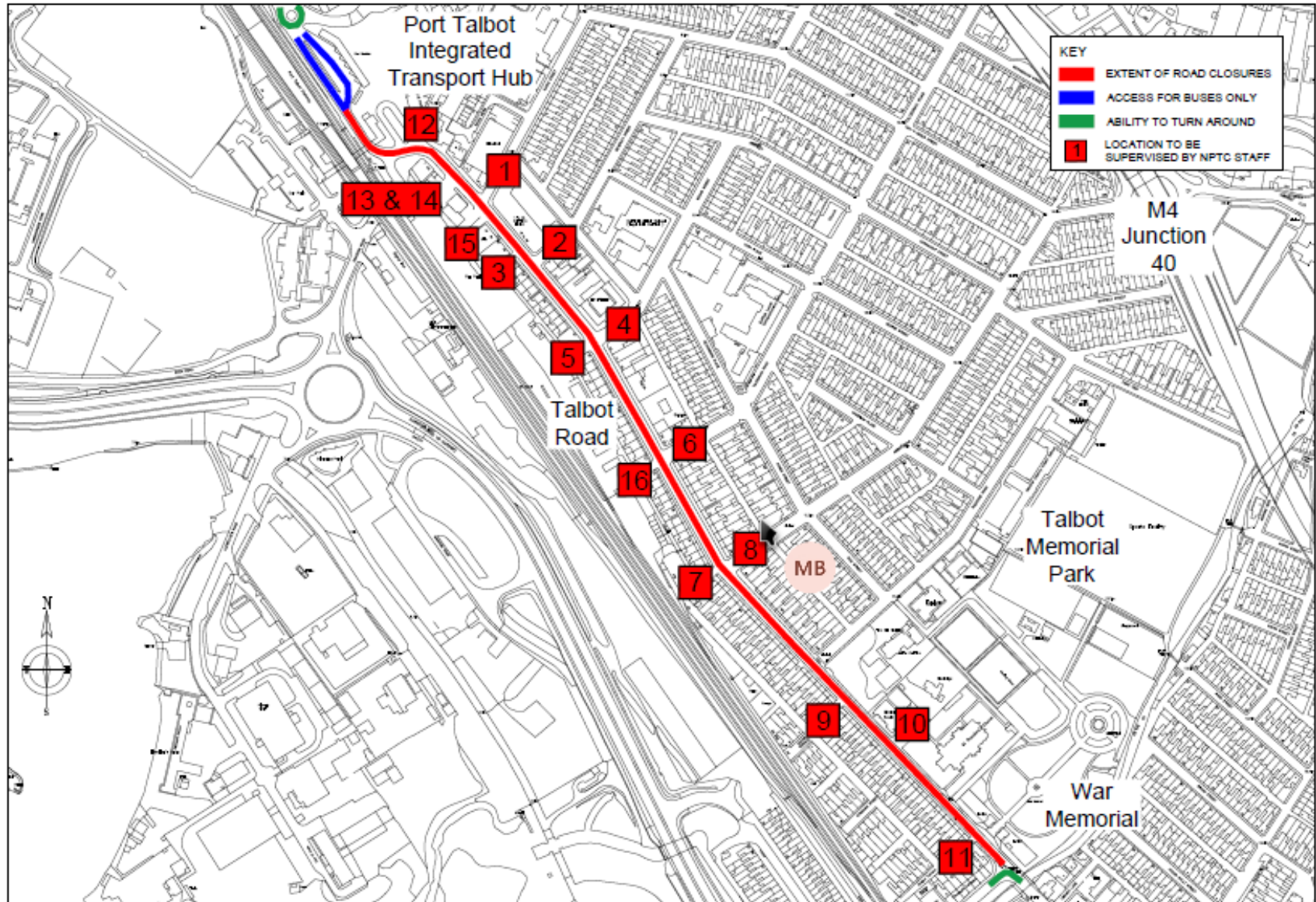
In the event of an emergency, handover of control of aspects of the event to relevant agencies will be the responsibility of the Senior Event Co-ordinator.

Section 9: Debrief and Event Review Arrangements

The Lead Officer will have a full debrief with the Parade Organisers, internal and external stakeholders.

DRAFT

Port Talbot Remembrance Parade 2023 - Road Closure Rev 01



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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

Corporate Risk Assessment

Activity being assessed: Port Talbot Remembrance Day Parade		Risk assessment reference number: PT- RDP - 1 Risk assessment created on: 18/08/2023 Review date due: Yearly prior to event / 14/07/2024			
Persons undertaking or affected by the activity					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employees <input type="checkbox"/> Contractor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Service User <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Marshals</u>					
Page 56	Hazard	Control measure	Likelihood 1. Very Unlikely 2. Unlikely 3. Likely 4. Very Likely 5. Certainty	Severity 1. Negligible 2. Minor 3. Medical Treatment 4. Major 5. Fatal	Risk Level <i>Likelihood x Severity = Risk Level</i>
	Adverse Weather Conditions.	<p>The organiser will assess the weather forecast in the lead up to the day and on the day of the event.</p> <p>The organiser may, based on this forecast, cancel the parade or amend the event programme.</p> <p>Participants are advised to wear suitable clothing and footwear for the weather conditions on the day.</p> <p>Participants /staff / marshals should consider bringing warm / cold refreshers to the parade with them should they need them.</p>	3	2	6

	<p>Sheltered area available for use during adverse weather.(Transportation Hub canopy), at start and end of parade.</p>			
<p>Dealing With Anti-social Behaviour (inc) Violence an Aggression</p>	<p>There will be a Police presence at this event.</p> <p>A Streetscene supervisor and 16 marshals will be present at strategic locations throughout the route.</p> <p>The duty Streetscene supervisor will also be available for support with other Streetscene staff who can be contacted on the Authority’s designated radio channel if required.</p> <p>Key contact lanyards will be distributed to marshals to assist with identification and communication.</p> <p>Key contact information will be distributed to all organisational staff prior to event e.g Contact information of organiser.</p> <p>Lead organiser and senior Police officer to position themselves together in a strategically agreed location.</p> <p>Briefing to take place prior to the commencement of the event with all necessary parties, including the police, marshals, participants and Authority employees, to ensure all parties are clear of their roles and responsibilities and actions to take in the event of an issue.</p> <p>Any observations of anti-social behaviour or violence and aggression by any staff or marshals, must be alerted to the event organiser immediately.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>4</p>

	<p>Staff and participants are advised not to challenge any acts of anti-social behaviour. Walk away to a position of safety and seek assistance.</p> <p>Anti-social behaviour from members of the public must be reported as soon as possible. This will be recorded on the Authority's OAR's database for investigation.</p> <p>If you feel threatened, walk away from the situation, find a safe position and seek assistance.</p>			
<p>Incident / Accident / illness</p> <p>Page 58</p>	<p>An approved event medical plan has been put in place prior to event.</p> <p>St Johns Ambulance will provide first aid cover; this will be two suitable trained first aiders and a support vehicle (ambulance).</p> <p>Marshals and staff to assist in alerting first aiders immediately if they observe an accident or health related incident.</p>	1	3	3
<p>Exposure To A Contagious / Infectious Disease.</p>	<p>Participants are advised to stay at home and not attend the event if they are displaying symptoms of a contagious / infectious disease, to avoid spreading to others.</p>	1	3	3
<p>Movement Of Vehicles.</p>	<p>Traffic Management Plan in place for event provided by Amberon. Vehicles will be prevented from entering the controlled area by temporary traffic management such as road closed signs, cones, barriers and diversions signage installed and maintained by a competent traffic management contractor Streetscene.</p> <p>Prior to the event, a letter drop will be carried out (arranged by the Authority's Highways section) to inform all residents and</p>	2	3	6

	<p>businesses located within the event area that no vehicles are to be moved for the duration of the event.</p> <p>South Wales Police support for the event will include the deployment of officers and vehicles at identified strategic point's e.g the main access roads being passed. South Wales Police will stop for any reason under their powers and enforce where necessary the temporary prohibition of traffic.</p> <p>A Police vehicle will be positioned at the front and back of the event procession.</p>			
<p>Pedestrian Interaction.</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 59</p>	<p>Prior to the event, a letter drop will carried out, to inform all residents and businesses located within the event area that no vehicles are to be moved for the duration of the event.</p> <p>All participants will be briefed on the Schedule and controls of parade before the event. There will also be a de-brief after the event for any lessons learnt.</p> <p>All parties will meet prior to the event to ensure everyone is aware of each of their roles and responsibilities and the control measures in place to ensure everyone's safety.</p> <p>Attendees to follow the agreed route of the parade.</p> <p>A Streetscene supervisor and 16 marshals will be present at strategic locations throughout the route to help direct attendees. These positions agreed prior to the event and aligned to the event plan.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>4</p>

	<p>Marshals will be vigilant to pedestrians and spectators during the parade and encourage them to remain on suitable walkways and pavements.</p> <p>Event timings to be adhered to and participants will be advised to leave the event promptly once it has finished to avoid any overdue disruption to the area where the event is taking place.</p>			
<p>Slip, Trip, Fall.</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 60</p>	<p>A team will conduct a sweep of the route and consider and remove any obvious potential slip, trip and fall hazards as part of their search prior to the event commencing.</p> <p>The Search will consider the needs of those with disabilities.</p> <p>Participants should wear suitable footwear for the event, the weather conditions on the day and the activities they are undertaking.</p> <p>Marshalls for the event will guide attendees appropriately and encourage spectators to remain on suitable walkways and pavements to view the parade.</p>	2	2	4
<p>Safeguarding issues eg. Lost children, vulnerable persons (young / vulnerable persons)</p>	<p>Safeguarding guidance will be issued to marshals.</p>	1	2	2
<p>Security Threats</p>	<p>An Operational Stewards briefing to take place prior to the event. Briefing will include guidance on, for example, various attacks and bomb threats.</p>	1	4	4

A Suitable means of communication will be in place for all necessary staff at the event.(additional to mobile phones)

Any security threat received prior to or during the event will be directed to South Wales Police and the event organiser. The event will be delayed, stopped or cancelled based on an assessment of this information.

If the threat level at the time of the parade indicates this is necessary, a pre – event search of the parade route and ceremonial area will be carried out prior to commencement of the event. The search will consider all types of improvised items that could be used in a terrorist related attack.

Anything discovered in this search will immediately be brought to the attention of South Wales Police.

Any incidents that occur during the event relating to firearms or weapons attack. The “run, hide, tell” hide approach will be adopted as national police guidance. The information relating to this will communicated to attendees prior to the event.

Personal Protective Equipment



Aprons must be worn



Eye Protection must be worn



Head Protection must be worn



Safety Harness must be worn



Ear Protection must be worn



Safety overalls must be worn



Safety boots must be worn



Respiratory equipment must be worn



Hi Viz clothing must be worn



Protective gloves must be worn



Face Protection must be worn

Other

Marsalls shall wear hi-viz vests _____

Additional risk information

In the event of an incident/accident, please contact your nearest first aider.
All incidents/accidents must be recorded on NPT's Online Accident Reporting System.
Suitable information, instruction and training on how to use, store and maintain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) correctly to be provided.
All staff to have regard for their and others health and safety at all times.

Please identify how this risk assessment has been communicated

Team brief / Team meeting
One to one
Email
Other (please specify): _____

Emergency Procedures

Contact name: Noelwyn Daniel
Contact number: 01639763665
Contact number (out of hours): _____

Name: Noelwyn Daniel	Position: Corporate Director, Strategy & Corporate Service	Date: 18/08/2023
-------------------------	--	------------------

Risk assessments must be reviewed as a result of change in working practices / legislation or following an incident / accident

Reviews		Key							
Review date :	<p>Likelihood</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Very Unlikely - This will probably never happen/occur Unlikely - Do not expect it to happen/recur but it is possible it may do so Likely - Might happen or recur occasionally Very Likely - Will probably happen/recur, but it is not a persisting issue/circumstance Certainty - Will undoubtedly happen/recur, possibly frequently 	<p>Severity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Negligible - Minor injuries or discomfort. No medical treatment or measurable physical effects. Minor - Injuries or illness requiring on site first aid. Temporary impairment. Medical Treatment - Injuries or illness requiring hospital treatment. Major - Injury or illness resulting in permanent impairment. Fatal - Fatality. 	Likelihood of Injury	5	5Y	10R	15	20	25
Reviewed by:				4	4	8	12	16	20
Review date :				3	3	6G	9	12	15
Reviewed by:				2	2	4	6Y	8	10Y
Review date :				1	1	2	3	4	5G
Reviewed by:				0	1	2	3	4	5
Review date :				Severity of Injury					
Reviewed by:					Low Risk		Medium Risk		High Risk

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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

Event Management Plan Remembrance Parade 2023 Neath

Cynllun Rheoli Digwyddiad Gorymdaith Goffa 2023 Castell-nedd

Section 1: Event Overview

Event description

Remembrance Sunday is a national opportunity to remember the people who have died in wars around the world. The Council will act as “Event Organiser” (pursuant to health and safety requirements) for the Remembrance Parades held in Port Talbot and Neath (see separate Event Management Plan in respect of Port Talbot), working with St David’s Church who will organise and co-ordinate parade participants.

The Event Management Plan details the operational planning for delivering this event.

The event is scheduled to take place on Sunday 12th November 2023.

Location

The event will start at St David’s Church with a memorial service. Attendees will then be escorted to the muster point on the western pathway of Victoria Gardens ready for the parade. Please see route map attached at Appendix 1.

Duration

9.00 a.m. Road Closure Order commences.

09.30 a.m. Church Service commences.

10.20 a.m. Church Service concludes.

10.30 a.m. Participants muster for Parade in Victoria Gdns.

10.40 a.m. Parade moves off.

10.50 a.m. Parade arrives at Memorial Gates.

11.00 am Act of Remembrance.

11.15 a.m. Remembrance Event ends.

12.00 Noon Road Closures End/All signage removed from highway.

Entrance / Exit Points

Traffic closures will be in place at the following points (refer to map attached at Appendix 1):

Crossing control @ St David Street (Church) & Victoria Gardens Park. - Amberon

Crossing control from Victoria Gardens to Gnoll Avenue - Amberon
TCP 1 Lane rear of 6 to 44 Victoria Gardens - Streetcare
TCP 2 Ena Avenue junction with Gnoll Avenue. - Streetcare
TCP 3 Woodland Road junction with Gnoll Avenue - Streetcare
TCP 4 Lane rear of 2 to 12 Ena Avenue. - Streetcare
TCP 4 Lane to rear garages of Woodland Road - Streetcare
TCP 5 Cedar Road junction with Gnoll Drive. - Streetcare
TCP 6 junction of Beechwood Avenue with Gnoll Drive. – Streetcare
Crossing control @ Gnoll Drive & Beechwood Avenue. - Amberon
TCP 7 Junction of Beechwood Avenue with Gnoll Drive (crossroad junction). - Streetcare
TCP 8 Gnoll Drive. - Streetcare

Attendance

St David's Church Representatives
Parade participants
South Wales Police will support the parade*
St John's Ambulance will provide first aid services
Wreath Bearers, including Chief Finance Officer NPT and Mayor NPT
Marshalls - 8 persons (NPT employees)
Event Co-ordinator - 1 person
Spectators – approximately 400 persons
All user groups will be provided with appropriate briefings ahead of the event.
***SWP have made clear that their presence is subject to withdrawal should operational requirements dictate this**

Audience Profile

The audience/participants will be of all ages and walks of life. There is no defined profile. Those taking part in the Parade are expected to be of varying ages and mobility and therefore the tempo of the Parade will reflect these considerations.

Temporary Structures

A gazebo will be set up to cover the dias where dignitaries will accept the salute of the Parade

The Event Organiser

The event is being managed by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

Address: Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ

Tree of Responsibility

Event Organiser: Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Lead Officer: Noelwyn Daniel

Senior Event Co-ordinator: Darren Evans

Senior Marshall: Garry Davies

First aid provision: St John's Ambulance

Roles and responsibilities

Event Organiser	Overall responsibility for the event.
Lead Officer	To ensure risk assessments are in place and necessary insurance cover.
Senior Event Co-ordinator	Ensures the smooth running of the event. Ensures the event has the appropriate level of 1 st aid cover and marshals in place. Primary link for Senior Marshall.
Senior Marshall	Responsible for ensuring all Marshalls are correctly located and fully aware of their roles
First aid provision	Responsible for ensuring the appropriate level of 1 st aid cover is in place and all 1 st aid activity.

Contacts

To be provided

Senior Event Co-ordinator:

Senior Marshall:

Catering and Hospitality

No catering will be provided. Participants and marshals will be advised to bring warm / cold refreshments to the parade should they need them.

Welfare Provision

Toilet facilities

These are available in St David's Church Hall.

First aid station

This will be positioned at: **To be confirmed with St John's Ambulance**

Litter / Cleansing Services / Grounds Maintenance

Normal service provision.

Entertainment

There is no entertainment planned for the event.

Licensing

No license is required for the event.

Noise Management

Military parade music will be restricted to the parade and remembrance service.

Section 2: Management of the Public

Security / Marshalling Arrangements

South Wales Police* have confirmed a police vehicle will be positioned at the front and back of the parade, and the deployment of officers and vehicles at identified strategic points along the route, e.g. the Traffic Closure Points as described in section 1.

Neath Port Talbot employees will act as marshalls during the event, supporting Traffic Closure Points. They will be provided with High Viz Vests and have Event Lanyards clearly showing that they are there in an official capacity. Marshalls will be issued with Walkie Talkie Radios for communication purposes.

***SWP have made clear that their presence is subject to withdrawal should operational requirements dictate this**

Management of Attendee Numbers

St David's Church will organise and co-ordinate the participants in the parade.

The council is unable to control the numbers of members of the public who will attend the parade route to view and support the parade.

3. Communications

PA System

A PA System will be used at the Memorial Gates at the conclusion of the parade event.

Radio

Walkie Talkie Radios will be used by:

- Senior Event Co-ordinator
- Senior Marshall
- Marshalls
- First Aid Provision

Telephone

Telephones will not be used during the event

Signage and Public Information

Residents affected by road closures will receive a hand delivered letter in advance of the event date, advising of road closure arrangements.

The event will be publicised across the council's website, social media and in the local press in the weeks leading up to the event.

There will be warning signage placed along the parade route advising the public of road closures and parade arrangements.

Media Handling

The council's Communications and Marketing Team Press Desk will handle media enquiries and promote the event via appropriate media.

Section 4. Traffic Management

A Traffic Management Plan is in place for the event. Vehicles will be prevented from entering the controlled area by temporary traffic management, i.e. road closed signage, cones, barriers where appropriate and diversion signage installed and maintained by a competent traffic management contractor.

Prior to the event a letter drop will be carried out to inform all residents and businesses located within the event area that no vehicles are to be moved for the duration of the event.

South Wales Police* have confirmed a police vehicle will be positioned at the front and back of the parade, and the deployment of officers and vehicles at identified strategic points along the route, e.g. the Traffic Closure Points as described in section 1. SWP will make stops under their powers and enforce the temporary prohibition of traffic where necessary.

Neath Port Talbot employees will act as marshalls during the event, supporting Traffic Closure Points.

***SWP have made clear that their presence is subject to withdrawal should operational requirements dictate this**

Section 5. Medical and First Aid Cover

The medical 1st aid provision will be provided by St John's Ambulance. They will produce a Medical Event Plan for this event.

Section 6. Police

South Wales Police* have confirmed a police vehicle will be positioned at the front and back of the parade, and the deployment of officers and vehicles at identified strategic points along the route, e.g. the Traffic Closure Points as described in section 1. SWP will make stops under their powers and enforce the temporary prohibition of traffic where necessary.

***SWP have made clear that their presence is subject to withdrawal should operational requirements dictate this.**

Section 7: Risk Management

Risk Assessment

A Risk Assessment* has been completed for the event. This is attached at Appendix 2.

***NB: this is a dynamic risk assessment which will be updated as circumstances evolve, e.g. to take account of security risk profiles, weather forecast, etc.**

Counter Terrorism

The current threat level to the UK from terrorism is SUBSTANTIAL. This will need to be reviewed closer to the date to ensure that this Event Management Plan is fit for purpose and SWP are still able to provide assistance.

Run-Hide-Tell guidance will be issued to participants via the Risk Assessment (Parade Organisers will receive a copy of the Event Management Plan and Risk Assessment with responsibility to issue instruction to parade participants), including marshalls.

A pre-event search of the parade route and ceremonial area will be carried out prior to the commencement of the event. The search will consider all types of improvised items that could be used in a terrorist related event. Anything discovered in this search will immediately be brought to the attention of SWP.

Incident Recording

Any medical events that occur will be recorded by St John's Ambulance.

All other incidents, will be recorded on the council's Occupational Accident Recording (OARs) Database for review and where appropriate, investigation.

RIDDOR

The Reporting of Incidents, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) require certain incidents to be reported to the council's Health and Safety team and the HSE by law. RIDDOR information should be included in the OARs record.

Health and Safety Enforcing Authority

The Council will submit the Event Management Plan and risk assessments for consideration by the Safety Advisory Group on 8th September 2023.

Weather

The Lead Officer is responsible for monitoring weather conditions leading up to and during the event, and ensuring health and safety risk assessments are updated accordingly.

Section 8: Incident Management

Extreme Weather

Extreme weather may cause disruption to, or cancellation of, the event. Participant and spectator health and safety will always take precedence.

Emergency Vehicle Access

There will always be access for emergency vehicles throughout the event.

Event Evacuation Plan

Run – hide – tell guidance will be issued to all participants.

Hand-over procedures

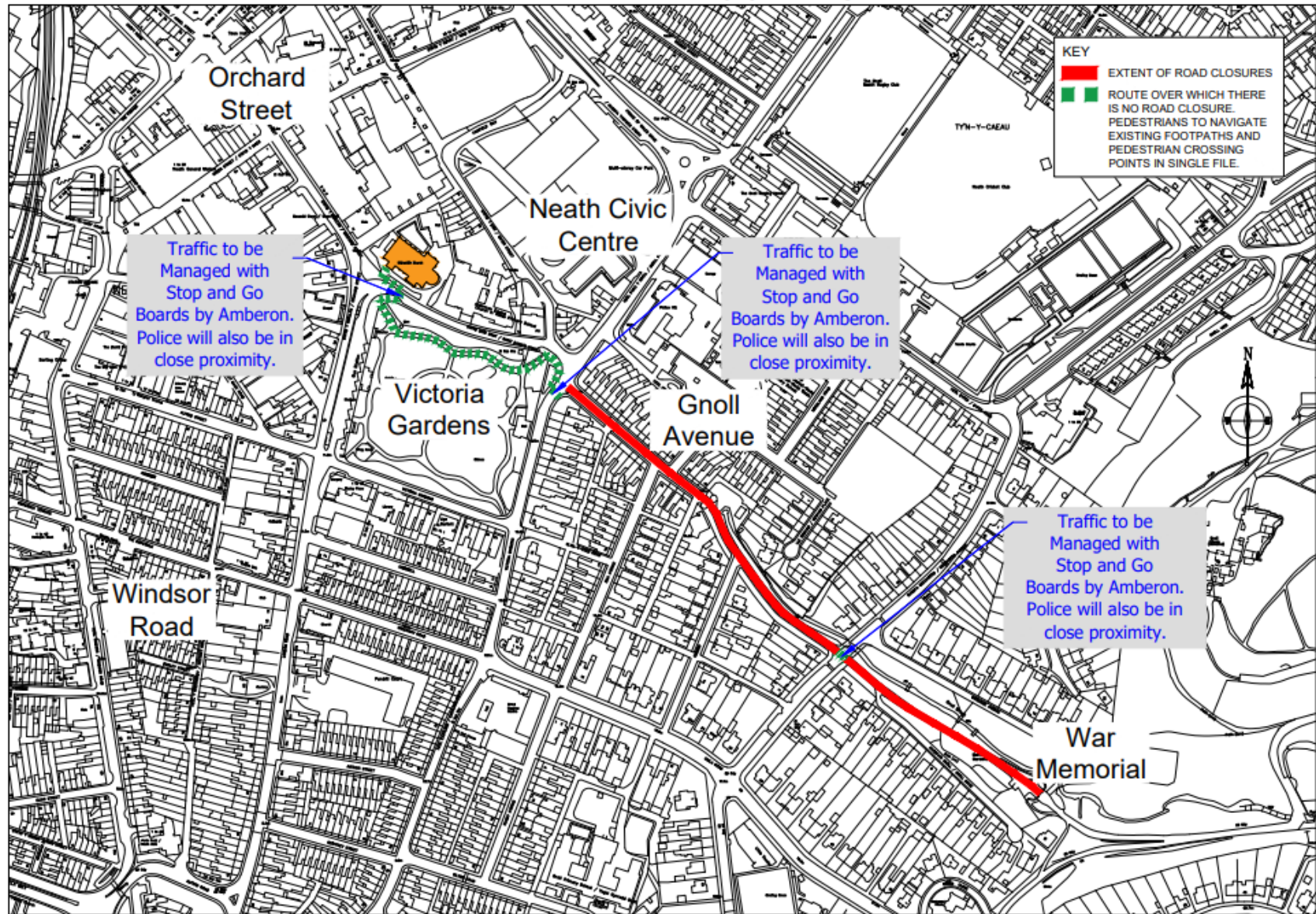
In the event of an emergency, handover of control of aspects of the event to relevant agencies will be the responsibility of the Senior Event Co-ordinator.

Section 9: Debrief and Event Review Arrangements

The Lead Officer will have a full debrief with the Parade Organisers, internal and external stakeholders.

DRAFT

Neath Remembrance Parade 2023 - Road Closure



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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

Corporate Risk Assessment

Activity being assessed: Neath Remembrance Day Parade		Risk assessment reference number: N – RDP - 1 Risk assessment created on: 18/08/2023 Review date due: Yearly prior to event / 14/07/2024		
Persons undertaking or affected by the activity				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employees <input type="checkbox"/> Contractor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Service User <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Marshals				
Hazard	Control measure	Likelihood 1. Very Unlikely 2. Unlikely 3. Likely 4. Very Likely 5. Certainty	Severity 1. Negligible 2. Minor 3. Medical Treatment 4. Major 5. Fatal	Risk Level <i>Likelihood x Severity = Risk Level</i>
Adverse Weather Conditions.	<p>The organiser will assess the weather forecast in the lead up to the day and on the day of the event.</p> <p>The organiser may, based on this forecast, cancel the parade or amend the event programme.</p> <p>Participants are advised to wear suitable clothing and footwear for the weather conditions on the day.</p> <p>Participants /staff / marshals should consider bringing warm / cold refreshers to the parade with them should they need them.</p>	3	2	6

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<p>Dealing With Anti-social Behaviour (inc) Violence an Aggression</p>	<p>There will be a Police presence at this event.</p> <p>A Streetscene supervisor and 8 marshals will be present at strategic locations throughout the route.</p> <p>The duty Streetscene supervisor will also be available for support with other Streetscene staff who can be contacted on the Authority’s designated radio channel if required.</p> <p>Key contact lanyards will be distributed to marshals to assist with identification and communication.</p> <p>Key contact information will be distributed to all organisational staff prior to event e.g Contact information of organiser.</p> <p>Lead organiser and senior Police officer to position themselves together in a strategically agreed location.</p> <p>Briefing to take place prior to the commencement of the event with all necessary parties, including the police, marshals, participants and Authority employees, to ensure all parties are clear of their roles and responsibilities and actions to take in the event of an issue.</p> <p>Any observations of anti-social behaviour or violence and aggression by any staff or marshals, must be alerted to the event organiser immediately.</p> <p>Staff and participants are advised not to challenge any acts of anti-social behaviour. Walk away to a position of safety and seek assistance.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>4</p>
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	<p>Anti-social behaviour from members of the public must be reported as soon as possible. This will be recorded on the Authority's OAR's database for investigation.</p> <p>If you feel threatened, walk away from the situation, find a safe position and seek assistance.</p>			
Incident / Accident / illness	<p>An approved event medical plan has been put in place prior to event.</p> <p>St Johns Ambulance will provide first aid cover; this will be two suitable trained first aiders and a support vehicle (ambulance).</p> <p>Marshals and staff to assist in alerting first aiders immediately if they observe an accident or health related incident.</p>	1	3	3
Exposure To A Contagious / Infectious Disease.	<p>Participants are advised to stay at home and not attend the event if they are displaying symptoms of a contagious / infectious disease, to avoid spreading to others.</p>	1	3	3
Movement Of Vehicles.	<p>Traffic Management Plan in place for event provided by Amberon. Vehicles will be prevented from entering the controlled area by temporary traffic management such as road closed signs, cones, barriers and diversions signage installed and maintained by a competent traffic management contractor Streetscene.</p> <p>Prior to the event, a letter drop will be carried out (arranged by the Authority's Highways section) to inform all residents and businesses located within the event area that no vehicles are to be moved for the duration of the event.</p>	2	3	6

	<p>South Wales Police support for the event will include the deployment of officers and vehicles at identified strategic points e.g the main access roads being passed. South Wales Police will stop for any reason under their powers and enforce where necessary the temporary prohibition of traffic.</p> <p>A Police vehicle will be positioned at the front and back of the event procession.</p>			
<p>Pedestrian Interaction.</p>	<p>Prior to the event, a letter drop will be carried out, to inform all residents and businesses located within the event area that no vehicles are to be moved for the duration of the event.</p> <p>All participants will be briefed on the Schedule and controls of parade before the event. There will also be a de-brief after the event for any lessons learnt.</p> <p>All parties will meet prior to the event to ensure everyone is aware of each of their roles and responsibilities and the control measures in place to ensure everyone's safety.</p> <p>Attendees to follow the agreed route of the parade.</p> <p>A Streetscene supervisor and 8 marshals will be present at strategic locations throughout the route to help direct attendees. These positions agreed prior to the event and aligned to the event plan.</p> <p>Marshals will be vigilant to pedestrians and spectators during the parade and encourage them to remain on suitable walkways and pavements.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>4</p>

	<p>Event timings to be adhered to and participants will be advised to leave the event promptly once it has finished to avoid any overdue disruption to the area where the event is taking place.</p>			
<p>Slip, Trip, Fall.</p>	<p>A team will conduct a sweep of the route and consider and remove any obvious potential slip, trip and fall hazards as part of their search prior to the event commencing.</p> <p>The Search will consider the needs of those with disabilities.</p> <p>Participants should wear suitable footwear for the event, the weather conditions on the day and the activities they are undertaking.</p> <p>Marshalls for the event will guide attendees appropriately and encourage spectators to remain on suitable walkways and pavements to view the parade.</p>	2	2	4
<p>Safeguarding issues eg. Lost children, vulnerable persons (young / vulnerable persons)</p>	<p>Safeguarding guidance will be issued to marshals.</p>	1	2	2
<p>Security Threats</p>	<p>An Operational Stewards briefing to take place prior to the event. Briefing will include guidance on, for example, various attacks and bomb threats.</p> <p>A Suitable means of communication will be in place for all necessary staff at the event.(additional to mobile phones)</p> <p>Any security threat received prior to or during the event will be directed to South Wales Police and the event organiser. The event</p>	1	4	4

will be delayed, stopped or cancelled based on an assessment of this information.

If the threat level at the time of the parade indicates this is necessary, a pre – event search of the parade route and ceremonial area will be carried out prior to commencement of the event. The search will consider all types of improvised items that could be used in a terrorist related attack.

Anything discovered in this search will immediately be brought to the attention of South Wales Police.

Any incidents that occur during the event relating to firearms or weapons attack. The “run, hide, tell” hide approach will be adopted as national police guidance. The information relating to this will communicated to attendees prior to the event.

Personal Protective Equipment



Aprons must be worn



Eye Protection must be worn



Head Protection must be worn



Safety Harness must be worn



Ear Protection must be worn



Safety overalls must be worn



Safety boots must be worn



Respiratory equipment must be worn



Hi Viz clothing must be worn



Protective gloves must be worn



Face Protection must be worn

Other

Marsalls shall wear hi-viz vests _____

Additional risk information

In the event of an incident/accident, please contact your nearest first aider.
All incidents/accidents must be recorded on NPT's Online Accident Reporting System.

Suitable information, instruction and training on how to use, store and maintain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) correctly to be provided.
All staff to have regard for their and others health and safety at all times.

Please identify how this risk assessment has been communicated

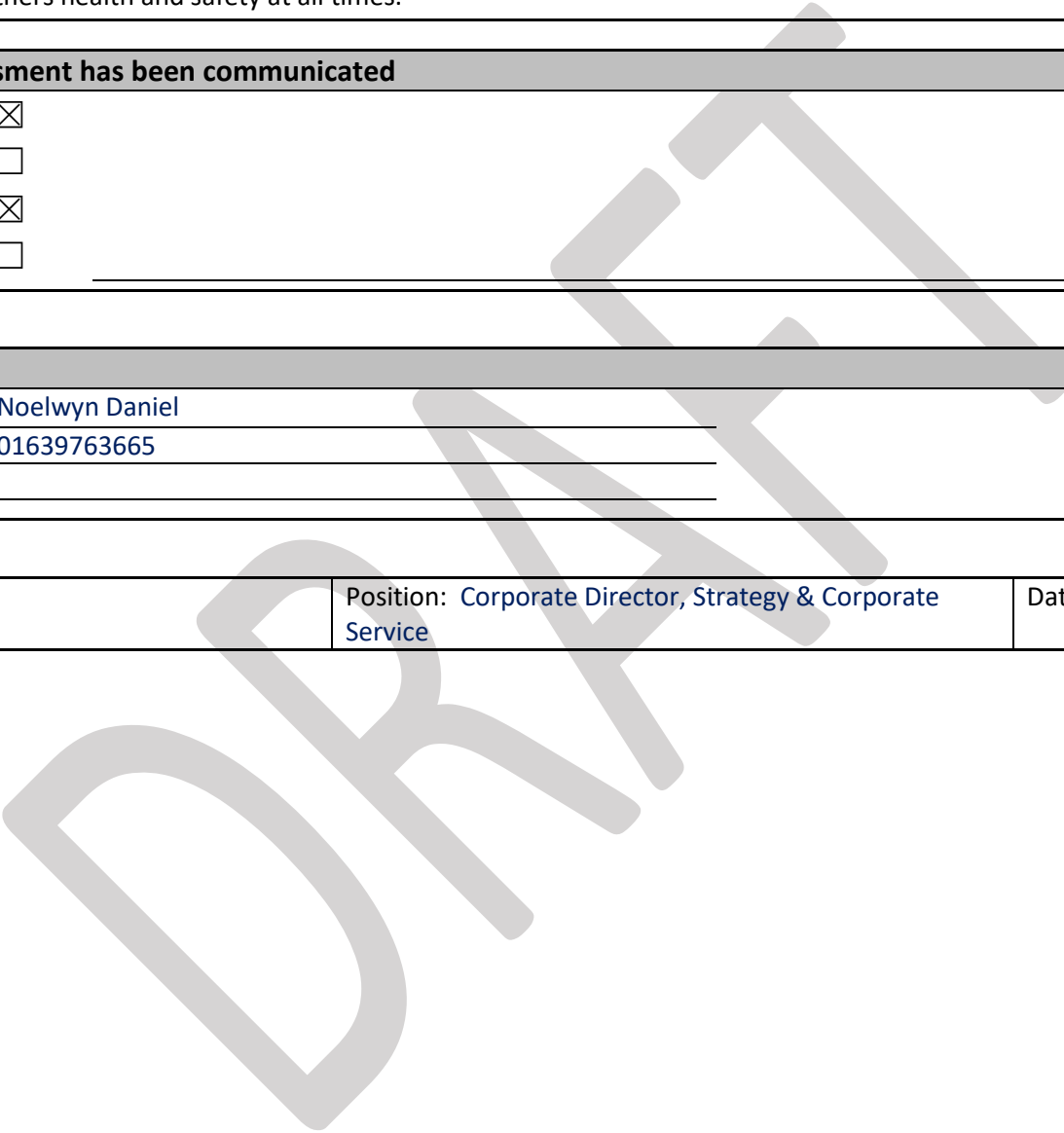
Team brief / Team meeting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
One to one	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Emergency Procedures

Contact name:	<u>Noelwyn Daniel</u>
Contact number:	<u>01639763665</u>
Contact number (out of hours):	_____

Name: Noelwyn Daniel	Position: Corporate Director, Strategy & Corporate Service	Date: 18/08/2023
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Risk assessments must be reviewed as a result of change in working practices / legislation or following an incident / accident

Reviews		Key							
Review date :	<p>Likelihood</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Very Unlikely - This will probably never happen/occur Unlikely - Do not expect it to happen/recur but it is possible it may do so Likely - Might happen or recur occasionally Very Likely - Will probably happen/recur, but it is not a persisting issue/circumstance Certainty - Will undoubtedly happen/recur, possibly frequently 	<p>Severity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Negligible - Minor injuries or discomfort. No medical treatment or measurable physical effects. Minor - Injuries or illness requiring on site first aid. Temporary impairment. Medical Treatment - Injuries or illness requiring hospital treatment. Major - Injury or illness resulting in permanent impairment. Fatal - Fatality. 	Likelihood of Injury	5	5Y	10R	15	20	25
Reviewed by:				4	4	8	12	16	20
Review date :				3	3	6G	9	12	15
Reviewed by:				2	2	4	6Y	8	10Y
Review date :				1	1	2	3	4	5G
Reviewed by:				0	1	2	3	4	5
Review date :				Severity of Injury					
Reviewed by:					Low Risk		Medium Risk		High Risk

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Integrated Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative description and summary: Annual Remembrance Parades (Neath / Port Talbot – Approval of Annual Budget Allocation)
Service Area: People and Organisational Development
Directorate: Strategy and Corporate Services

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users		
Staff		
Wider community		
Internal administrative process only	x	

3. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)/How might it impact?
Age			x			
Disability			x			
Gender Reassignment			x			
Marriage/Civil Partnership			x			
Pregnancy/Maternity			x			
Race			x			
Religion/Belief			x			

Sex			x			
Sexual orientation			x			

4. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language			x			
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English			x			

5. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity			x			
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment,			x			

such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.						
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

6. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	x		Will ensure the long-standing and widely supported Remembrance Sunday Parades in both Port Talbot and Neath are placed on a more sustainable footing into the future.
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	x		The work undertaken to place the Remembrance Sunday Parades in both Port Talbot and Neath on a more sustainable footing contributes to the overarching vision of the Council's Strategic Change programme by working in partnership for our people, doing our best for our communities and bringing about change for the future.
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	x		A number of key stakeholders have been involved including South Wales Police, the Royal British Legion (Port Talbot Branch), Neath Parade stakeholders and officers from across the Council.
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions	x		As above
Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse	x		Will ensure the long-standing and widely supported Remembrance Sunday parades in both Port Talbot and Neath are placed on a more sustainable footing

7. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	x
Reasons for this conclusion	
The report is seeking approval for a budget allocation to support the annual Remembrance Parades in both Neath and Port Talbot which is an internal administrative process.	

A full impact assessment (second stage) is required	
Reasons for this conclusion	

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by:	Caryn Furlow-Harris	Strategic Manager – Policy & Executive Support	<i>Caryn Furlow-Harris</i>	31 st July 2023
Signed off by:	Sheenagh Rees	Head of Service – People & Organisational Development	<i>Sheenagh Rees</i>	1 st August 2023

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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

20 September 2023

Report of the Head of Leisure, Tourism, Heritage & Culture – C.Saunders

Matter for Decision.

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Report Title:

Culture and Destination Strategies

Purpose of the Report:

This report is presented to Cabinet for adoption of Neath Port Talbot's first Culture and Destination Strategies. It also provides background to the Heritage Strategy which is presented under a different report.

Executive Summary:

This report outlines the background behind the Culture, Destination and Heritage Strategies, explains how they are interlinked and provides a framework for the Council and its partners in delivering on the Council's Wellbeing Objective 3 aims going forward. It also introduces a new festival idea that is in the early stages of development. The Culture and Destination Strategies are recommended for formal adoption by Cabinet, while the Heritage

Strategy which is in final draft will be recommended for further consultation as part of a separate report.

Background:

The Let's Talk Campaign demonstrated a clear public will to invest in and develop our Culture and Heritage sector. As a result, one of the 4 wellbeing objectives was set to specifically deliver on this area; *Our local environment, heritage and culture can be enjoyed by future generations.*

Consequently Culture, Destination and Heritage Strategies have been commissioned to provide the strategic narrative for this objective. They aim to provide a framework from which the Council, its partners and the wider community can be built upon to actively conserve, improve and enjoy our stunning natural environment, treasure the Welsh language and actively engage with the rich sporting, cultural and industrial heritage of the area.

All three strategies have been created with the wider policy context in view, particularly the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, and are designed to ensure that both the seven goals and five ways of working of the act are embedded throughout the actions of both the Council and other stakeholders.

Following a procurement process Counterculture were chosen to deliver the Culture Strategy and Planning Solutions Consulting Ltd for the Destination Management Plan (Strategy). The Heritage Strategy has been drafted by the in-house team.

Each strategy is distinct, but all are connected. In summary:

1. *Culture Strategy.* Recognising the huge power of culture for economic growth, placemaking, health and wellbeing this strategy outlines the key strengths of Neath Port Talbot's cultural life, proposes key themes for the future and includes a detailed action plan to promote, develop and improve our collective cultural life. The Culture Strategy defines culture

widely to include arts, sport, and heritage, as well as giving consideration to aspects of culture which are part of other strategies (such as Welsh language and the development of the creative industries). Of the three strategies the Culture Strategy takes the widest view and is designed to ensure that culture, with all its many benefits, lies at the heart of our borough. The Culture Strategy has been drawn up with assistance from our consultants Counterculture, and included extensive stakeholder and public consultation.

2. *Heritage Strategy*. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund our Heritage Strategy aims to understand the area's heritage assets (many of which are owned by the Council), ensure that they are well managed through planning and conservation plans, maintenance programmes, positive relationships with heritage bodies, and celebrate and promote them to capitalise for both residents and visitors. Due to the funding arrangements this strategy is currently in draft and a separate report seeks authority to now consult on the proposals.
3. *Destination Management Plan*. The DMP is the key strategy and action for plan for the sustainable development of the visitor economy in Neath Port Talbot. It is a shared statement of intent from the Council and our partners (including the tourism sector itself) that analyses the local visitor economy, sets out our priorities for change and the roles of different stakeholders in delivering that change. It is designed to help co-ordinate a huge range of activities that, together, transform the quality of visitors' experience and the viability of visitor economy businesses so that tourism can be sustainable (financially and environmentally) and welcomed by our communities. The DMP has been drawn up through close consultation with the local tourism sector, strategic partners and local members through a series of workshops, interviews and online surveys. The DMP also aligns with Welsh Government's national strategy,

'Welcome to Wales; Priorities for the Visitor Economy 2020-2025.

Considerable effort has been made to ensure the timeline for the three documents align and the language and actions are consistent. Each of the three strategies stands alone, but they have been designed so that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. There is a common design language across the three final documents to show that they are connected and there are a number of areas in which having all three documents will be a significant benefit to Neath Port Talbot.

Each of these strategies has been commissioned by Neath Port Talbot Council, but they are not solely for the Council. Although we are key, the ambitions of all three strategies can only be delivered in partnership with other stakeholders, both large and small. The strategies' key findings and action plans include not only things that the Council needs to do but also actions for the wider public, private, and voluntary sectors.

Discussions are ongoing with Swansea University for some help in designing the governance of the Culture Strategy with a 'Compact' style arrangement being the ambition. This will lever in strategic capacity and 'buy-in' from the key sectors including health, education, and industry. Under this model a high-profile chair would be recruited to represent and lead this work.

The Culture Strategy identifies the Borough's wealth of heritage assets (particularly from the industrial age, but also many earlier buildings and monuments) as of high value to residents, and of growing potential of the visitor economy. The Heritage Strategy will ensure that these assets are looked after effectively and used in ways that improve placemaking and boost our economy.

There is an important link between culture and the visitor economy. The DMP seeks to find ways to develop tourism sustainably without causing unacceptable burdens for residents. One key aspect of this is

the development of visitor attractions and events that enhance the lives of local people and are attractive to visitors: a key priority of the Culture Strategy Action Plan.

Once adopted by Cabinet a formal launch will be arranged, inviting partners to help us celebrate.

There is a general desire for early delivery on some of the strategy actions. Officers are currently working on bringing forward a new Comedy Festival, which builds on the Neath Comedy festival. The new festival would be scheduled for a ten-day period in September 2024 and aim to reach all parts of the County Borough. The three main venues would be used to anchor the festival with the very real ambition of taking shows to some of smaller venues in the more isolated communities. Themes such as open mic nights, Welsh language shows, & children's workshops would also be included. Plans are currently in the infancy, a small steering group is being formed and a budget being prepared.

The main costs of the festival are in programming and marketing, together with buying in a big act or two. The Council would be asked to underwrite the cost but with ticket income, and funding bids this should be limited. Over the next three years the aim is for the event to become self-sustaining and possibly move it into a CIC of some kind. Further details will be made available in due course.

Further to this the Shared Prosperity funded Heritage, Culture, Tourism and Events Fund (HCTE) has recently been launched. The HCTE fund offers strategic, small scale and events specific interventions which are designed to provide some of the funding resources required by the Council, our strategic partners, the voluntary sector and private sector organisations to deliver against Wellbeing Objective 3 and the detailed actions included within the Culture, Destination and Heritage strategies up to December 2024.

Financial Impacts:

Each of the three strategies have a series of actions that will all require funding of some kind. There is a working document sitting behind the Culture Strategy which identifies the main funding streams for each of the actions.

There are clear gaps in the staffing and expertise around the development of the cultural sector and also for events and festivals. A three-year business plan will be brought forward in the autumn for the leisure and culture services as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan which will identify some external funding and hopes to address the gaps. There are also gaps in the Heritage and Tourism teams, but these are currently filled using NLHF and SPF funding; a longer-term solution needs to be found.

There will also an opportunity to use the Cultural Partnership to create bids into funding bodies the Council is not currently able to access.

The Comedy Festival will require underwriting but as with the staffing element, officers are confident this can be contained within the three-year business plan for the wider services. Further details will be shared as the festival business case is built.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A full IIA has been prepared for each of the strategy documents and highlights the positive impacts the strategies will have on the protected characteristics. The actions to be delivered through the Culture Strategy and Destination Management Plan will have a positive impact across all areas assessed.

The Heritage Strategy requires more detail as a result of consultation, however at this stage it is not envisaged that this will have any negative impacts across the areas assessed.

The strategies transcend age and whilst the majority of respondents were between 30- 74 years old, culture by its definition transcends generations with actions within the plan that will involve all ages, from school children to people in care homes.

Race is also positively affected with one of the key themes being Welsh at heart specifically aimed at building on the foundations already laid through Welsh culture at places like Pontardawe Arts Centre, to promote a strong Welsh cultural offer, making it accessible, visible and relevant.

There are no negative impacts assessed as part of the IIA for any of the protected characteristics.

Given these are policy documents the main test will be in the actions contained in the action plan. Equality issues will be considered at all stages as these actions are developed.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

Given the nature of the strategy documents and the key themes within the Culture Strategy only positive impacts to our Valley communities is envisaged. This will be in the form of celebrating local heritage, driving economic prosperity, sustainably managing visitors and helping to celebrate local distinctions.

Workforce Impacts:

There are positive impacts with additional jobs being created within the Council and helping to drive economic prosperity within our communities.

Legal Impacts:

No implications.

Risk Management Impacts:

These strategies set out a framework that will in time, help reduce the Council's risk in terms of historic building and conservation management in particular.

Consultation:

Counterculture undertook an extensive consultation exercise for the Culture Strategy which has also been used to guide the Built Heritage Strategy.

This elicited 288 responses in total with the majority of people living in Neath Port Talbot and the methodology and results of the consultation are in attached in the appendices to this report.

The Destination Strategy was developed and co-produced by the tourism sector and its stakeholders through a series of workshops with the local tourism trade, local members and strategic partners in addition to online surveys and one to one interviews.

No further public consultation is planned for either the Culture or Destination Strategies. The Heritage Strategy, currently in draft will be circulated for wider consultation due to the statutory nature and funding arrangements for this specific piece of work.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet formally adopts the Culture and Destination Strategies (as detailed at Appendices A and B).

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To enable delivery of the Wellbeing Objective 3; Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three-day call-in period.

Appendices:

Appendix A	Culture Strategy
Appendix B	Destination Strategy
Appendix C	KKP report on leisure & sport
Appendix D	Consultation results
Appendix E	Integrated Impact Assessments

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COUNTERCULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

FINAL REPORT - SPORT

JUNE 2023

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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COUNTERCULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

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COUNTERCULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

This is Knight, Kavanagh & Page's (KKP) final report for Neath Port Talbot (NPT) Council as part of KKP's support to Counterculture Partnership LLP with the development of a Culture Strategy for Neath Port Talbot Council. KKP has been commissioned to:

- ◀ Provide assistance with reviewing relevant context: commenting on what is developed and ensuring key 'golden threads' are identified.
- ◀ Stakeholder engagement: leading consultation with stakeholders in the sports sector and wider strategic partners.
- ◀ Strategy development: leading the development of recommendations and action plans, in relation to sport.

1.2: Leisure contract background

In 2015, NPT Council gave Celtic Leisure (a company Limited by Guarantee and registered charity, a social enterprise) a 10-year contract to manage and operate the Council's public leisure centres.

In 2018 the Council reduced the management fee to £1.4m from £2m. This reportedly had a negative impact on the services delivered by Celtic Leisure. The Covid Pandemic hit all leisure providers extremely hard and the cost of living crisis, and especially utility costs is extending those pressures.

In 2020, the Council decided to look for a new service provider for the next 25 years due to underperformance by Celtic Leisure.

The Council undertook a procurement exercise in 2022, and when the options appraisal went to Council members for decision, they voted to bring the provision back in house. This was the most expensive option put forward, but members felt it was the best option in the post Covid marketplace for local residents.

The current position is that the leisure facilities will be transferred from Celtic Leisure back to the Council by 1st April 2024. In the interim period NPT's Operations Co-ordinator with the responsibility for leisure will be seconded to Celtic Leisure to help address some of the underperformance issues and manage the transition of the facilities back to the Council, and work with the company board to best facilitate this transfer.

Like most local authorities NPT Council is facing significant budget difficulties the decision to in source the facilities have worsened these projections. The current estimate is for a £3.9m cost to the council in 2023/24 and £5.3m in 2024/25 once the transfer has taken place.

1.2: Context

This section sets out the context for the study, building on the national and local strategic rationale for leisure and the challenges faced by the County Borough Council.

COUNTERCULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND

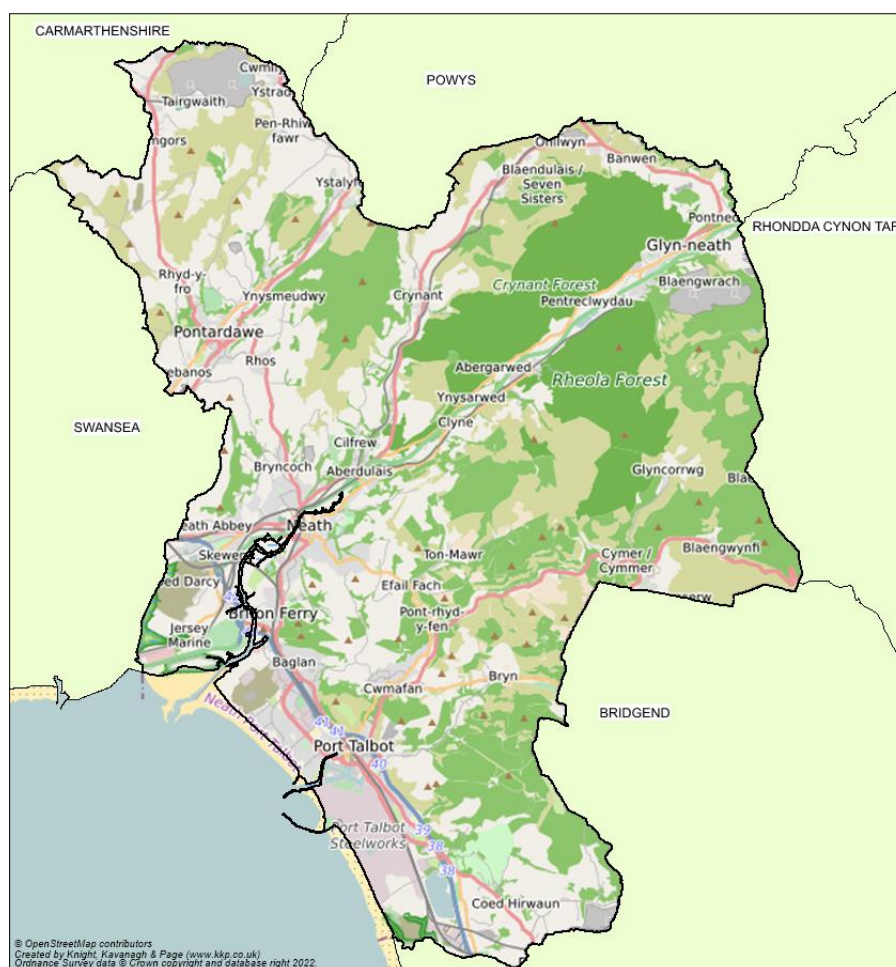
NPT is a county borough in the southwest of Wales. It is situated on the coast of the Bristol Channel, approximately 10 miles west of Swansea. The County Borough is bordered by Bridgend County Borough and Rhondda Cynon Taf to the east, Powys and Carmarthenshire to the north; and Swansea to the west. The principal towns are Neath, Port Talbot, Briton Ferry and Pontardawe.

NPT is a major industrial centre, with a number of steelworks, petrochemical plants and other manufacturing industries. The county borough is also home to a number of tourist attractions, including the Neath Canal, the Margam Country Park, and the Port Talbot Steelworks Heritage Trail.

The landscape is predominantly upland or semi upland and 43% is covered by forestry with major conifer plantations in the upland areas. The upland areas are cut by five valleys: Vale of Neath, Dulais Valley, Afan Valley and Swansea Valley (Tawe Valley) and the Upper Amman Valley. The settlements reflect the industrial heritage of the area, with urban development along the flatter areas of the valleys and some parts of the coast.

The main transport routes include the M4 which cuts Northwest to South East between Swansea and Bridgend and the A465 which traverses North East from Merthyr Tydfil to South West of the authority to Swansea.

Figure 1: Neath Port Talbot with main roads



COUNTERCULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

2.1 National context

The Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 was introduced in 2016. It has been put in place to ensure that public bodies are doing all they can to contribute to the improvement of the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. It introduces seven long term well-being goals, puts in place a sustainable development principle and defines five ways of working that public bodies must consider, demonstrating that they have applied sustainable development principles. Figure 2.1 shows how the seven national goals and the sustainable development principles working together.

Figure 2.1 Well-being goals



NPT's corporate plan incorporates these wellbeing goals and embeds the sustainable development principles of the Act. This Strategy will identify actions required to help achieve a vibrant culture in NPT. The Council is committed to making decisions that take account of the impact that they could have on people living their lives in Wales today and in the future.

Chief Medical Officer Physical Activity Guidelines 2019

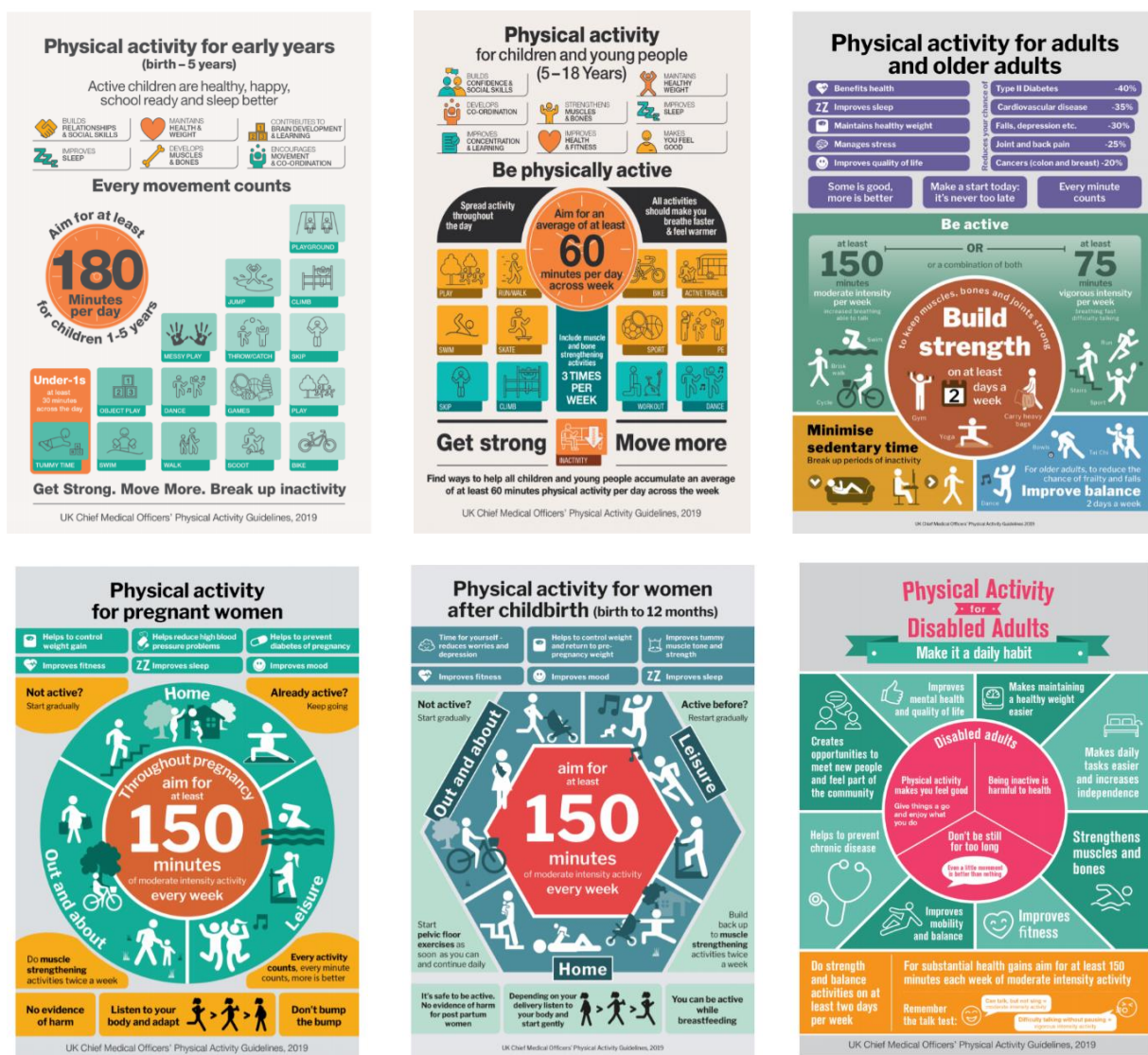
This updates the 2011 physical activity guidelines issued by the four Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It draws upon global evidence to

COUNTERCULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

present guidelines for different age groups, covering the volume, duration, frequency and type of physical activity required across the life course to achieve health benefits.

Since 2011, the evidence to support the health benefits of regular physical activity for all groups has become more compelling. In children and young people, regular physical activity is associated with improved learning and attainment, better mental health and cardiovascular fitness, also contributing to healthy weight status. In adults, there is strong evidence to demonstrate the protective effect on physical activity on a range of many chronic conditions including coronary heart disease, obesity and type 2 diabetes, mental health problems and social isolation. Regular physical activity can deliver cost savings for the health and care system and has wider social benefits for individuals and communities.

Figure 2.2: Physical activity guidelines



The report emphasises the importance of regular activity for people of all ages, and for the first time presents additional guidance on being active during pregnancy, after giving birth, and for disabled adults. The new guidelines are broadly consistent with previous ones, while also

COUNTERCULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

introducing some new elements and allowing for more flexibility in achieving the recommended levels of physical activity for each age group.

Sport Wales Strategy- Enabling Sport in Wales to Thrive

The stated vision set out in this strategy is:

- ◀ To create an active nation where, as many people as possible are inspired to be active through sport.
- ◀ For everyone, from people who don't see themselves as sporty people to people who win medals.
- ◀ For life and it responds to the needs of people at different stages of their life.
- ◀ Focuses on creating a wide range of positive experiences so everyone can enjoy sport.

Seven Well-being goals for how sport in Wales can contribute to the well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act:

Goal	Description	Action
1	A prosperous Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Promote Wales to the world through the performance of Wales's elite athletes. ◀ Promote Wales as a sporting destination of choice through Wales's outstanding natural environments and world-class facilities. ◀ Capitalise on sporting success. ◀ Employment and volunteering opportunities through sport and active recreation. ◀ Education and skill development through sport and active recreation. ◀ Increased supply of local provision, widening accessibility of opportunity. ◀ Apprenticeships and volunteering provides a route into employment.
2	A resilient Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Local opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint. ◀ Making use of locally built and natural resources. ◀ Low carbon/carbon neutral sports facilities. ◀ Socially, ethically, environmentally responsible employers in the sport sector. ◀ The natural environment as an environment for sport and recreation is understood and valued as protected ecosystems.
3	A healthier Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Unleash the benefits of sport for health issues, including mental health. ◀ Provision of sport and recreation opportunities for all ages, throughout life. ◀ Make use of opportunities that meet demands of changing lifestyles, through collaboration and co-production with citizens, and increase the opportunities for families. ◀ Employers create active workplaces utilising the land around them, e.g. the use of showers, bike racks or flexible working to promote participation in sport and recreation. ◀ Sport providers and employers understand the importance of well-being and mental health. ◀ Sport and recreation environments offer healthy food options. ◀ Education and community centres share assets for sports activity – creating health benefits for the local community. ◀ Social prescribing by primary healthcare providers.
4	A more equal Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ The real lived experiences and current needs of all citizens are understood. ◀ Local and flexible opportunities are available to meet the needs of the whole community. ◀ Opportunities are accessible and inclusive, and there are low cost and no cost opportunities as well. ◀ Activities take place in safe environments.

COUNTERCULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

Goal	Description	Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Opportunities are available for families with childcare provided. ◀ Sports equipment is shared and recycled. ◀ Organisations working together to create routes into sport across sectors like education, housing, social care, youth services and religious settings. ◀ Positive action is used to support under-represented groups, no matter how low the numbers. ◀ Discrimination, harassment and victimisation is eliminated. ◀ An understanding of which groups may be negatively impacted by actions.
5	A Wales of cohesive communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Community involvement and ownership meets local need. ◀ Local achievements are celebrated, no matter how small. ◀ Community safety is promoted, lowering crime and anti-social behaviour. ◀ Positive role models are developed through sport. ◀ Organisations share resources to provide a range of lifelong activities that positively impact on people's well-being. ◀ Local amenities are made accessible and are shared for the benefit of the community. ◀ Local amenities are utilised, valued and maintained. ◀ Organisations work together to create routes into sport across education, housing, social care, youth services, religious settings and more. ◀ There are local opportunities for volunteering and skill development through sport. ◀ There are routes from volunteering into employment.
6	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Bilingualism is promoted through sport. ◀ The successes of local communities and role models are celebrated. ◀ There are visible and accessible sporting events. ◀ Promote Wales to the world through the performance of Wales's elite athletes. ◀ Promote Wales as a sporting destination of choice, through Wales's outstanding natural environments and world class facilities. ◀ Visible sporting role models.
7	A Globally responsible Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Resources are used responsibly, shared and recycled. ◀ Facilities are sustainable and responsible. ◀ Carbon footprint is reduced through local provision. ◀ Procurement across the sport sector is socially, ethically and environmentally responsible. ◀ Low carbon technologies are used and innovative technologies are found.

School Sport Survey – State of the Nation Report 2022

The School Sport Survey is a national survey of pupils from years 3 to 11, looking into attitudes, behaviours and opportunities for young people in sport. The survey is key to understanding who, where, and how often young people participate in, and have a demand for, sport(s). Teachers are also offered the opportunity to share their views on school sport provision and the support they need to deliver it.

This year (2022) over 116,000 pupils responded, from 1,000 schools. The survey took place from 28th March 2022 to 22nd July 2022.

Active Nation

- ◀ 39% (124,000) of pupils took part in organised sport outside of the curriculum three or more times a week (Future Generations Indicator 38) – a 9-percentage-point decrease since 2018.

COUNTERCULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

- ◀ 36% (111,000) of pupils reported 'no frequent participation' in organised sport outside of the curriculum (i.e., participated less than once a week) - an 8-percentage-point increase since 2018.
- ◀ 56% (174,000) of pupils took part in sport in a community club setting at least once a week in the last academic year – a 9-percentage-point decrease since 2018.

Everyone

- ◀ Less than two thirds (60%) of schools state that they have the equipment which enables inclusion of disabled pupils / pupils with an impairment or Additional Learning Need (ALN).
- ◀ There is a 15-percentage-point difference in participation in organised sport outside of the curriculum three or more times a week between the least (FSM1) and most deprived (FSM4) areas – an increase of an additional 2-percentage-points since 2018.

Lifelong

- ◀ 93% (292,000) of pupils in Wales had a demand to do more sport.
- ◀ 56% of pupils had *unmet demand for sport, the equivalent of 175,000 pupils.

*Unmet demand refers to demand for any sport among pupils not participating in organised sport outside of the curriculum three or more times a week.

Enjoyment

- ◀ 40% of pupils enjoyed extracurricular sport 'a lot', compared to 57% enjoying PE 'a lot' and 47% enjoying community club sport 'a lot'.
- ◀ 69% of pupils stated that they were 'very confident' or 'confident' in trying new sports, while 8% of pupils said they were 'not confident at all'.

Neath Port Talbot scored highest in Wales in the following three key areas:

- ◀ The number of children who take part in sport three or more times per week (46%);
- ◀ Those participating in community club sport outside of school (71.6%);
- ◀ Those participating in community sport at least once a week (62.3%).

Sport Wales – Activity Tracker Survey 7 – January 2023

The survey found that:

- ◀ The majority of Welsh adults (46%) did physical activity on 2-4 days per week.
- ◀ The proportion of Welsh adults who did no physical activity remained steady at 22%.
- ◀ The proportion of Welsh adults who did physical activity on 5+ days per week continued to decline, to 19%.
- ◀ Respondents aged 55+ were more likely than 16-34 year olds to have done no physical activity (25% vs 18%).
- ◀ Respondents in social grade C2DE were more likely than those in ABC1 to have done no physical activity (29% vs 17%).

The survey also found that the most popular activities for Welsh adults the preceding week were walking for leisure (57%), walking for travel (23%) and going to the gym, fitness or exercise classes (15%).

When asked about activity they have participated in over the last month (at least once per month for the last three months), three in five said they have walked for leisure (62%), one in five had gone to the gym, fitness or exercise class (23%) and 20% had been swimming regularly.

COUNTERCULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

The survey suggests that there is room for improvement in the levels of physical activity in Wales. However, it does show that the majority of Welsh adults are doing some physical activity, and that the proportion of people doing no physical activity has remained steady.

New curriculum 2022

The curriculum shifts away from a relatively prescribed content based national curriculum to a purpose-based broad framework within which, schools will design their own curriculum.

There are four purposes and six areas of learning and experience (ALOE's).

The Four Purposes will become a familiar term to parents, carers and children. For the first time we've defined in law what the purpose of education in Wales should be. The aim of a school's curriculum is to support its learners to become:

- ▶ Ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- ▶ Enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ▶ Ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- ▶ Healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

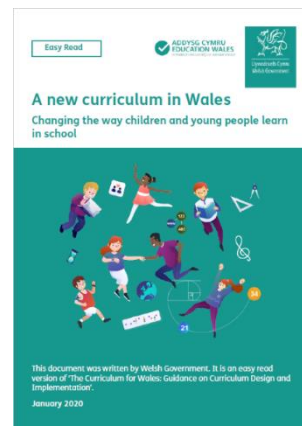
The Curriculum for Wales has six Areas of Learning and Experience:

- ▶ Expressive Arts
- ▶ Health and Well-being
- ▶ Humanities
- ▶ Languages, Literacy and Communication
- ▶ Mathematics and Numeracy
- ▶ Science and Technology.

Specific subjects will still be taught, but schools can decide to explore the links between them, so learners better understand the interconnectivity and breadth of their learning. A topic like climate change can be taught through geography, history, science and the impact on society.

Summary of national context

Engaging all residents in physical activity is a high priority. It is acknowledged that regular sport and recreational activity plays a key role in facilitating improved health and wellbeing. It also contributes significantly to the national and local economy. Sport Wales is acutely aware of the diversity of need, that it needs to collect evidence to continually improve what it does and that its approach needs to evolve over time. Ensuring an adequate supply of suitable facilities to meet local need is imperative if improvements to health and well-being are to be maintained and/or improved. Getting the inactive active has remained steady therefore, more needs to be done to improve the health of the nation.



COUNTERCULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

2.2: Local context

Corporate Plan 2022-2027

NPT Corporate Plan: Recover, Reset and Renew identifies the priorities that have been identified through extensive consultation with local people, businesses and Council employees. These include:

- ◀ All children get the best start in life.
- ◀ All communities are thriving and sustainable.
- ◀ Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations.
- ◀ Local people are skilled and access high quality, green jobs.

As part of the Enabling Programme, designed to ensure that the organisation is well-equipped to deliver on behalf of its residents, the Council has also set out its values and strives to ensure that these are embedded in all that it does:

- ◀ **Connected:** What matters to you matters to us.
- ◀ **Caring:** We care about you, your life and the future of our county borough.
- ◀ **Collaborative:** We work with our citizens and our partners because together we can achieve more.
- ◀ **Confident:** We are optimistic and confident about the future.

Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter

Neath Port Talbot Council has become the latest organisation to sign up to the Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter. Launched in May 2022, the charter contains a series of actions that support walking, cycling, public transport and ultra-low carbon emission vehicle use.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda. The fund provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025. All UK areas will receive an allocation via a funding formula rather than a competition.

The fund will replace some parts of European Structural and Investment Funds. It will invest in local priorities and target funding where there is evidence of need including:

- ◀ Building pride and place
- ◀ Supporting high quality skills and training
- ◀ Supporting pay, employment and productivity growth
- ◀ Increasing life chances

NPT's funding allocation is £28.4m over 3 years, from April 2022 to March 2025. The fund is a mix of revenue and capital funding and has been 'unlocked' by the Regional Investment Plan. The Investment Plan was approved by the UK Government in December 2022.

Levelling Up Fund

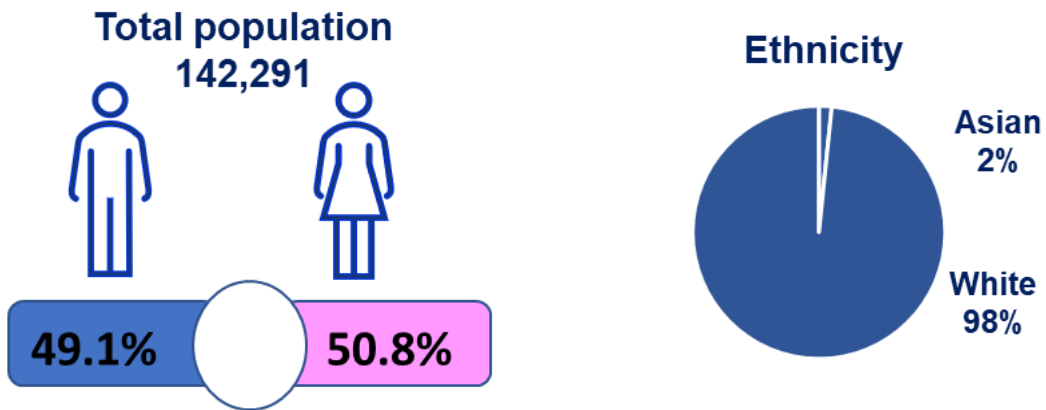
Neath Port Talbot Council has been successful in attracting £17.7m in UK Government Levelling Up Fund money to establish the Vale of Neath as a major heritage and natural environment led visitor destination.

The funding will deliver two major improvement projects along the Vale of Neath Heritage Corridor.

COUNTERCULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

2.3: Demographic profile of NPT

Population (Data source: 2021 Census, ONS)

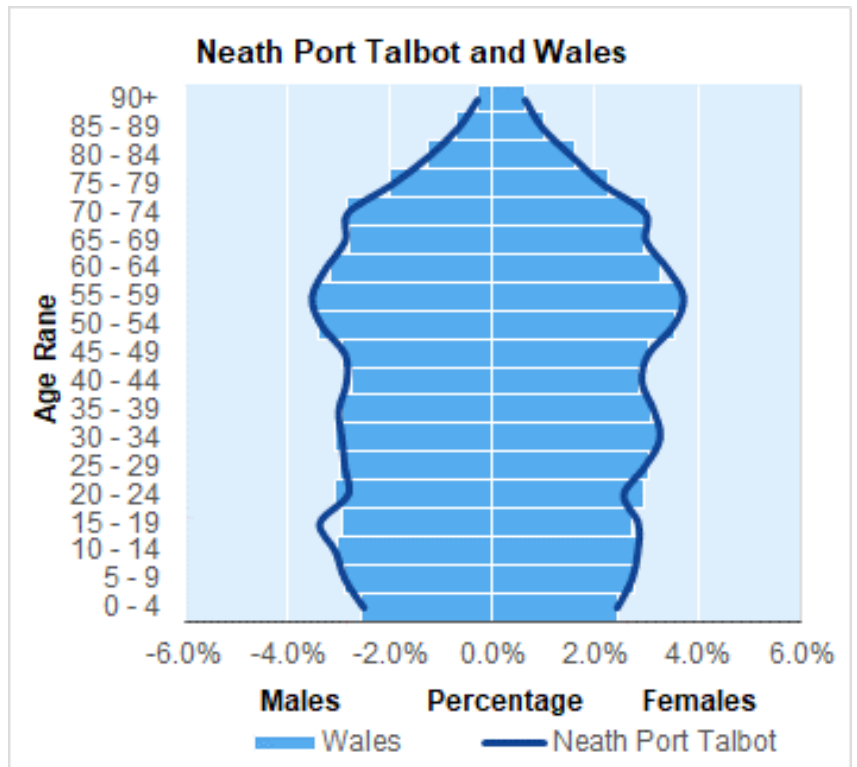


The following chart illustrates the population’s age and gender composition while, overlaying the dark blue line for Neath Port Talbot on top of the blue bars for Wales it is easy to see where one dataset is higher or lower than the other.

Figure 2: Comparative age/sex pyramid for Neath Port Talbot and Wales

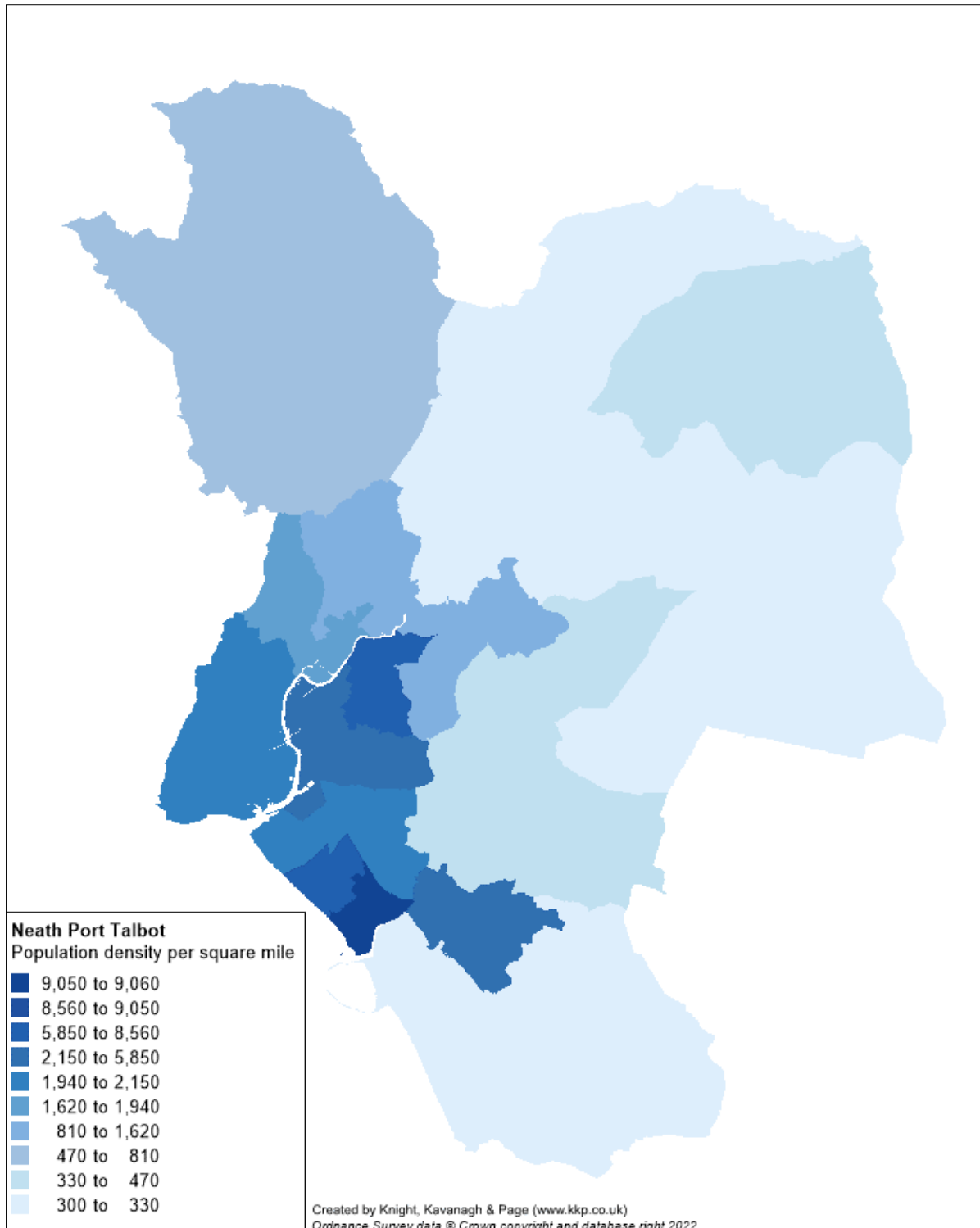
The population profile of Neath Port Talbot precisely reflects the profile of Wales. The only difference is that there is a lower proportion of 20-24 year olds (Neath Port Talbot has 5.4%, and Wales has 6.0%).

There are, however, slightly more in the age groups from 15-19 (Neath Port Talbot has 6.2%, and Wales has 5.7%).



COUNTERCULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

Figure 3: Population density 2021 Census: Neath Port Talbot (MSOAs)

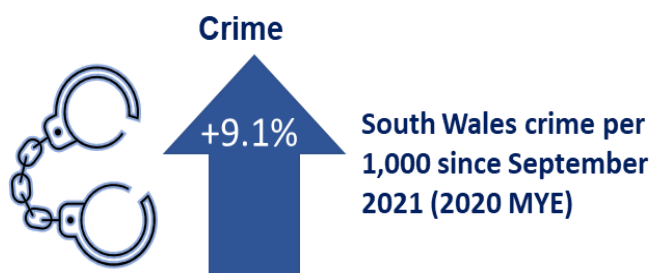


The population settlement is a mixture of urban and rural areas. As illustrated in the map above, the main population settlements are in the valleys and in the coastal plain around Port Talbot. Many of the larger towns lie within the Swansea Urban Area.

COUNTERCULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

Crime (Data source: 2022 Recorded Crime, ONS)

Crime data is only available for Police Force Areas. Neath Port Talbot is in the South Wales Police Force Area, which is made up of seven Local Authorities (Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath Port Talbot, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Swansea, The Vale of Glamorgan). The population of Neath Port Talbot makes up 10.8% of the South Wales Police Force Area.



Income and benefits dependency (Data source: nomis 2022)

Median earnings



Neath Port Talbot £31,772

Wales £31,382

Great Britain £33,394

In January 2023 there were 2,635 people in Neath Port Talbot claiming out of work benefits¹; this represents a decrease of 12.7% when compared to March 2020 (3,020).

Deprivation (Data source: 2019 indices of deprivation, Welsh Government)

Relative to other parts of the country Neath Port Talbot experiences high levels of deprivation; over 4 in 10 of the Borough's population (44.7%) falls within the areas covered by the country's three most deprived cohorts compared to a national average of c.30%. Conversely, 16.2% live in the three least deprived groupings in the country, this compares to a 'norm' of c.30%.

Table 3: IMD cohorts – Neath Port Talbot

IMD cumulative norm		Multiple deprivation			Health deprivation		
		Population in band	Percent of population		Population in band	Percent of population	
Most deprived	10.0	21,779	15.3%	15.3%	23,086	16.2%	16.2%
	20.0	24,741	17.4%	32.7%	23,709	16.7%	32.9%
	30.0	16,961	11.9%	44.7%	17,864	12.6%	45.5%
	40.0	23,394	16.5%	61.1%	30,536	21.5%	67.0%
	50.0	10,161	7.2%	68.3%	9,957	7.0%	74.0%
	60.0	9,265	6.5%	74.8%	15,385	10.8%	84.8%
Least deprived	70.0	12,723	9.0%	83.8%	10,817	7.6%	92.4%
	80.0	8,696	6.1%	89.9%	2,904	2.0%	94.5%
	90.0	10,141	7.1%	97.0%	6,281	4.4%	98.9%
	100.0	4,229	3.0%	100.0%	1,551	1.1%	100.0%

¹ This includes both Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and Universal Credit. Universal credit also includes other benefits including employment and support allowance (ESA) and child tax credits.

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A similar pattern, to that seen for multiple deprivation, is seen in relation to health. Almost half of Neath Port Talbot’s population (45.5%) falls within the areas covered by the three most deprived cohorts, this compares to a national average of c.30%. Conversely, 7.6% live in the three least deprived groupings compared to a ‘norm’ of c.30%.

Figure 6: IMD and health domain comparisons – Neath Port Talbot

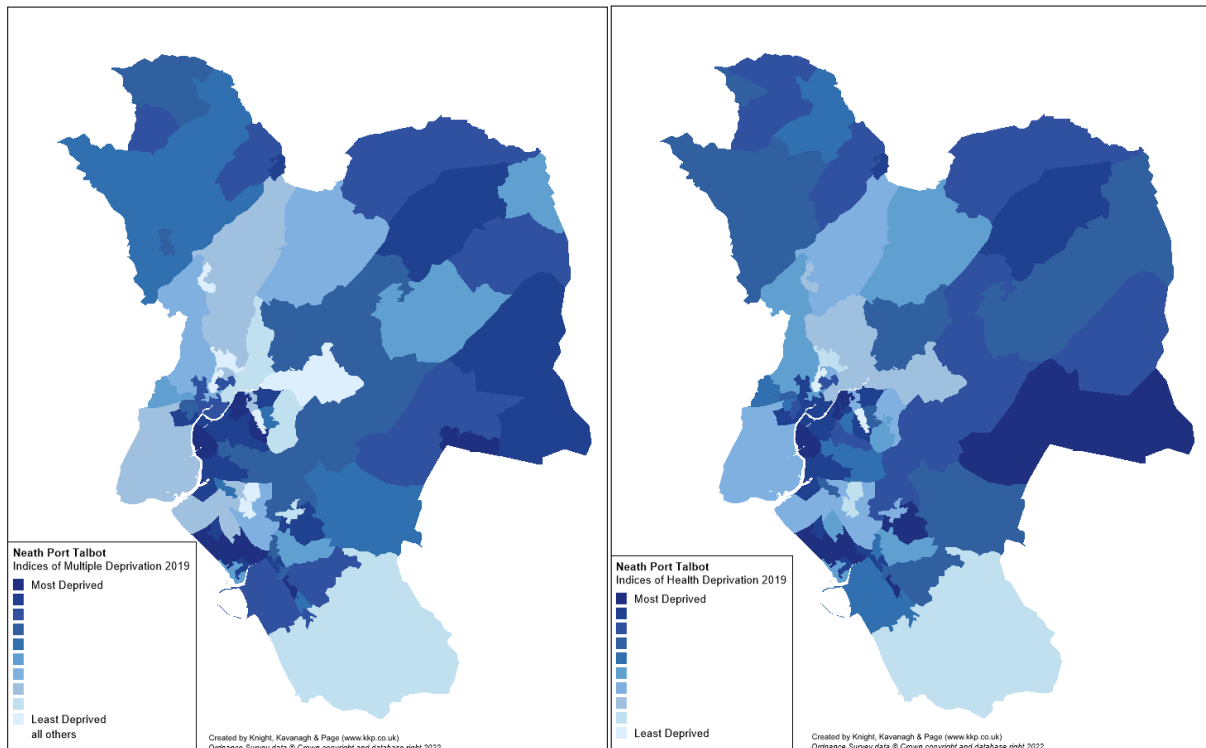
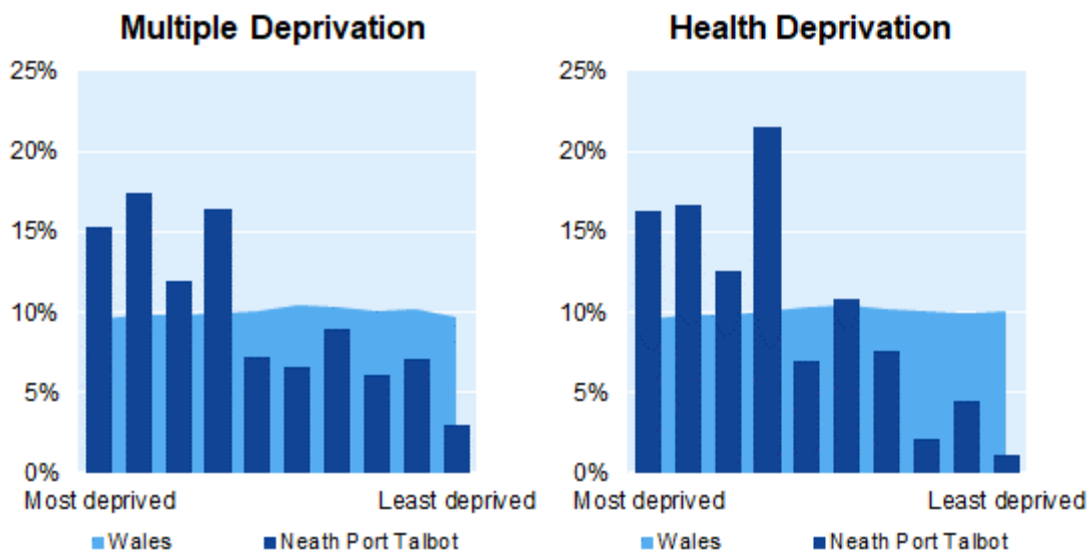
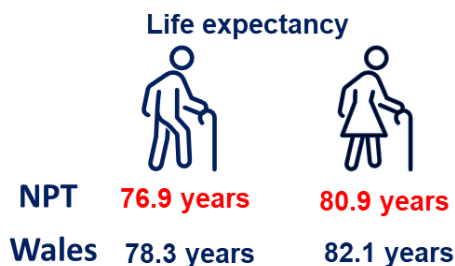


Figure 7: IMD and health domain comparisons – Neath Port Talbot and Wales.



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Health data (Data sources: ONS 2013)



In keeping with patterns seen alongside higher levels of health deprivation, life expectancy in Neath Port Talbot is lower than the national figure.²

Weight and obesity (Data sources: NCMP³ and NOO⁴ 2020/2021)

Obesity is widely recognised to be associated with health problems such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer. In Neath Port Talbot 1 in 5 children age 4-5 are classed as obese (20.3%).



64.1% of children aged 4-5 year olds were either underweight or healthy weight.
15.6% were overweight
20.3% are obese. (2020/2021)

Mosaic (Data source: 2022 Mosaic analysis, Experian)

Mosaic 2022 is a consumer segmentation product and classifies all 28.6 million households into 15 groups, 66 household types and 238 segments. This data can be used to paint a picture of UK consumers in terms of their social-demographics, lifestyles, culture and behaviour and tends to be used to draw out population characteristics for the backdrop to cultural activity.

The following table shows the top five mosaic classifications in Neath Port Talbot compared to Wales as a whole. The dominance of these five segments can be seen inasmuch as they represent two thirds (63.9%) of the population compared to the equivalent rate of over less than half (47.4%) for Wales.

Table 6: Mosaic – main population segments in Neath Port Talbot

Mosaic group description	Neath Port Talbot		Wales %
	#	%	
1 - Rural Reality	31,072	21.4%	14.9%
2 - Modest Traditions	18,129	12.5%	8.2%
3 - Aspiring Homemakers	16,240	11.2%	9.2%
4 - Suburban Stability	15,090	10.4%	6.3%
5 - Family Basics	12,341	8.5%	8.7%

The largest segment profiled for Neath Port Talbot is the Rural Reality group, making up 21.4% of the adult population in the area, this is higher than the rate for Wales (14.9%). This group is defined as people who live in rural communities and generally own their relatively low cost homes. Their moderate incomes come mostly from employment with local firms or from running their own small business.

² Office of National Statistics: Life Expectancy at Birth by local areas in the United Kingdom, 2013.

³ National Child Measurement Program

⁴ National Obesity Observatory

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Table 7: Dominant Mosaic profiles in Neath Port Talbot




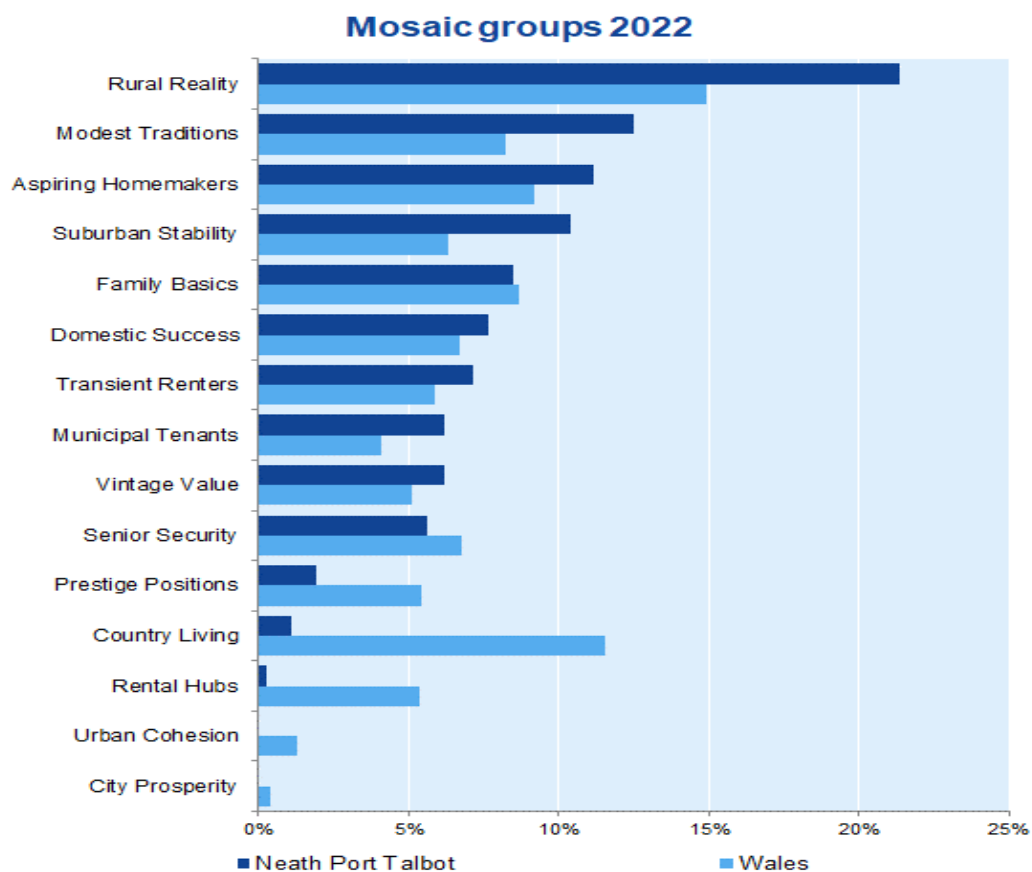
Rural Reality		People who live in rural communities and generally own their relatively low cost homes. Their moderate incomes come mostly from employment with local firms or from running their own small business.
Modest Traditions		Older people living in inexpensive homes that they own, often with the mortgage nearly paid off. Both incomes and qualifications are modest, but most enjoy a reasonable standard of living. They are long-settled residents having lived in their neighbourhoods for many years.
Aspiring Homemakers		Younger households who have, often, only recently set up home. They usually own their homes in private suburbs, which they have chosen to fit their budget.

Figure 13: Mosaic segmentation – Neath Port Talbot compared to Wales



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Figure 14: Distribution of Mosaic segments in Neath Port Talbot

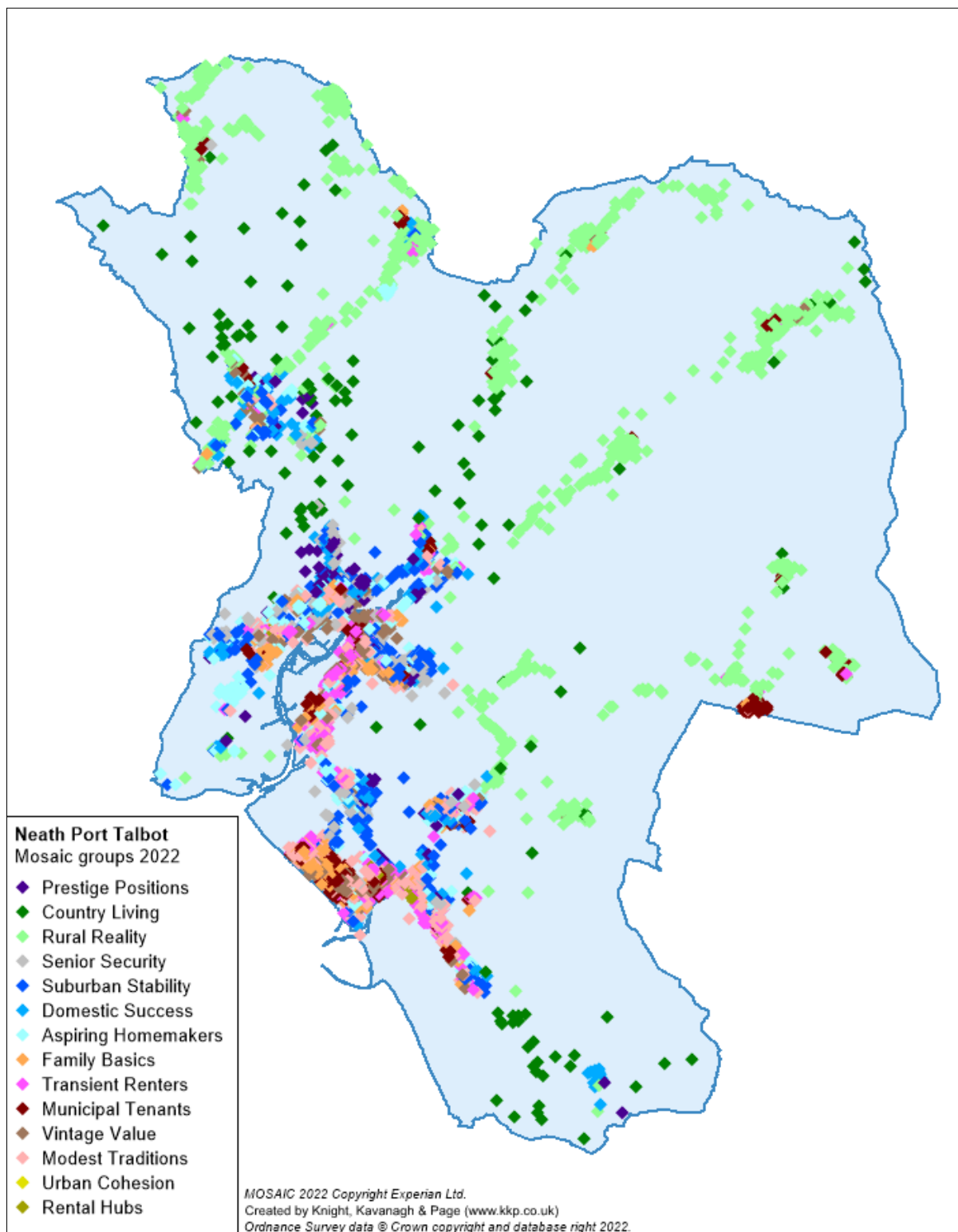


Figure 14 illustrates the landscape of the NPT, whereby people living in the valleys of the hills are predominantly the rural reality and country living segments and the more urban (and more deprived) segments residing at lower levels.

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Population Projections

Strategic planning: Change over 25 years (2018 to 2043⁵)

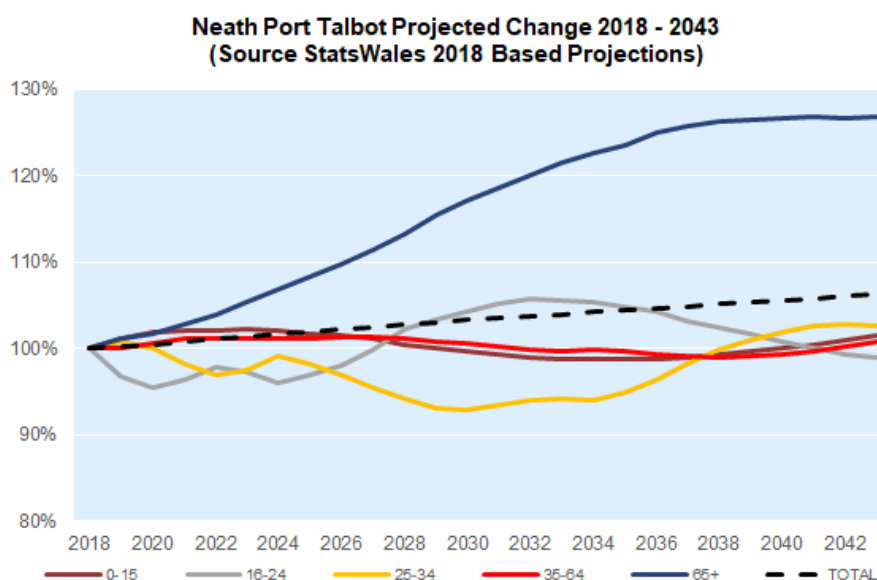
The most recent StatsWales projections (2018 – based) indicate a rise of 6.3% in Neath Port Talbot’s population (+8,983) over the 25 years from 2018 to 2043. Over this extended timeframe fluctuations are seen in rise and fall at different points across the majority of age groups. Key points for Neath Port Talbot are outlined below:

- ◆ The number of 0-15 year olds, falls by -78 (-0.3%) over the first half of the projection (to 2030) but then rises by 448 (+1.8%) over the second half.
- ◆ In contrast, there is predicted to be an increase in the number of 16-24 year olds, +4.3% in the first period (+624) followed by a decline of -5.2% (-789) in the second period.
- ◆ There is a continuous increase in the numbers of persons aged 65+ age group. This represents an increase of +17.1% (+5,056) in the first period continuing to rise to +26.9% (+7,930) between 2018 and 2043. While the age group represented 20.7% of Neath Port Talbot’s population in 2018 it is projected to be 24.7% of the total by 2043 - this is one quarter of the population.

Table 8: Neath Port Talbot - StatsWales projected population (2018 to 2043)

Age (years)	Number			Age structure %			Change 2018 – 2043		
	2018	2030	2043	2018	2030	2043	2018	2030	2043
0-15	24,952	24,874	25,322	17.5%	16.9%	16.7%	100.0%	99.7%	101.5%
16-24	14,463	15,087	14,298	10.1%	10.2%	9.4%	100.0%	104.3%	98.9%
25-34	17,512	16,260	17,965	12.3%	11.0%	11.8%	100.0%	92.8%	102.6%
35-64	56,449	56,748	56,844	39.5%	38.5%	37.4%	100.0%	100.5%	100.7%
65+	29,530	34,586	37,460	20.7%	23.4%	24.7%	100.0%	117.1%	126.9%
Total	142,906	147,555	151,889	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	103.3%	106.3%

Figure 15: Projected population change (2018 -2043)



⁵ Office for National Statistics 2018-based population projections (data released March 2020)

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Summary

Improving the health and wellbeing of NPT residents is strategically important and recognised by the county borough council. The main challenges are:

- ◀ Life expectancy in NPT is lower than the national average, linked to high levels of deprivation and unhealthy lifestyle choices.
- ◀ Over a third (35.9%) of children are overweight or obese.
- ◀ There is an increasing older population, a quarter of residents (24.7%) will be over 65 years of age by 2043.
- ◀ There are high levels of deprivation (44.7%). This is likely to increase as the current cost of living crisis continues.
- ◀ The local environment, culture and heritage is important.
- ◀ There is ambition and development through the major heritage and natural environment led visitor destination.
- ◀ Sport and physical activity are vital in ensuring that NPT residents live well and stay well. The Government driver, the new curriculum, focusses on wellbeing. It aims to ensure young people are leading healthy lives. Key to this is people remaining active as they get older. This is of increasing importance with an ageing population.

COUNTERCULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

SECTION 3: STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

3.1: Audit of public leisure provision and programmes

Building on the consultation we undertook an audit of facilities, programmes and interventions that are relevant to the wider strategy. This will take account of the quality of provision as well as its presence.

Old Neath Leisure Centre closed 31st December 2022. It was over 50 years old and required significant maintenance, so a new development was deemed the most viable option. New Neath Leisure Centre & Library opened in January 2023.

Celtic Leisure sites

It should be noted that the following observations were made on a single site visit in December 2022, there may have been changes since the visit.

(New) Neath Leisure Centre		
Facility mix	Site visit observations	Strategic action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 6 lane 25m swimming pool ◀ Learner/teaching pool ◀ 100 station health & fitness gym ◀ Two aerobic studios ◀ Jacuzzi, sauna & steam room ◀ Café ◀ Library 	<p>This site was still under construction at the time of audit. It has since opened. (30th January 2023).</p> <p>The facility has been built to BEEAM excellent standards.</p>	<p>Drive up membership.</p> <p>Increase the number of fitness classes (currently 24 per week) to meet the needs and current trends in group exercise.</p>
Pontardawe Leisure Centre		
Facility mix	Site visit observations	Strategic action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 4 court sports hall ◀ 1 activity hall / theatre ◀ 1 studio ◀ 2 squash courts ◀ 40 station health and fitness gym (distributed over 2 rooms) and a HIIT room with c.4 stations. ◀ Creche ◀ Indoor bowls – 6 rinks 	<p>The sports hall programme consists mainly of basketball, netball, indoor cricket, trampolining and events.</p> <p>The sports hall floor requires replacement due to wear and tear.</p> <p>The activity hall / theatre primarily accommodates large fitness classes. It has good ceiling height and has a sprung floor but is showing signs of wear and tear.</p> <p>The spin studio is under-utilised and accommodates only 3 classes per week, the rest of the time it is set up for virtual classes but has little usage.</p>	<p>There is a need to refurbish and modernise the centre.</p> <p>There is a need to reconfigure the health and fitness provision, the current layout is not attractive and does not make best use of the space available.</p> <p>Participation is reported to be in decline, as other newer facilities are more attractive. It is hoped that the transfer of newer fitness equipment may increase attractiveness. However whilst newer</p>

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<p>◀ 3G pitch (football and rugby)</p>	<p>There is c.695 health and fitness members at the site, pre Covid it had 1,100. It delivers 34 fitness classes per week.</p> <p>The two squash courts have increased in popularity since the closure of the Neath Leisure Centre courts. These courts are of strategic importance as they are now the only publicly available courts in the area. There are 2 courts at David Lloyd, however, a high-cost membership is required to access these.</p> <p>Indoor bowls is reported to be busy. A new carpet and underlay were laid in July 2022. Welsh disability bowls is based at the centre. Over 60s programme at this site is particularly popular.</p> <p>The 3G pitch was refurbished in 2019. It has a shock pad to enable it to be used for rugby training and junior matches. (It is not large enough for senior rugby matches). It is reported to be well used by clubs and teams.</p> <p>Consultation indicated that since the new Neath leisure opened the footfall to this site has deteriorated, and it is having a detrimental effect on user numbers.</p> <p>There is a need to improve energy efficiency and invest in green technology in order to meet the NPT carbon reduction targets.</p>	<p>equipment is welcomed, it is unlikely to have a significant impact as the building itself requires investment and modernisation.</p> <p>The sports hall floor requires replacement.</p> <p>Any future proposals for a new swimming pool may provide a good opportunity to modernise and improve the quality and attractiveness of facilities generally.</p> <p>There is a need to protect the existing squash courts and to drive up participation to ensure the courts are well used.</p> <p>Any future leisure development in this area should consider a matted studio for martial arts due to reported demand.</p> <p>Improve the energy efficiency of building fabric, including M&E to reduce overall running costs (and carbon emissions).</p>
<p>Neath Sports Centre</p>		
<p>Facility mix</p>	<p>Site visit observations</p>	<p>Strategic action</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 400m athletics track ◀ 25 station health and fitness gym. ◀ Strength and conditioning gym. ◀ 8 court sports hall. ◀ 3G football pitch 	<p>This facility has significant school use during the day. (It is not a dual use site).</p> <p>The 5 grass pitches are managed by a sports association and the remaining facilities by Celtic Leisure.</p> <p>This site is reported to have the largest sports hall in the area, an 8-badminton court hall which is below average quality. It is primarily used for shows, events, and roller skating.</p> <p>The 3G pitch is in good condition, the carpet was replaced in 2019. It is reportedly well used.</p>	<p>New floodlights are required for the athletics track.</p> <p>Consider reviewing the use of the sports hall, consider if a 4-court hall would be sufficient in size and whether the other four courts could be used to attract more users to the centre. (e.g. children's adventure play).</p> <p>Improve the quality of the health and fitness and strength and conditioning gyms. There is a need to ensure that the provision is geared primarily towards the athletes and club members (athletics, football, rugby, cricket) and has an emphasis on strength and</p>

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	<p>The bar area which overlooks the pitches is reported to be well attended and a good income generator.</p> <p>The fitness gym and strength and conditioning are tired and require investment to improve the quality. Provision is distributed across two rooms.</p> <p>Fitness classes have typically taken place in the bar area or the sports hall. The plan is to move them to the new Neath Leisure Centre when it opens with the exception of circuits which has a large number of attendees that cannot be accommodated at the new centre.</p> <p>Consultation reports that the NERS programme - is popular and well attended.</p> <p>There is a need to improve energy efficiency and invest in green technology in order to meet the NPT carbon reduction targets.</p>	<p>conditioning. The new Neath Leisure Centre (0.5 miles away) needs to focus on health and wellbeing and getting the inactive to be active to avoid duplication.</p> <p>Ensure that the fitness programme complements the fitness offer at the new Neath Leisure Centre and that the two centres do not try to offer the same programme.</p> <p>Improve the energy efficiency of building fabric, including M&E to reduce overall running costs (and carbon emissions).</p> <p>Ensure that any developments on site continue meet the continued needs of the school and college.</p>
Aberavon Leisure & Fitness Centre		
Facility mix	Site visit observations	Strategic action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 8 lane 25m pool, learner pool ◀ 100 station health and fitness gym plus free weights ◀ 2 studios ◀ 1 spin ◀ 4 court sports hall ◀ Childrens soft play ◀ Café 	<p>Opened in January 2016, the sea-front facility is modern and attractive. It has 83 parking spaces (including disabled parking) which is insufficient for the size and scale of the facility particularly at peak times.</p> <p>As a modern facility, the centre has some energy saving measures in place such as LED lights, sensors, PIRs taps/water flush, pool covers, light reflectors. It however could do more, such as investing in PV panels on the roof of the facility.</p> <p>There is a need to improve energy efficiency and invest in green technology in order to meet the NPT carbon reduction targets.</p> <p>There are currently 1,700 health and fitness members (2,200 members pre-Covid). Celtic Leisure delivers 41 fitness classes per week and there is a youth fitness programme delivered 3.30pm-5.30pm of a weekday and 11am – 6pm at the weekend.</p>	<p>Seek opportunities to work with neighbouring businesses to enhance the parking provision.</p> <p>Improve the energy efficiency of building fabric, including M&E to reduce overall running costs (and carbon emissions).</p> <p>Continue to drive up participation to pre Covid levels. Undertake membership postcode analysis to see where members live and target the places where there are fewer members within a reasonable catchment.</p>

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	<p>A Watt bike area has been trialled at the top of the stairs and is proving to be popular with members.</p> <p>The spin studio has x25 bikes including Myride and virtual classes. It is 18m x 10m and has a low ceiling. There is also a dance studio that is used for fitness classes.</p> <p>In terms of aquatics provision the 8 lane 25m pool has a moveable floor on one half of the main pool and there is a separate learner/teaching pool. It accommodates school swimming lessons during the day and has an evening programme which caters for casual swimming, swim for fitness, clubs and aquatic classes. The site visit identified that the pool was not particularly busy with lots of down time between sessions.</p> <p>The learn to swim school currently has 650 children accessing swimming lessons (750 pre-Covid). Swimming lessons take place Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and on a Saturday morning.</p> <p>Consultation identified that the capacity of children receiving swimming lessons was being hindered by the lack of swimming teachers. It should be noted that there is a National shortage of swim teachers since the Covid-19 Pandemic due to people leaving the profession during the lockdown periods. In addition, the centre hosts the national water polo team one Sunday per month.</p> <p>The site audit identified that there is a link to health through the National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS). The health team operates from the centre then there is a reduced rate membership / pay and play access agreement. In addition, there are some free activities for people aged 60+ to attend which includes keep fit, Jazz, fit for life, aqua aerobics. Aqua aerobics is reported to be the most popular activity.</p>	<p>Conduct a programme review to ensure that pool sessions have seamless transitions, and that there is opportunity for fitness members to access the pool of a midweek evening. Consider whether some Club swimming could take place early morning to release pool time of an evening for fitness and casual swimming.</p> <p>Devise and implement a plan to recruit and train lifeguards and swim teachers. Consider partner opportunities with Active Young People, the Colleges and University. There may be a need to consider the 'package' on offer and the rate of pay to make the role more attractive.</p> <p>Increase opportunities for people living in areas of higher deprivation.</p> <p>Work with health partners to increase physical activity to people that need to be healthier and more active.</p> <p>Conduct a programme review to ensure that the sports hall groups are delivering a well-balanced programme with opportunities for</p>
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	<p>The sports hall has large run offs and good spacing between each of the badminton courts. (It is understood that the hall was initially built as a tenpin bowling alley and then had the roof raised to accommodate sports hall sports). The main sports hall users are basketball, indoor rounders, football, netball, walking for sport, large fitness classes and circuit training.</p> <p>The Café bar is situated in the reception area (a separate desk and function to the reception desk). It is operated by the leisure centre. With the need to make efficiencies, the operating hours of the café is limited, and vending machines have been installed for the times that the café is unstaffed. The audit identified that at peak times the café is not open, and people are choosing to bring their own food and beverage or visit a neighbouring outlet and bringing the hot drinks into the centre and sit in the café area.</p> <p>There is also a soft play area in the entrance to the facility which was added in summer of 2016. It is a 3-storey structure that opened in February 2022.</p> <p>It is open Monday – Friday 10am until 7pm and 9.30am – 7.00pm of a weekend. Costs are £3 for a member and £3.50 for a non-member. Consultation identified that when it first opened it attracted more families to the centre and the substantially increased the utilisation of the café area; however, this has not been sustained.</p> <p>When the building opened, it had a youth club area, which had a separate entrance/exit and consisted of a community room with kitchenette and a small classroom adjacent. Consultation identified that unfortunately the co-location of the two elements did not work for either party and the youth club is no longer based at the leisure centre, The area is now used a multipurpose room and the classroom area for birthday parties / coach education courses etc.</p>	<p>women and girls, older people, recreation sport as well as competitive play.</p> <p>Seek opportunities to amalgamate the reception and café as a single desk, that will enable at quieter times the café to remain open and be served by the reception staff and at peak times there to be dedicated staff to serve food and drink. Being able to access quality food and drink is important to increase dwell time and generate secondary spend. This is also very important from a social aspect.</p> <p>There is a need to consider investing in new features / new elements to refresh the facility. This facility also delivers the best financial outcomes when it has a good food and beverage offer. If parents cannot access good quality food and drink whilst their children play, they will not be attracted to the facility.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to re-purposing the youth facility, some suggestions for consideration are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Additional studio. ◀ NHS/Community health space. ◀ Adult social care. ◀ Nursery / creche. ◀ Library.
Vale of Neath Leisure Centre		
Facility mix	Site visit observations	Strategic action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 30 station health and fitness gym ◀ Free weights room ◀ Activity hall (1 badminton court) 	<p>Built 1996, and refurbished in 2008. The facility is ageing and will, in the future require refurbishment.</p>	<p>Consider whether moving the health and fitness provision to the activity hall would increase the space available. The health and</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Leisure pool 25m x 3 lanes with flumes 	<p>This is an important facility for the people living in the rural north of the county borough.</p> <p>Consultation identified there are 500 health and fitness members at the site. It is understood that there are plans to upgrade the fitness equipment in early 2023 when the new Neath LC site opens.</p> <p>The health and fitness offer is restricted by the size of rooms available. 9 fitness classes and three aqua aerobics classes are delivered per week.</p> <p>The activity hall is below average in quality– previously used for NERS / stroke support but not anymore. It is now primarily used for group fitness classes.</p> <p>The swimming pool accommodates school swimming during the day and lessons and casual swimming at other times.</p> <p>The 1:1 swim lesson programme is reported to be in high demand at this site. Also popular are the aqua aerobics classes.</p> <p>There is a need to improve energy efficiency and invest in green technology in order to meet the NPT carbon reduction targets.</p>	<p>fitness gym and free weights area could then become studio space for fitness classes.</p> <p>Improve the energy efficiency of building fabric, including M&E to reduce overall running costs (and carbon emissions).</p>
Portardawe Swimming Pool		
Facility mix	Site visit observations	Strategic action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ 6 lane 25m swimming pool ◀ Learner/teaching pool 	<p>Built in 1974, this facility was not audited as it was temporarily closed awaiting urgent maintenance due to serious structural defects.</p> <p>Consultation identified that the site caters for 900 swimming lessons per week and delivers 3 aqua aerobics classes per week.</p>	<p>The building is beyond economic repair and it is only a matter of time before the poor condition forces permanent closure.</p> <p>There is a need to undertake a swimming masterplan to understand if there is a need to replace the facility.</p>

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General observations:

- ◀ There appears to be a passive approach to programming leisure centres with the operator not developing and delivering programmes of activity.
- ◀ The centres seem to be focused solely on what is happening within their buildings with little outreach and external engagement with their local communities. All outreach work is currently completed by NPT.
- ◀ There is a need to do more to attract local people into facilities, especially those within walking distance of the leisure centres.
- ◀ The youth gym is popular, is there scope for a broader range of junior activities at the centres.
- ◀ There is an opportunity to develop and deliver more daytime activities for the 60+ age group.
- ◀ Celtic Leisure staff are not as energy-conscious and environmentally aware as we have seen in other parts of the country. There does not appear to be an awareness that every member of staff has a role to play in minimizing consumption of energy, such as when activity areas are not in use.
- ◀ There appears to be a notion at Celtic Leisure that because of the wind farm subsidy there is no need to be concerned about energy. Moving forward, there is a need to check and challenge current behaviours.
- ◀ The sites are seemingly not as busy as they should be. There is a need for a review to identify programming opportunities which deliver key outcomes and income generation and provide a slicker transition between activities.

Celtic Leisure also operates the Gwyn Hall theatre. This was not audited as part of the KKP sports facilities review; however, consultation identified no cross selling between the theatre programme and the leisure centres. This is a missed opportunity.

3.2: Sports stakeholder consultation

A number of key stakeholders were identified by NPT for high level consultation. This included Council officers and key community sports clubs and providers. The key findings from the consultation process have been summarised below:

- ◀ There is a general consensus that there are ample sports facilities in NPT.
- ◀ Provision is generally good quality, there is however a need to maintain and improve current provision.
- ◀ Stakeholders are passionate about the where they live and the importance of sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Stakeholders are proud of the area in which they live/deliver activity.
- ◀ NPT environment offers lots of opportunity for all levels of activity.

In addition, the following points / opportunities were raised by consultees:

Consultee	Overview
Pontardawe Community Sports and Recreation Association	<p>Asset transfer of site 8 years ago. It has a 50-year lease of 2x cricket and 1x rugby pitch. The association maintains the pitches.</p> <p>The Association feels that the poor quality facilities limit growth. The pavilion is in very poor condition it is not accessible for people with disabilities, the floodlights don't work, the pitches are not secure and are heavily used by dog walkers.</p> <p>The rugby section is particularly passionate about investing and improving the facilities at the site. It reports that there are no opportunities for girls as the facilities do not cater for girls. The layout of the</p>

COUNTER CULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

Consultee	Overview
	<p>pavilion means that it can only be used by a single sex (which includes officials and players) and there are no spectator toilets.</p> <p>Parking is also a challenge; the site has a single track and not enough parking to accommodate the range of activities taking place.</p> <p>The Association has been successful with a regeneration grant to improve the quality of the pitches; however, as it does not own the pavilion it is unable to apply for grants or funding to improve the facility.</p> <p>The site is on a popular walking cycle route.</p> <p>The future of the pavilion is of major concern to the Association. It fears that if it gets vandalised or any worse that it cannot be used. On this basis, the clubs and teams that train there will not be able to continue to use the site.</p> <p>The Association has an ambition for a skatepark to be located on site.</p>
Sports Development Officer	<p>The Sports Development Team currently consists of 35 staff, three of which are core funded with the rest funded by Public Health/Sport Wales. The majority are part time. They are based in schools and at the 15 community centres in NPT.</p> <p>There is no cross selling of activities. As an example, the theatre hosts the sports awards but there are no initiatives to cross sell activity and opportunity between the theatre and leisure centres.</p> <p>There is no cohesive aquatics pathway; there are swimming lessons and clubs (lifesaving, swim waterpolo) but they all work independently.</p> <p>There is good gymnastics offer locally; the Club has its own dedicated venue which is good quality.</p> <p>There are enough facilities in the area, they just require ongoing maintenance and future investment.</p> <p>There is a need for better quality youth rugby offer in the area.</p> <p>There is a lack of girl's football provision.</p> <p>There is a lot of bowls provision in NPT, a review is required to determine if there is too much or could they be consolidated.</p> <p>There is a need for better links from school to community sport – Pupils complete bronze, silver and gold levels in volunteers for Active Young People, but this it is not linked to Celtic Leisure employment opportunities. This is a missed opportunity especially given the lack of swim teachers and lifeguards.</p> <p>The successful NERS programme has two co-ordinators and three instructors; by increasing this there is an opportunity to expand the delivery of the programme.</p>
Relationship Manager Sport Wales	<p>Sport Wales is in the process of creating new partnership areas (the existing 22 authorities will feed into five strategic areas across Wales) which will be established by April 2024. It is a partnership between Police, Public Health, Rugby, and Street Games and will change how NPT can access funding.</p> <p>It is indicated that NPT council could access more funding support if meets the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Tackle inequality based on the results in the school survey. ▶ Focus on funding for staff and programme delivery, but not facilities. <p>To access the funding, a five-year investment plan is needed.</p> <p>Sport Wales considers NPT to be a well valued service and reports great relationships with officers.</p>

COUNTER CULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

Consultee	Overview
	<p>It reports there is two years of investment left and then funding will change. Early indications show there is likely to be an increased capital pot of a few hundred thousand pounds that can be applied for.</p>
<p>Trefelin Boys and Girls Football Club</p>	<p>The Club has 12 junior teams, 2 senior teams and one youth team. It has increased its number of teams over the last few years and aspires to continue to grow and improve its facilities.</p> <p>Recent investments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ New bar area ◀ Floodlights <p>The Club's facilities are available for other community groups to hire. Recently it has delivered mental health talks to its members and the wider community and lets its facilities to an annual Caravan Club event.</p> <p>Consultation identified that the Club is concerned about the increasing cost of energy and would like to invest in PV panels on the roof of the Clubhouse. It reports that it has identified a grant for £15k but the Club needs to pay £50k upfront to deliver the improvement. The club does not have the funds available to do that.</p> <p>It also has aspirations to replace the junior pitch fencing (behind the main pitch) and install floodlights and a 3G training area. The Club currently pays £80 per hour to hire a school 3G which is too high for the number of teams it has. It hopes that by having its own facilities it can reduce this cost and make the pitch available to the community.</p> <p>Since the consultation took place, it has been reported that the Club has secured £37k funding for PV solar panels and a storage battery.</p>
<p>Baglan Education Training Centre</p>	<p>There is a need to focus on the local community offer and the use of natural resources more. There are some good recent examples of this with the opening of old railways into cycle and walking routes. There is a need for communities to know what is available to them on their doorstep and for more opportunities.</p> <p>Public transport locally is a challenge particularly for people living in the more rural areas. For people living in areas of higher deprivation, there needs to be a physical activity offer available to them for little/no cost and good quality provision in schools (including extracurricular).</p> <p>Schools would welcome more sports coaches to deliver in schools however, they do not have the funds available to pay for it. The experience that qualified sports coaches bring is essential for the teaching of skills to pupils and really enhances the school offer.</p> <p>School swimming is highly valued by the schools however, the transport required to access swimming pools is a key challenge.</p> <p>The new curriculum presents opportunities to think and do things differently. There is an opportunity to consider how the sport and physical activity sector engages and re-engages with the community. Ideas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ There is a need for local community champions – like Joe Wickes but lives in NPT. ◀ Tandem promotions would be good between sport & culture e.g. swim and theatre.
<p>Bryncoch Sports Club</p>	<p>Consultation identified that the sports club mainly caters for cricket and rugby with some football. It was established in 1898 as Bryncoch Rugby Football Club. The Club disbanded during the First and Second World Wars and reformed in 1947.</p> <p>Pre the formation of the Club, the site consisted of five mining shafts. Unfortunately, there was a tragic accident, and a large number of miners lost their lives. Coal mining resumed and the company finally closed in 1928.</p> <p>The land was privately owned and after WW2 local residents bought the freehold (in 1949) and WRU loaned the money for the sports facilities to be developed. Since then, the club has continued to develop and has rugby teams at all ages from under 5 to seniors; with two senior teams. It has also</p>

COUNTER CULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

Consultee	Overview
	<p>developed a football and cricket section with junior football teams from 6 years to under 17s and two cricket teams. More recently, the club has welcomed an archery club (Neath Archery Club) and introduced a darts team.</p> <p>The sports club maintains all the grounds and uses the money from the membership to fund this and applies for funding as and when the opportunity arises. There is currently a drainage issue with the cricket outfield, and it is raising funds to resolve this.</p> <p>The Club has recently taken steps to reduce its carbon emissions and energy costs; it has installed solar panels, (grant funded and the coal board paid for the installation), and its floodlights are LED.</p> <p>There are ambitions to further extend the club to provide accessible toilets, a lift, meeting room, changing room, plant and fitness area. Costs are estimated to be in the region of c. £200k. This will enable some of the users with disabilities to access the whole of the clubhouse and use the Club's facilities. The archers currently have some members with disabilities and there is scope to increase the membership, but it is unable to due to the lack of accessible facilities.</p> <p>At the entrance to the site, in the woodland, there is heritage land identified as 'pristine woodland'. There is a desire to create a memorial garden and to improve the access to the site. Plans are in place to transition it from being natural woodland to become a garden of celebration in dedication to the miners. The Club is proud of its history and wants the site to reflect its history and be proud of the happy place it has become.</p> <p>The Club has started to engage with environmental, wildlife and historical groups and discussions with Heritage Lottery have taken place. Early indications are that they are keen to invest in the project (clubhouse extension and the development of community room) and the area generally.</p> <p>Longer term, the Club would like to increase the number of football pitches at the site, it has identified an area of land to do this.</p>
<p>Active Young People Coordinators (Neath Port Talbot Council)</p>	<p>The AYP team is grant funded by Sport Wales. The section is responsible for developing and delivering inclusive physical activity and sport opportunities across the County Borough. It works with a number of partners to reach as many young people as possible. Its main remit is school and community club delivery and holiday provision. In recent years, the move out of schools and into the community is reported to have been a success and has been well transitioned. It is important to keep the link with schools and officers being attached to them and this should remain.</p> <p>There are six officers delivering in all of the secondary schools. They deliver a Young Ambassador scheme and an inclusive clubs. They are based in school for a ½ day per week. The programme targets deprived areas and delivers as much free activity as possible to ensure that all young people can participate.</p> <p>Planning The team plan bottom up with information from the Sport Wales sport survey results, data from other surveys and focus groups. An away day is held in summer and winter time to plan and review the programme this should be used to bring staff together and plan. An annual Sport Plan is submitted to Sport Wales as per the funding agreement. Some of the projects and initiatives it has delivered include:</p> <p>Young Ambassadors This is key to the work the team do, it has created a pathway for sports leaders and coaches of the future and is reported to have been very successful.</p> <p>Health project One officer is taking the lead on a research project that is looking into girls participation at secondary level. The officer is working with the Health Authority obesity team looking to set up a community based multisport activity club that can link at risk / obese children into as a targeted approach.</p>

COUNTER CULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

Consultee	Overview
	<p>Netball Two officers are leading on the primary school netball. There have been a number of competitive festivals, which gives the opportunity to link girls into the netball clubs in the community. It is reported that there has been limited NGB resource in NPT over the past few years as the officer is operating over the South and west as a region. There has been large growth in the sport on recent years. Swansea Bay netball league has grown in 10 years to one of the biggest in Wales.</p> <p>Mountain Biking- This is another sporting pathway created through the AYP team, a twice weekly junior MB club has been developed at Margam Park, and a number of MB events have been staged.</p> <p>Schools Healthy Eating Programme (SHEP) The AYP team is the lead for physical activity element of the Welsh Government programme during school holidays.</p> <p>Holiday Sports Camps. The school holiday inclusive sports Camps are now well established with school-based camps in all holidays (apart from Christmas), the camps are free in our deprived communities. There has been a partnership developed with the local housing association, to pilot two fit and fed camps in deprived communities. This was successful and will be rolled out further in the summer holidays.</p> <p>The team lead the delivery of teaching children and adults to ride a bike and cycling skills. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Lead Mountain biking projects (April – September) ▶ Evening sessions and tasters in schools ▶ Supporting Welsh cycling – British champs and marathon biking ▶ Hiring of E bikes ▶ Organises events every month for inter school challenges. ▶ For 4 feeder schools in Aber Valley it delivers a biking programme, balance bikes, learn to ride etc ▶ Holiday programme – 2x day camps in x4 areas of NPT charging £15 per day 8.30am – 3pm and a trip at the end of the week ▶ Organises and delivers an Outdoor Adventure Activities camp which includes kayaking, surfing, mountain biking, inflatable park, disability programme, and inclusion camp. <p>The summer camps are sponsored and funded by local companies who also have volunteers to support delivery. Some sessions are funded by Sport Wales however, it does not cover staffing costs. Moving forwards there is a need to charge for activities to enable them to be sustainable. This will result in less opportunity for those that cannot afford to attend.</p> <p>It also operates a Friday night netball league. Consultation identified that there is latent demand for swimming and basketball in the area. In NPT each school receives two weeks of swimming lessons.</p> <p>In order to deliver more activity, additional staffing is required. Moving forwards, it highlights a need to promote existing and tourist opportunities in the area such as bike hire.</p>
Corporate Director of Education, Leisure and Culture	<p>There are good community facilities in NPT, they are highly valued by the community. The transfer of Celtic Leisure back in house will cost the Council more, however, it will have more control and will be able to address some of the underperformance issues. There is a need to maximise commerciality.</p> <p>There are however a number of key challenges ahead, including increased financial pressures due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The National minimum wage increase, there will be a significant increase in the cost of staffing leisure centres. ▶ Increase in the cost of energy. ▶ The risk of decrease in income levels. (The cost-of-living increase are likely to impact the level of disposable income and items that are deemed luxuries such as fitness memberships).

COUNTER CULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

Consultee	Overview
	<p>◀ The high levels of investments required to make the Council’s assets carbon neutral/as energy efficient as possible.</p> <p>The Council wants to sustain and improve the leisure offer to its residents and the transition to in-house delivery should enable a more streamlined service.</p> <p>The sporting heritage of the area is important, there is a need to capture the sporting history, celebrate and promote it.</p> <p>There is a need to attract more tourists to the area and tourists to know what is available in NPT.</p> <p>Welsh Rugby Football Union was established on 12th March 1881 at the Castle Hotel in Neath. Neath RFC is the oldest rugby club in Wales, it was formed in 1871.</p>
Surf School Wales	<p>Based at Aberavon Beach seafront, the company operates from four shipping containers with a decking and covered area. If it has groups, it has pop up tents that it uses as changing rooms. The main challenge is the lack of toilet and changing facilities.</p> <p>There is a public toilet and outdoor shower further along the seafront, but this presents challenges for groups with children with regards to safeguarding. It is also not accessible for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Consultation identified that there used to be taps located along the beach front which the public could use to wash sand off feet and for dogs to get a drink but these have been removed and are missed by members of the public. There is also a surf lifesaving group that operates on the beach.</p> <p>The beach is reported to be one of the best beaches around, it has the least natural hazards, no currents or rocks.</p> <p>Other beach users include jet skiers, surfers, say kayakers and sea swimmers/dippers. There are also events that take place in the summer months which include running, and triathlon. There are reported to be three surf schools operating from the beach. Plus, additional ‘nomadic’ surf school providers. Stand Up Paddleboarding operates only when the conditions allow.</p> <p>The general opinion is that the beach is not used to its full potential, and there appears to be no collective vision for it and that everyone is operating in silos. There is a need for partnership working to reach its full potential. The group is concerned that activities are being delivered from the beach that are unsafe and that are unlicensed. In terms of surf delivery, it feels that the Welsh Surf Federation affiliation should be in place for large groups operating at the beach.</p> <p>Opportunities for beach improvement include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ A dedicated beach manager ◀ A ‘friends of Aberavon Beach’ group could be established for operators and users of the beach. ◀ A need for improved food and beverage offer in the summer months. ◀ Improved signage especially for people using inflatables in the water. ◀ Improved signage and way marking/distance marking. ◀ Increased safety and supervision in the summer months (RNLI only cover until 6pm). ◀ Increased parking on the beachfront. ◀ Increased activities such as skateboarding – the current area is inadequate. There is a close link between surfing and skateboarding, as it is easy to transfer skills from one sport to the other. ◀ Signage to on the motorway to encourage people to stop at NPT.
Triathlon Coaching Wales	<p>The group operates coaching sessions for adults. It has c.15 members and caters for adults only. It used to provide for juniors pre Covid; however, the juniors have increased in age and are now seniors. It hires three lanes of the swimming pool at Aberavon Beach for 3 hours per week 6.30am – 7.30am Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. For running and cycling, it links to other running and cycling groups.</p>

COUNTER CULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

Consultee	Overview
	<p>Consultation indicates that there is a running track and cycle ways and routes that can be on/off road and that there are options for all abilities. For some people, they cycle online only, and that Zwift racing is increasing in popularity.</p> <p>It identifies a need for more junior provision and talent development; however, it recognises the challenges with accommodating juniors as there is a need for an increased number of volunteers and the club volunteers require more qualifications and training. This is not something that it can accommodate at present.</p>
Port Talbot Harriers	<p>Established in 1921, the club is a running and multi-sport club (run, cycle and swim). It is located in a portacabin at Port Talbot Town Cricket Club.</p> <p>The Club has experienced rapid growth from 45 members to 500 in recent years. Approximately 5 years ago it added the cycling and swimming to the club and this it feels has resulted in its expansion. The Club charges £20 per year plus subsidises events and transport. There are no weekly subs.</p> <p>The weekly programme consists of two running session and two swimming sessions at Aberavon Beach Leisure Centre. The cycling elements take place individually or on the few spin bikes it has located at the clubhouse.</p> <p>The Club also organises the Tata Steelman event every year (a half ironman).</p> <p>At present, the Club currently does not cater for juniors, it aspires to; however, the running elements take place on the road and it is not safe for juniors. A track is required for junior activity. It identifies that there is a shale track at Ysgol Bae Baglan School. It is, however, only available in the summer as it has no floodlights and the surface is affected by the weather. This means that the Club could only offer junior activity in the summer months which does not work in terms of growth and retention.</p> <p>The Club recently celebrated its 100th anniversary and accessed heritage funding. To celebrate the centenary, the Club President John Davies wrote a book about the Club's 100-year history which is available to buy. It has roller banners on display in the clubhouse for members and visitors to read.</p> <p>One of the main assets of NPT is reported to be the topography of the land. For walking/running/cycling as there is flat, hilly and mountainous terrain to suit all tastes and abilities.</p> <p>Consultation identified a need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Increased signposting in the area for walk/ cycle/runs. ◀ Distance markers on the promenade. ◀ There is a need to promote sporting activity for tourists in the area, especially once the Wildfox Adventure Resort development is completed. (Summer 2026). ◀ Identified that the car park area of the old BP site could be used by clubs/groups for junior activity if cleared and some drainage installed. ◀ Feel that Celtic Leisure needs to focus on health and wellbeing and physical activity especially mental health.

COUNTER CULTURE – NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL CULTURE STRATEGY (HERITAGE, SPORTS, TOURISM & ARTS)

3.3: SWOT and gap analysis

Strengths

- ◀ The importance of health and wellbeing is understood.
- ◀ The natural assets (topography) of the area – mountains, forest, rivers, canals and the beach.
- ◀ People – NPT sports stakeholders are passionate about the area, and its people.
- ◀ Residents are proud of its sporting achievements to date.
- ◀ There are aspirations to enhance the current offer and improve current facilities.
- ◀ Continue to maintain the good quality sports facilities and plan for future investment in those that are ageing.

Weaknesses

- ◀ Celtic Leisure appears to be operating as a caretaker of facilities. It is not pro-active in the programming of facilities.
- ◀ Celtic Leisure has no relationship with health partners.
- ◀ It is a passive hirer of spaces.
- ◀ Junior community sports opportunities in NPT are lacking. Clubs aspire to have juniors but struggle to have the resources required (volunteers).
- ◀ There is a need for more girl's sport and physical activity opportunities.
- ◀ There is a need to invest in reducing energy consumption and decarbonisation.
- ◀ There is a need for improved signage to NPT and its assets.
- ◀ Community clubs are keen to make their facilities more energy efficient however they do not have the funds to be able to 'invest to save'.
- ◀ Need to develop more effective structures for cross-sector collaborative working, both within and beyond the Council.
- ◀ Not all built facilities have been considered as part of this report. (Only public leisure centre provision has been audited and reviewed).

Opportunities

- ◀ Opportunity for better links between leisure operations and health and wellbeing partners.
- ◀ Utilise the opportunity to co-locate services and build partnership working at Aberavon Leisure Centre (youth club space), with potential partners such as health care, adult social care etc.
- ◀ To create a dynamic service with opportunities for young people including future workforce pathway– apprenticeships/ young leaders – assistant coaches – qualified staff.
- ◀ Increase slow travel (cycling and walking) and active travel.
- ◀ Bringing the leisure service back in house presents an opportunity to link Active Young People Ambassadors with staff recruitment challenges at Celtic Leisure, particularly the recruitment of lifeguards and swim teachers.
- ◀ Increase partnership working opportunities such as creating a 'Friends of Aberavon Beach' group.
- ◀ Approach Sport Wales for additional funding and consider future capital projects.
- ◀ Consider amending the layout of the reception area at Aberavon LC to incorporate the café to reduce the levels of staffing required to operate both reception and the café at quieter times.
- ◀ Identify opportunities to cross sell activities such as theatre/cinema and a free swim pass etc.
- ◀ Consider undertaking a Sports Facilities Needs Assessment and Strategy and action plan to determine the current and future need for sports facilities in the area and what investment may be required. This would also review the capacity of existing facilities to understand if there is a need for replacement / additional provision.

Threats

- ◀ The cost of bringing the leisure service in house will put additional financial strain on the Council.
- ◀ The increased cost to operate and run facilities (staffing and energy increases).
- ◀ The cost-of-living crisis makes it more challenging for people to be able to afford to participate in activities that cost money.
- ◀ Pontardawe Swimming Pool is beyond economic repair and it is only a matter of time before the poor condition forces permanent closure. There is a need to determine future demand for a pool in the area and identify the costs involved to replace the pool.
- ◀ People in rural communities may become more isolated with limited public transport available.

3.4: Conclusions and recommendations

Following the site visits and consultation, it is clear that utilising the area's natural assets and preserving it for future generations is imperative to all stakeholders. There is an urgent need to decarbonise assets and reduce energy consumption in both the public and community facilities.

The insourcing of Celtic Leisure presents an opportunity to review staffing structures, programmes and business operations to ensure it meets the current and future needs of the NPT population.

In increasingly difficult financial times, the ability of people living in more rural and deprived communities to access provision is critical and consideration needs to be given to transport (including active travel) and the connectivity of people and communities.

The new curriculum presents opportunities to be creative and innovative and for sport and physical activity to demonstrate where it can contribute to this.

There is a need to ensure that the 'area of power' (steel, wind, coal and water) creates powerful people (strong and skilful) and well-connected communities through collaborative working.

There is a need to access any funding opportunities that arise and ensure that the maximum amount of funding is obtained from any current funders. NPT stakeholders are proud and passionate, they care about the future.

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Neath Port Talbot Culture Strategy

Public Consultation Results and
Analysis

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27 April 2023

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1. Public Consultation - Approach

Following an extended period of stakeholder consultation the Counterculture team produced a document outlining some initial findings and draft themes. They also designed a public questionnaire, with input from NPT officers, and drawing on the insights gained from the stakeholder consultation process, which enabled members of the public to respond to the initial findings, but which would also be accessible to people who had not read (or who had only skimmed) the initial findings document.

The questionnaire was designed to be able to be completed either online or in person. In person consultations were conducted in public spaces including Gnoll and Margan parks, Aberover the period 6-9 February 2023 (with a small number completed at other events in February 2023).

The questionnaire was available online through the NPT website from 10th February 2023 to 5th March 2023.

The consultation was promoted via:

- The council's website on the consultation pages www.npt.gov.uk/consultations.
- Posters on TV screens in Neath and Port Talbot Bus Stations and Neath Train Station.
- The council's corporate social media accounts, and shared by relevant service accounts.
- A press release.
- An email to all NPT Council Elected Members.
- An email to the NPT Citizens' Panel informing them of the consultation and asking them to complete the questionnaire.
- The NPT Community of Practice (CoP) on Involvement and Engagement meeting of 15th February 23 with a request that CoP members help promote it to their stakeholder groups.
- Internal channels for NPT Council employees, including the weekly staff bulletin, Yammer and the intranet.

2. Respondent Numbers and Profile

A total of 288 responses were received, plus six that were so minimally completed as not to be able to be usefully included in the data.

The questionnaire commenced with several questions designed to clarify the nature of the respondent's work and some information about their relationship to the culture sector and the local authority.

Responses were as follows:

Response	Number selecting	%age selecting
I live in Neath Port Talbot	237	82.3%
I work for Neath Port Talbot Council	42	14.6%
I am a member of the Armed Forces	1	0.3%
I am an Armed Forces veteran	4	1.4%
I work in Neath Port Talbot	59	20.5%
I am unemployed	6	2.1%
I own/run a business in Neath Port Talbot	31	10.8%
I am retired	78	27.1%
I am a volunteer in Neath Port Talbot	57	19.8%
I am in school	1	0.3%
I am an unpaid carer	13	4.5%
I am a college/university student	2	0.7%
I use services provided by NPT Council	88	30.6%
I am a NPTCBC elected member/AS/MP/community councillor	15	5.2%
I work for a third sector or voluntary organisation in NPT	12	4.2%
Other	18	6.3%

2.1 Analysis

As expected, most respondents live in NPT. We believe that most of those who do not will be visitors whose responses were captured via in-person questionnaires at locations such as Margam Park and Gnoll.

The proportion of members and employees of NPT council is very much higher than their proportions in the population, showing (understandably) greater awareness of and

interest in the culture strategy amongst these groups. We do not consider that the proportions are high enough to unhelpfully skew the responses and were gratified to see that fifteen elected members (from Neath Port Talbot Council, Senedd and Community Councils) completed the survey, representing a large number of constituents.

We were pleased by the number of retired people, business owners and volunteers responding. Serving members of the armed forces are proportionately represented. However, veterans and unemployed people (slightly), unpaid carers, people working in NPT and (particularly) students and school pupils are underrepresented (a fact borne out by the age profile of respondents – see Section 11). We will undertake additional work to engage young people and ensure that our stakeholder engagement is used to represent the views of other groups underrepresented in the public consultation.

3. Cultural Engagement

3.1 Cultural Activity Data

The next section of the questionnaire asked respondents whether they had taken part in a range of cultural activities over the last 12 months.

For each activity the response options were:

- Never
- Once or twice
- Occasionally (3-5 times)
- Regularly (6+ times)

The table below sets out the responses for each of fifteen activities asked about:

	% never	% once or twice	% occasionally	% regularly	% total
Take part in a creative class or workshop	53%	23%	8%	16%	100%
Take part in a creative community project	54%	21%	10%	16%	100%
Watch a concert or gig	28%	33%	21%	17%	100%
Watch a dance performance	74%	19%	4%	3%	100%
Watch a play, musical or other theatrical performance	34%	31%	22%	13%	100%
Visit a cinema	26%	32%	23%	19%	100%
Visit an art gallery or exhibition	44%	31%	18%	7%	100%
Visit a library	34%	23%	16%	27%	100%
Visit a museum	39%	32%	22%	7%	100%
Attend an event or festival	23%	45%	26%	6%	100%
Watch a local sporting fixture or event	37%	28%	11%	24%	100%
Take part in a local sporting fixture or event	78%	11%	4%	7%	100%
Participate in an activity at a local sports club	64%	13%	6%	17%	100%
Undertake an activity within a local leisure centre	51%	18%	11%	20%	100%
Volunteer (e.g., coach) within a local sports club	82%	4%	3%	10%	100%

The table below shows the activities ranked by the percentage of respondents who participated in them “occasionally” or “regularly” in the last 12 months:

Activity	<i>Percentage of respondents doing this occasionally or regularly in last 12 months</i>
Visit a cinema	42%
Visit a library	42%
Watch a concert or gig	38%
Watch a play, musical or other theatrical performance	35%
Watch a local sporting fixture or event	35%
Attend an event or festival	32%
Undertake an activity within a local leisure centre	31%
Visit a museum	29%
Take part in a creative community project	26%
Visit an art gallery or exhibition	25%
Take part in a creative class or workshop	24%
Participate in an activity at a local sports club	22%
Volunteer (e.g., coach) within a local sports club	13%
Take part in a local sporting fixture or event	11%
Watch a dance performance	7%

3.2 Cultural Activity Analysis

The order of activities that were most frequently engaged in is unsurprising and broadly reflects wider national trends. Some activities (e.g., volunteering in a local sports club) are represented more highly than one might expect to see across the population and others (e.g., museum visits) seem underrepresented. This may reflect the demographics of the

cohort or the cultural emphases and facilities of the area (e.g., strong sporting history, no accredited museum collection).

It is encouraging to see that participatory activities are well represented. This suggests that a culture strategy with significant elements of participation and volunteering will be successful for Neath Port Talbot.

4. Local Assets

4.1 Information Presented

Respondents were presented with the following information about local assets, drawn from the initial findings document:

Your Assets

- Neath Port Talbot boasts some of the most outstanding open spaces in the region including parks (Margam, Gnoll), forests and moorlands.
- You have outstanding buildings, many of them connected to your history as a pioneering part of the industrial revolution (Brunel's dock, Margam Castle, Neath Abbey Ironworks, the canal system) but also stretching back much further (Aberdulais, Neath Abbey) with 44 Grade I and II* listed buildings and over 400 Grade II.
- Our consultations show how proud local people are of your area and there are many groups of passionate, hard-working volunteers who help preserve and explain your arts, culture and heritage.
- The council, creative businesses, regional and national partners, educational institutions, and other stakeholders are keen to see a thriving culture in Neath Port Talbot and are committed to supporting the cultural strategy.
- You have a long history of producing outstanding talent in the performing arts and sport and your three main theatres and many pitches and other community venues provide opportunities to nurture future talent.
- Neath Town Centre has a growing creative quarter with independent galleries and studios.
- Neath Port Talbot is blessed with great natural assets for residents and visitors – you can walk the hills, mountain bike in the forests and swim in the sea.
- You are well connected with motorway and mainline rail links and Cardiff airport serving over 30 destinations directly.

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with this assessment and if they thought there is "anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or should be highlighted in the final strategy as an issue or challenge that needs addressing?"

4.2 Responses

Not at all	6	2.8%
To some extent	106	49.8%
Very much so	101	47.4%
	213	100.0%

The table above shows that 47.4% of the 213 respondents who had read the assets statement very much agreed with it and 49.8% somewhat did (total 97.2%).

Comments on the assets statement were made by over 120 people (reproduced in full – Appendix A). Key or recurring themes of the comments included:

- Lots of comments on individual assets that people felt should feature (or feature more prominently) in the final strategy. Most frequently mentioned were libraries, canals, volunteers, artists and craftspeople, Cefn Coed Colliery Museum, Aberafan Beach, Pontardawe, the tunnels, Afan Forest Park, Port Talbot Artwalk, Jersey Park, Sarn Helen
- Issues with Neath Town Centre, which several respondents said was neglected, and some felt was dangerous.
- Related to this there were lots of comments about retail assets in Neath and Port Talbot
- There was some (but not huge) demand for additional assets – the addition of a new museum and reopening/ reuse of Cefn Coed Colliery Museum were the most frequent requests.
- Several people felt that the Culture Strategy ambition was not reflective of how the Council treats some aspects of heritage currently and, particularly, were critical of planning decisions that allowed demolition of older buildings.
- Lots of comments discussed signposting, maps, and marketing – an indication that respondents feel that the assets are good and that attention needs to be given principally to raising awareness of them.
- Respondents would like to see the older history of the area (neolithic, Roman and pre industrial) considered more fully.
- Poor public transport was mentioned as a problem in accessing cultural assets.
- There were a small number of comments directly disagreeing with the analysis and/or critical of the Council for its performance on cultural and heritage issues.

4.3 Analysis

It seems that there is broad agreement amongst those surveyed about the assets of the area. Although people wanted to suggest additions (most of which didn't feature in the initial findings document simply because of constraints of space) there were very few

respondents who felt that the assets were overstated or that things initially identified should not be on the list.

There is little demand for new or additional built assets and a strong emphasis on the management, maintenance, and publicising of existing assets. Given the obvious strengths of Neath Port Talbot in volunteer groups empowering these and helping them to grow and remain resilient is vital.

The challenge of NPT not being a naturally cohesive single community is always near the surface and there is a definite undercurrent of people from different parts of the Council's area feeling that other parts are receiving all the attention/funding. Our view is that this feeling is not supported by any evidence. Clearly the whole of NPT needs to be served as well as possible by the Culture strategy, but Counterculture's view is that focussed investment in those assets which are most significant and will most cost effectively tell your story and engage local and visitor audiences is vital, despite the disappointment it can lead to in other communities.

5. Issues and Challenges

5.1 Information Presented

Respondents were presented with the following information about issues and challenges, drawn from the initial findings document:

Issues and Challenges

Infrastructure

- Although transport to the borough is good, transport (especially public transport) around the borough is difficult, particularly in more rural areas.
- There is little dedicated gallery space in the borough.
- The collections from Cefn Coed and Neath Museum are not currently accredited or on public display.
- Cefn Coed is an underutilized asset that requires a financially sustainable solution.
- Some heritage sites have a poor interpretation and wayfinding.
- There is a need for continued investment in green technology to reduce carbon emissions in arts, heritage, and leisure facilities.

Communities

- Significant areas of deprivation across the borough and some communities face barriers to accessing arts, sport and heritage.
- In a geographically large borough, the different assets and facilities are not evenly spread between communities so there's a need to ensure everyone benefits.

- Much of your industrial heritage was built making profits from the working class and with impact on the Welsh language and culture and care need to be taken in telling those stories.

Creativity

- There is a need to grow skills in several areas such as conservation and heritage and collections care and management.
- Many of the people with memories of heavy industries in the borough are older and this industrial heritage is moving away from “living memory”.

Policy

- Need to develop more effective structures for cross-sector collaborative working, both within and beyond the Council.
- Develop a clear decision-making framework for prioritization of projects to deliver a strategy with external partners.
- Work out how to cultural activities can contribute to the growth of the Welsh language in a predominantly English-speaking borough.

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with this assessment and if they thought there is “anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or should be highlighted in the final strategy as an issue or challenge that needs addressing?”

5.2 Responses

Not at all	4	1.9%
To some extent	77	36.7%
Very much so	129	61.4%
	210	100.0%

The table above shows that 61.4% of the 210 respondents who had read the assets statement very much agreed with it and 36.7% somewhat did (total 98.1%).

Comments on the Issues and Challenges were made by over 100 people (reproduced in full – Appendix B). Key or recurring themes of the comments included:

- By far the most commonly cited problem was poor public transport provision.
- A feeling in both Welsh and English language submissions that there is a need to promote the Welsh language more. Contrasts were drawn between extensive St David’s Day events in Swansea with a lack of the same in NPT. Some respondents

felt that there were insufficient opportunities for adult learners to develop skills in Welsh.

- Recognition that disability inclusion is poor – a problem of physical access at some sites and events but also strongly correlated to poor public transport provision.
- A significant number of comments about the challenges of Cefn Coed Colliery Museum. Although the majority would like to see it reopened there were also multiple comments calling for its permanent closure.
- A desire for the Council to set clear priorities and fully fund operation of projects that secure capital funding to avoid white elephants.
- Challenge of linking the “many places to visit” effectively – both practically in terms of transport but also through trails, information, and signage.
- The need to link cultural activities to the health and well-being agenda.
- There was a perception amongst some respondents that the Council do not want to work with the voluntary sector. It seems that this is not universal but that “some departments” are seen to be obstructive.
- Numerous respondents want to see progress on reopening Aberdulais Falls.
- There was some desire to record memories of particular industries while they are still within living memory, but a stronger theme was a need to avoid overreliance on industrial heritage and develop a diverse heritage offer reflecting a longer view.
- A series of comments against wind turbines (which were not mentioned in the initial finding document) – but an approximately equal number suggesting greater investment in green technology.

5.3 Analysis

The single most cited problematic issue (public transport) lies outside the direct remit of the Culture Strategy. However, organisations with a passion for culture – whether in arts, heritage or sport – clearly have an important role to play in lobbying and other activities to drive public transport improvements. This aligns with Welsh Government’s policy priorities and their recent approach of avoiding major road schemes and focussing on public transport investment. Since rail currently serves the borough only along the coastal strip and no new routes are planned in the medium term, it is clear that improved bus services will be absolutely critical to the public transport needs of NPT and ensuring reliable services connecting key cultural facilities will be vital.

Having created significant local expectations for Cefn Coed Colliery Museum in the past which have not been fulfilled this remains a major problem. A recent report to the council looks at many of the issues raised by the public and makes some proposals for a way forward but it is clear that use as a major visitor attraction connected to its heritage will be an extremely expensive undertaking and we suspect that, if presented with the other

things that could be achieved with the same sum of money spent elsewhere, support for reopening would be less vociferous.

In keeping with the feedback on assets it is heartening that there is a widespread understanding that major new developments are probably not viable and that resources should be focussed on effective running and attracting visitors (local and tourist) to the excellent things NPT already has. Clearly the closure of Aberdulais Falls for such a long period has caused some friction and the Council needs to work with National Trust to ensure that their plans for reopening are robust, keep to time and are well communicated locally.

Counterculture's experience of working with NPT Council has been that members and officers are keen to work with the voluntary sector and have a great deal of respect for the work undertaken with voluntary groups. We understand, however, that the resource pressures faced by the Council mean that these groups receive less support than might have been the case some years ago, and would encourage the Council to communicate clearly to groups what support they can and cannot offer. Improvements to inter-departmental communication would also be helpful in ensuring that the volunteer groups that do so much to maintain and extend the area's arts and heritage receive the most effective support available within your resources.

A key aspect of the Culture Strategy will be linkage to Health and Wellbeing and, particularly to the provisions of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. It will be important for all stakeholders to ensure that the connections between cultural development and other benefits (health, wellbeing, education, skills and more) are clearly drawn without descending into a merely instrumentalist view of culture.

6. Strengths and Opportunities

6.1 Information Presented

Respondents were presented with the following information about strengths and opportunities, drawn from the initial findings document:

Strengths and Opportunities

Infrastructure

- Excellent transport to the region by road and rail. Proximity and connectivity to Swansea, Cardiff, Newport and Bristol.
- Wonderful range of natural assets – forests, beaches, moorland, rivers.
- Three main theatres (Princess Royal, Gwyn Hall, Pontardawe) of varying sizes.

- Major new library and leisure centre in Neath.
- Significant investment has been made in community leisure centres to ensure they meet the future needs of residents in NPT.
- Extensive range of heritage assets, many with opportunities for enhancement/expansion (e.g., Neath Abbey, Margam, Gnoll, Aberdulais, Brunel Dock, WAFERS museum).
- Major new visitor development planned in the Afan Valley (Wildfox).
- Aligned to the UNESCO Geopark who are keen to develop and grow a partnership.

Communities

- Long history of inventive communities with pride and passion for their area.
- Understanding of the importance of arts, culture, sport and heritage for health and wellbeing across the public and voluntary sectors.
- Collective desire to succeed and a collaborative spirit.
- Priority area for National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Creativity

- Many significant artists have come from Neath Port Talbot and inspire younger generations.
- Swansea University's £450m bay campus in the borough provides both a great venue for creative endeavours and courses in several relevant specialisms.
- Opportunities to build on the Swansea Bay City of Culture bid 2017.

Policy

- A bold new vision for culture will be developed through this cultural strategy with commitment from NPT Council to use the strategy to drive investment, growth and wellbeing.
- Enthusiasm from a range of national partners and funders for a more joined up approach flowing from a new cultural strategy.
- New Curriculum for Wales with greater emphasis on local history and culture and developmental pathways focussed on belonging, communication, exploration, physical development and well-being.
- New Welsh Government Cultural Strategy due 2023.
- New NPT Destination Management Plan being developed.
- “Dramatic Heart of Wales” brand a great opportunity for the visitor economy.
- Planned improvements at Neath Abbey and an ‘in-development’ National Lottery Heritage Fund bid for Margam Castle.

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with this assessment and if they thought there is “anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or should be highlighted in the final strategy as a strength or opportunity that needs addressing?”

6.2 Responses

Not at all	4	2.0%
To some extent	121	59.3%
Very much so	79	38.7%
<i>Total Responses</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>100.0%</i>

This question had a significantly lower rate of agreement than the challenges and weaknesses section, suggesting that the more negative aspects resonated more strongly with respondent.

Comments on the Strengths and Opportunities statement were made by nearly 100 people (reproduced in full – Appendix C). Key or recurring themes of the comments included:

- The need to emphasise community and small scale work, largely led by volunteers, with was seen as a particular strength by many.
- The effectiveness of the voluntary sector in working together to deliver cultural and other benefits was mentioned.

- The range of outdoor activities – the mountain biking trails and various activities at Margam were both cited – as good examples of future orientated opportunities with possibility for growth.
- Related to this the proposals for the Wildfox resort received a number of comments, with significant support but also a range of concerns, including about how much value would really flow to the local economy and environmental implications.
- The Dramatic Heart of Wales brand received positive comment – although some respondents felt that it needed wider publicising.
- There was recognition of the challenges facing leisure facilities (and some comments on the recent short notice closure of Pontardawe pool) and some positive comment on the return of the facilities to direct running by the Council.
- The inclusion of the plans for Neath Abbey Ironworks on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register should be recognised as a strength.
- Again this section had many comments on poor transport links.

6.3 Analysis

It is striking how much more positive comments on the assets aspects were than the opportunities. Some of this likely reflects the age profile of the respondents and the wider national mood, but we believe it also illustrates a need for key heritage and culture stakeholders – including but by no means limited to the Local Authority, to continually articulate a positive story about the considerable achievements in the area. There is clearly much goodwill towards the voluntary sector and clear recognition of the excellent work done by small, volunteer led organisations by larger bodies (e.g., an annual awards event) would generate a lot of goodwill.

We remain of the view that the Wildfox development is a great opportunity, but it obviously needs careful handling in order for benefits to be perceived as flowing to the community.

7. Vision

7.1 Information Presented

Respondents were presented with the following draft vision for Neath Port Talbot in 2040 drawn from the initial findings document:

2040... Neath Port Talbot has become a nationally recognised destination with a reputation for a high-quality and varied offer of arts, heritage and culture for visitors and residents.

The value of its two great historic parks – Gnoll and Margam – is internationally recognised and they host a wide range of high-quality major events as well as attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. Major restorations or development have taken place at Margam Castle, Neath Abbey, Briton Ferry Brunel Dock, Aberdulais and Cefn Coed. These venues, as well as Port Talbot and Neath town centres, have also been reanimated with ambitious programmes of events, significant public art commissions, new and growing creative businesses, and inclusive community projects.

New ways of working collaboratively have been invented and embraced by the public, private and voluntary sectors and there are passionate, committed groups ensuring arts, heritage and sport are accessed across the borough. Cultural activities are significantly improving people’s health and wellbeing.

Not only have tourist numbers grown, but the number of overnight stays is hugely increased, and local people enjoy towns and villages with a growing range of café, bars, restaurants, galleries, sports clubs and creative businesses providing high-quality jobs.

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with this assessment and if they thought there is “anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or should be highlighted in the final strategy?”

7.2 Responses

Not at all	11	5.4%
To some extent	120	59.4%
Very much so	71	35.1%
<i>Total Responses</i>	<i>202</i>	<i>100.0%</i>

This question had a significantly higher rate of total disagreement (5.4%) than any of the previous questions. Analysis of the responses suggests that this is more because these people felt the vision was unachievable than because they felt it was the wrong vision – though elements of both are clearly present.

It was clear that a number of respondents did not understand that the text as set out was a vision for how people will feel about/experience NPT in 2040 and the final strategy needs to set out the vision more clearly in the future tense.

Comments on the Vision were made by nearly 100 people (reproduced in full – Appendix D). Few of these comments really related to the question asked – things that ought to be included in the vision, but those which did are noted below:

- The vision needs to refer to natural heritage more explicitly.
- Strong vision and leadership is needed to regain the area's (Welsh) identity.
- Be clear about the necessity of cross sector (public/private/third sector) partnership.
- Public transport needs to be included to achieve any meaningful vision.
- Greater emphasis on wellbeing in the vision.
- Emphasis on new ways of working and collaboration being pioneered.

7.3 Analysis

It is not surprising that it is in response to the vision aspects of the Culture Strategy that there is the most striking prevalence of “parochial” comments in the responses. This is, perhaps, the less positive “flip side” to having a large number of residents who clearly care passionately about their village or town. There is clearly a need for political and other stakeholder leadership to foster, as far as possible, a sense of unity across Neath Port Talbot. Whilst recognising the challenges of fostering a sense of togetherness in a council area that is, in essence, a political construct, we believe that it is vital to your future success that more residents come to understand the success of the area as a whole as their success and develop a less “zero sum game” mentality about the allocation of investment.

That noted there were also a number of exceptionally helpful observations which will improve the iteration of the vision in the Culture Strategy.

8. Strategic Themes

8.1 Information Presented

Respondents were presented with five initial strategic themes for the Culture Strategy:

Innovation

Neath Port Talbot is a place of great innovation. From Ulrich Frosse building ultramodern copper smelting in the 17th century to Brunel's remarkable docks, to Richard Burton's development of the actor's craft. Our cultural strategy will celebrate past innovators, interrogate the more difficult parts of their stories, and inspire future, socially just, innovators.

Power

From black to green. The Afan, Neath and Tawe rivers used the power of water long before the world's highest quality coal transformed the world. Today, wind and solar power can again transforming Neath Port Talbot's future, and your industrial buildings, canals and docks provide new opportunities for arts, culture and leisure.

Nature and Wellbeing

Few other places have Neath Port Talbot's remarkable range of natural assets, from Aberavon beach, to Afan Forest Park. With canal towpaths, mountain bike trails and long distance walks Neath Port Talbot is perfectly placed to benefit from our increased understanding of the positive impact of nature on our health and wellbeing and the benefits of getting outdoors all year in all weathers!

Active and Unhurried Travel

We know we're not the fastest place to get around. But that can be a virtue! Walking, cycling and local buses are sustainable and help you see so much more of our beautiful area. We will focus transport improvements on being green, reliable and inclusive for everyone, more than on getting everywhere at super speed.

Welsh to our bones

For 1,000 years the people of Neath Port Talbot communicated in Welsh. We want to bring the beauty and richness of our place names, songs, poetry and more to both Welsh and English speakers through brilliant interpretation and signage and nation leading use of incidental Welsh.

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with the chosen themes and if they thought there is "anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or should be highlighted in the final strategy?"

8.2 Responses

Not at all	10	5.2%
To some extent	97	50.8%
Very much so	84	44.0%
<i>Total Responses</i>	<i>191</i>	<i>100.0%</i>

This question had a lower response rate (probably related to drop off as the survey progressed).

Comments on the assets statement were made by over 70 people (reproduced in full – Appendix E).

Common comments, or ones that we felt could really inform improvement of the key themes included:

- Some concerns about “Welsh to our bones”. Although the respondent was enthusiastic about the concept they felt it might lead to an overly hereditary view of Welshness rather than an open and inclusive one. This is insightful and we will amend the theme – possibly to “Welsh at heart” or similar.
- The nature themes should include clearer and more explicit links to the climate emergency.
- There was lots of positive comment about active travel. It was noted that capital provision of cycle ways (etc) is better than the maintenance of the same and leads to underuse and ineffective investment of resources.
- Similar comments were made on roads/transport the clearing of litter
- Need for clearer linguistic/thematic connections between the Vision and the themes.
- Ulrich Fosse dates need correcting.
- There seems to be real anger about local bus services and the “unhurried travel” theme is not welcome.
- Need for consideration of wider environmental issues in wind and solar.
- Various specific additions to particular themes (e.g., specific actors, sporting stars, factories and inventors to the *Innovation* theme) were made.

8.3 Analysis

This felt overall like a more positive set of responses than the Vision section. Again people’s biggest concerns were about areas related to but not directly part of the Culture Strategy – wind farms, public transport and litter for example – showing the vital importance of alignment across policy areas. There is a very clear sense that residents want to see basic maintenance prioritised over major new works in all areas and the Culture Strategy will need to reflect this.

It was encouraging to see comments which clearly flowed from the vision to the themes and a number of specific ideas will be incorporated in the final documents.

9. Culture Strategy Priorities

9.1 Information Presented

Respondents were presented with eight possible outcomes of a Culture Strategy and asked to rank them (1-8, with one being the most important) according to which they felt should be prioritised.

The eight outcomes were:

Job creation – creating employment for local people
Social impact – improving the education, health & wellbeing of local people
Cultural impact – improving the quality & reputation of local arts and culture
Equality, diversity & inclusion – widening access to & participation in culture
Sustainability – protecting/promoting the environment & natural assets
Heritage Preservation – protecting/promoting local heritage & historic assets
New Audiences and Tourism – attracting more people and money to the area
Volunteering – building the volunteer network to support cultural activity

Respondents were also asked to identify anything they felt was missing from the list or should be prioritised in the final strategy as an outcome.

9.2 Responses

The survey format (especially when completed on paper) meant that not everybody used all eight options in their responses.

To provide a comparable assessment of each outcome we have taken the average score given to each outcome by those respondents who assigned a number to the outcome.

Outcome	<i>No. Respondents ranking this outcome</i>	<i>Average Score</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Job Creation	218	2.97	1
Social Impact	215	3.01	2
Cultural Impact	217	4.18	5

EDI	215	4.59	7
Sustainability	214	3.74	3
Heritage Preservation	223	3.79	4
New Audiences and Tourism	219	4.43	6
Volunteering	230	5.24	8

By rank order the priorities expressed were:

Outcome	Rank
Job Creation	1
Social Impact	2
Sustainability	3
Heritage Preservation	4
Cultural Impact	5
New Audiences and Tourism	6
EDI	7
Volunteering	8

Comments were added by over 50 people (reproduced in full – Appendix F). Common or notable comments included:

- Many respondents, rightly, noted the interconnectedness of the items, and some felt the ranking exercise was unhelpful (comments such as “I would have rated them all 1”).
- A number of respondents felt that support for cultural and creative businesses is lacking and that this would be a good way of ensuring a number of the outcomes, especially the economic ones.
- Once again there was a general preference for spending money in ways which does basics well and maintains what already exists rather than creating new things.

9.3 Analysis

We recognise that the outcomes are not discrete and that, for example, greater tourism will also have an impact on jobs. However, if all the outputs are equally important they are also equally unimportant – and in a world of constrained resources some sense of prioritisation and what residents and others want remains valuable.

The Culture Strategy needs to reflect the priorities of job creation and social impact, which also align well with the wider priorities of the Council and Welsh Government, particularly around the wellbeing of future generations.

10. Culture Strategy Priorities

10.1 Information Presented

Respondents were presented with fifteen aspects of cultural life and asked to rank them (1-15, with one being the most important) according to the extent to which respondents felt they should be prioritised for support and development within the new culture strategy. “What matters most / least to you?”

The fifteen areas were:

Archives and collections
Community arts activities
Creative and cultural education
Creative and cultural workspace
Events and festivals
Heritage and historic environment
Community leisure facilities
Libraries
Music and musicians
Museums and galleries
Parks and public spaces
Sports clubs
Theatres and performing arts
Venues (for live arts, music, events)
Visual arts and artists

Respondents were also asked to identify anything they felt was missing from the list or should be prioritised in the final strategy as an outcome.

Responses

The survey format (especially when completed on paper) meant that not everybody used all fifteen options in their responses.

To provide a comparable assessment of each outcome we have taken the average score given to each outcome by those respondents who assigned a number to the outcome.

Outcome	No. Respondents ranking this outcome	Average Score	Rank
Archives and collections	195	8.09	14
Community arts activities	192	7.62	12
Creative and cultural education	198	6.81	9
Creative and cultural workspace	198	7.51	11
Events and festivals	199	6.76	8
Heritage and historic environment	201	5.59	2
Community leisure facilities	196	5.77	3
Libraries	204	5.86	4
Music and musicians	193	7.47	10
Museums and galleries	199	6.59	6
Parks and public spaces	214	4.67	1
Sports clubs	201	7.75	13
Theatres and performing arts	209	6.26	5
Venues (for live arts, music, events)	210	6.68	7
Visual arts and artists	202	8.64	15

By rank order the priorities expressed were:

Outcome	Rank
Parks and public spaces	1
Heritage and historic environment	2
Community leisure facilities	3
Libraries	4
Theatres and performing arts	5
Museums and galleries	6
Venues (for live arts, music, events)	7
Events and festivals	8
Creative and cultural education	9
Music and musicians	10
Creative and cultural workspace	11
Community arts activities	12
Sports clubs	13
Archives and collections	14
Visual Art and artists	15

Comments were added by over 55 people (reproduced in full – Appendix F).

Common or notable comments included:

- Many respondents, rightly, noted the interconnectedness of the items, and some felt the ranking exercise was unhelpful (comments such as “I would have rated them all 1”).
- The overall balance of the list, however, was felt to be about right with few people suggesting areas they felt were missing.

- There was some mention of wider creative industries, broadcasting etc and, although these are out of scope for the Culture Strategy it is important that clear links are created and an environment fostered that allows creative industries to grow.

Analysis

There was a ranking of priorities, with cultural activities that are most widely used largely dominating the top rankings (parks, leisure facilities, libraries) and spread of average scores was reasonable (from 4.67 for the top ranked item to 8.64 for the lowest). However, there was a strong “cluster” effect with only 2.03 points separating 2nd and 12th places. This suggests that respondents on the whole want to see the Culture Strategy offer support for all the aspects of cultural life mentioned and that all of them are significant to large sections of the resident and visitor population.

Although wider creative industries, broadcasting etc are out of scope for the Culture Strategy it is important that clear links are created and an environment fostered that allows creative industries to grow.

11. Personal and Demographic Data

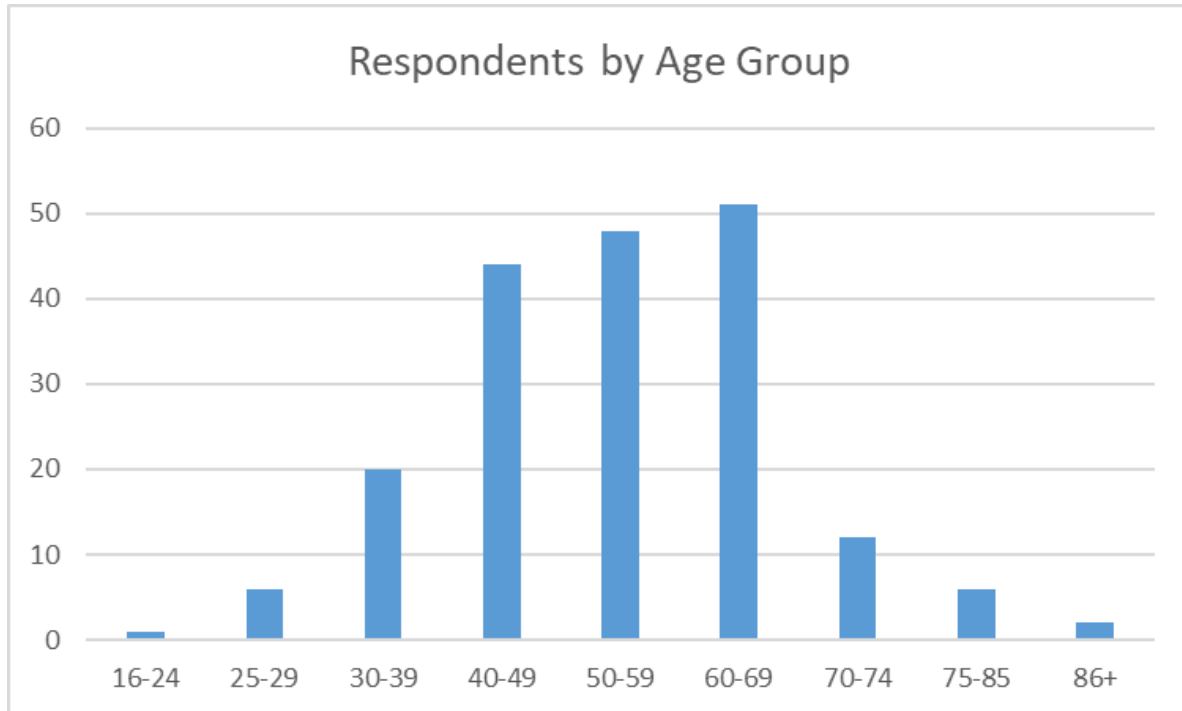
11.1 Personal Details

The majority of respondents provided name and contact details and we recommend sending them a copy of the Culture Strategy once adopted.

11.2 Age

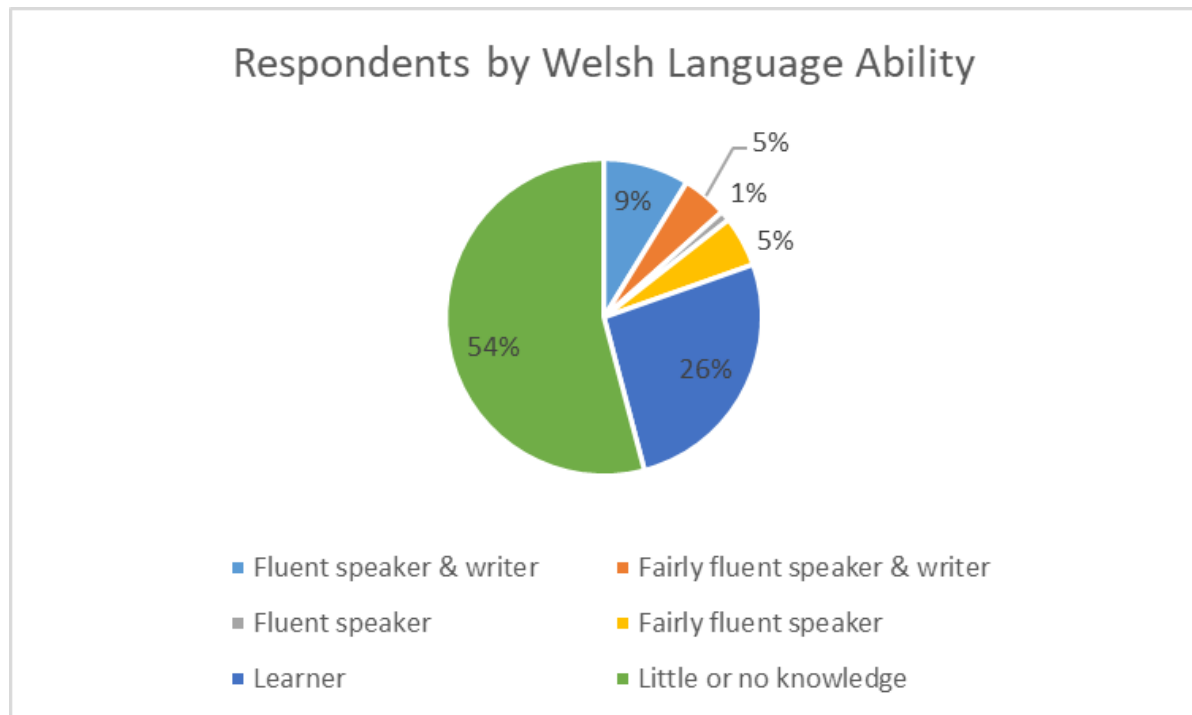
190 respondents gave their age (in ranges). The average age is higher than the NPT population average (median age at 2021 census – 43) and we particularly struggled to get young people to respond. Separate additional consultation will be undertaken with young people to address this gap.

The age ranges of respondents are set out in the graph below:



11.3 Welsh Language

Of 194 respondents who answered the majority (54%) have little or no Welsh. A further 26% classifying themselves as learners. The 2021 Census showed 13.5% of people in Neath Port Talbot reporting as being Welsh speakers.



11.4 Pregnancy

Of those responding to this question 1.1% (2) were pregnant or on maternity leave. This is probably an underrepresentation, but the sample size is too small to say whether it is statistically significant.

11.5 Disability

Of those responding to this question 15.3% (30) considered themselves to have a disability. 7.1% (14) preferred not to say. This compares to 12.9% in the 2021 census.

11.6 Ethnic Origin

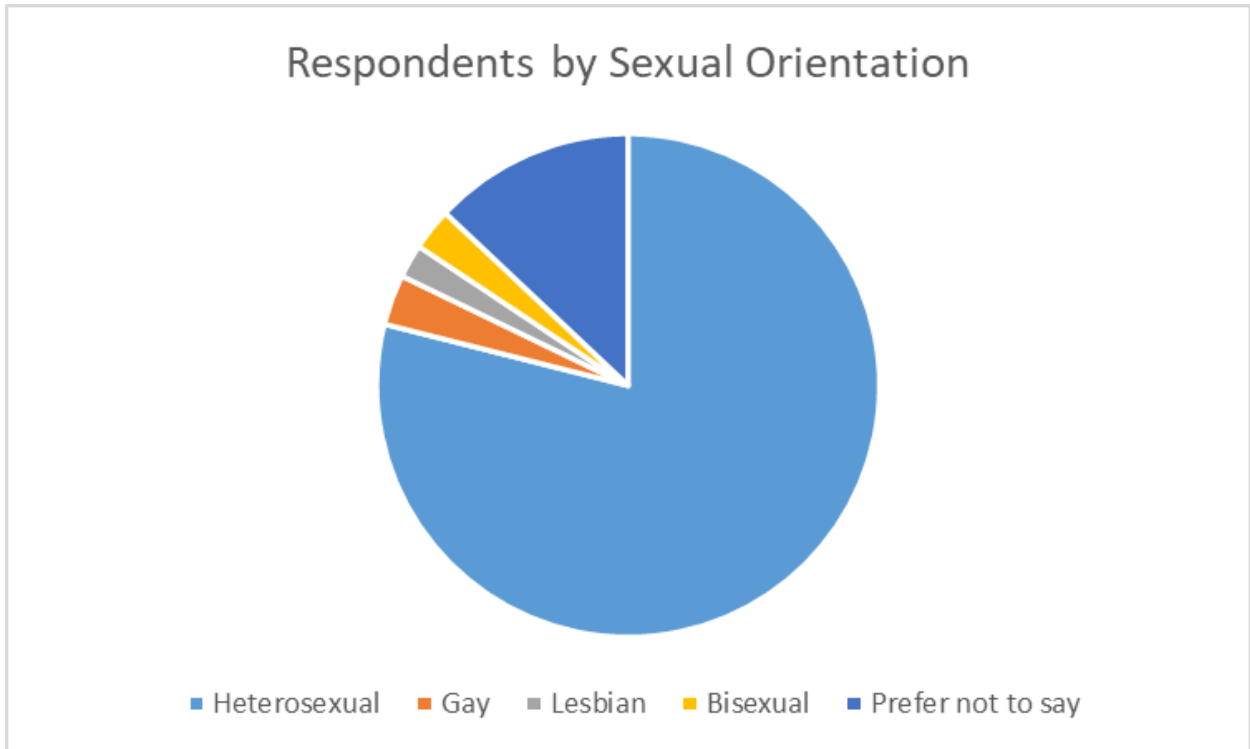
Of 188 respondents who answered this question (excluding 8 "prefer not to say") 186 (98.9%) selected one of the "white" categories, slightly higher than the census figure of 96.6%, but within the expected range for a sample of this size.

11.7 Sex

There were more female (63.7%) than male (35.7%) or non-binary (0.5%) respondents.

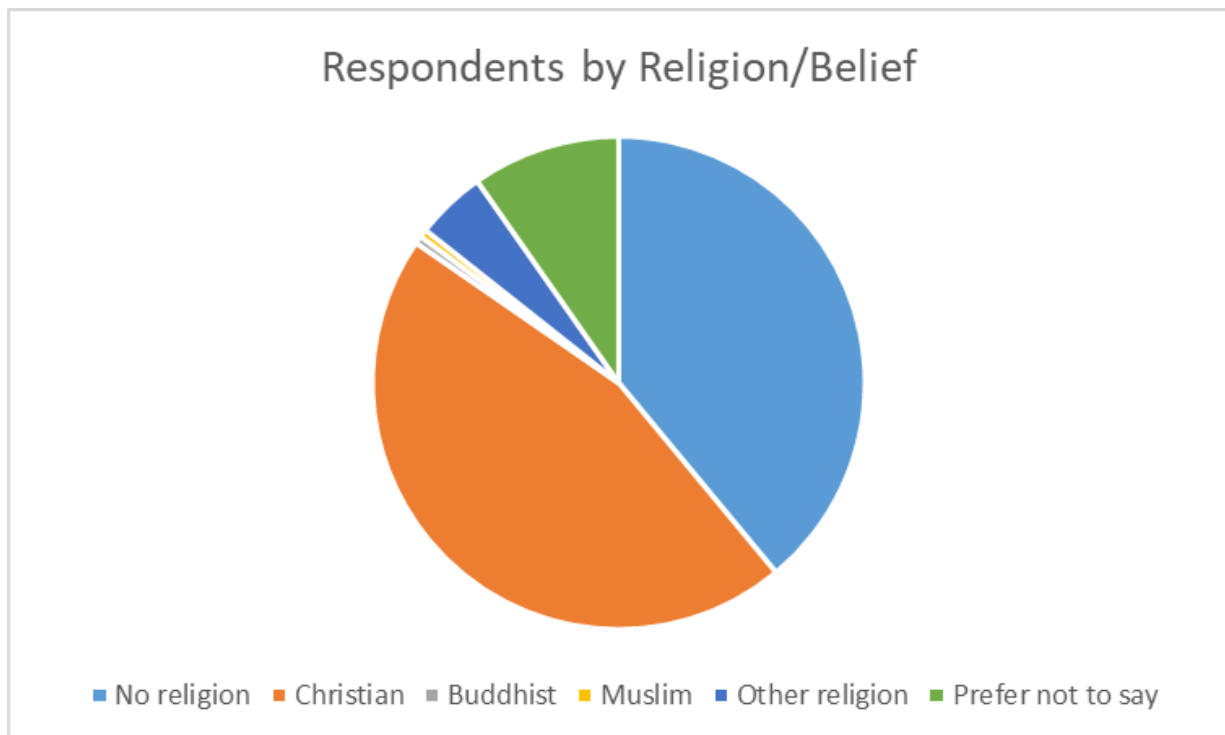
11.8 Sexual Orientation

161 respondents expressed a sexual orientation (24 "prefer not to say"). Of these 90.6% identified as heterosexual, 3.7% as gay, 2.5% as lesbian and 3.1% as bisexual.



11.9 Religion/Belief

A plurality (45.6%) of respondents identified as Christian, followed by 39.0% of those identifying as having no religion. This compares to 49.9% “no religion” in the 2021 census (and 42.1% Christian). The results for other religions and beliefs are consistent with the census data with less than 1% identifying as any other specific religious belief.



11.10 Nationality

Most (69.1%) of respondents identify as having Welsh nationality, with 8.2% English and 16% British. This is generally consistent with the census data (68.3% Welsh and 12.7% British), though with the caveat that the Census allowed people to select multiple options.

11.11 Comment

The respondents broadly reflect the demographics of the area but with a skew towards female and older people.

Appendix A – Comments on Assets

Notes:

- These have been edited only to remove comments that might lead to individuals being identified.
- They have not been changed for grammar, spelling or other accuracy issues.
- All comments made have been included apart from those which said things similar to “nothing to add”.

Is there anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or should be highlighted in the final strategy as an asset?
No mention of Cwmtawe & the industrial heritage
Resolven miners welfare. Local assets need to be preserved reserved
The bullet on outstanding buildings should be expanded to include Scheduled Ancient monuments, and draw out where there are historic landscapes or landforms which point to our heritage. The bullet on natural assets is overly focussed on active travel opportunities afforded by natural assets. Natural assets also provide opportunity to connect with the unique species and habitats in Neath and help people understand the importance of caring for the natural environment, which is essential if we are to address the nature crisis. Information should be added to give statistics about the number of protected sites, local nature reserves etc.
Not enough Cymraeg events
I would have agreed entirely but for the comment about being well-connected. It may well apply to the town centres but beyond that connections are poor and opportunities to engage very limited due to the limited public transport network.
Keep maintaining the cycle track in Afan Argoed. We should have a rugby museum in Neath. We should promote the beautiful beach not build houses there. The Theatre should be renamed to Dic Penderyn and promoted more. We should have a tourist team to promote the area in general. We should have kept the Banksy Mural and opened a gallery in the Bethany Chapel to bring visitors to the town centre and station road.
Libraries and family history
Canal network (e.g. Friends of the Tenant Canal - who as volunteers, work hard to clean and maintain the area. Sadly many of their functions have ceased due to a lack of money, and volunteers). Churches in the Borough are also of historical significance. Working with churches, we could promote history, but also working in partnership to promote church services such as food banks, warm spaces, etc. St Thomas Church in Neath has linked to the Norman Castle. St Marys in Port Talbot - Dick Penderyn's grave. Agree we have some nice galleries popping up in Neath Town Centre - but to what extent are residents aware of these? We would benefit from having a museum to house the antiquities previously displayed at the Gwyn Hall, Gnoll Centre, etc
More should be said to highlight the role of volunteers. Unpaid workers support the services in NPT more than is ever credited.
We need to do more activities within community centres . Advertising also isn't great - Social media is a big outlet for advertising , but not ALL people (including me) do not use Social Media - we need to think of another way of sending a message of what events are taking place. O always feel disappointed when i miss an event because i didnt know about it.

I think Aberafan Beach should be mentioned more prominently in this. The cinemas havent been mentioned and the new Plaza should definitely have a mention too.
Our Beaches, and clubs that utilise the local coastal region, improving the skills of local residents such as Life saving, Sub Aqua, surfing, paddle boarding schools.
Natural assets go beyond being able to walk, cycle or swim within them. It is about living in a county borough which houses numerous species of plants, animals and fungi some of which are nationally scarce. It is also how well connected people are to it and this is where not everyone is equal in that sense. Many people live in the Afan or Neath Valley and see the hillsides but many of these sites are on private land and not accessible by the public. Equally, many children living in the Port Talbot and Briton Ferry areas do not have access to a grass verge, let alone access to a green space.
You state you support local talent and provide opportunities yet you make it more difficult for theatre companies to put on shows through your rising hire fees and ticket levy's
i don think we communicate this very well. i think that the community venues mention above doesnt give me enough information on what goes on and where. lots or most communities dont have anything.
The town needs more visitors a market maybe would bring them and that would help the businesses that end of town station rd
Too many historical buildings are still being demolished, houses are being built in inappropriate places instead of services to complement natural attractions
Lack of Drama activity-isn't really mentioned.
Richard burton 10k
We need to see Pontardawe mentioned.
No mention of libraries~ they are the aspect of culture that I have the most use from.
Our canals should be protected and would be an amazing asset to encourage tourism.
Better combined marketing. Get more visitors, people outside the area have no idea what we have
The People, surely the most important asset NPT has.
Neath town centre has died over last 20 years and it is now a dangerous place to go because of drug abuse
More should be made of the historic buildings and landscape. Not enough interpretation and information at these sites. No museum or visitor centres.
Afan forest park is not sign posted from the motorway. Huge opportunity to develop the history of the area, but it is very hard to find out about the history of the area.Huge potential for development in Neath.
Heritage outside centres of neath and port Talbot. Pontardawe and the Neath Valleys have rich industrial history that needs to be celebrated. Including encouraging local heritage museum s
A map to these independent galleries and studios you've referred to
Don't forget the many artists and crafts people who've made the Swansea valley a cultural hub for decades
An overall identity. Wales isnt good at selling itself and i go to Ireland every year. Irish people sell everything.....fresh air and ruins are the famine story. One thing they do is tell the story through the Irish identify. The points above are great but they didn't suddenly appear , they have been hear all along. Look at Dic Penderyns grave in Aberavon, the cellars beneath the church and the ancient stones in St Marys St. The Council needs to sell NPT and South Wales (look at the wild atlantic coast line in Ireland.....basic signage and an identity made millions

There is a good cycle link from Port Talbot to Swansea and Neath but not to Cardiff. We also need to make use of our natural assets and see more renewable energy projects that benefit our environment and communities.
The libraries need mentioning too
We are between 2 major cities - Swansea & Cardiff
Would love to see a museum in neath, with interaction like waterfront in swansea
Further support for environmental and historical tourism needed as well as further investment in sustainable transport.
Neath Town Centre has a growing creative quarter with (one?) independent galleries and studios. Pontardawe Arts Centre has an excellent reputation in the UK including the Class Act Theatre School nurturing talent to a high level for over 20years.
There is a huge number of archaeological sites in the borough which go back well before Roman times to the Bronze Age. Need to highlight these also. Nothing either about our spiritual heritage which also goes back a very long way. Also nothing about our environmental assets, the range of habitats in the area from dunes to uplands, which are also being supported by the council and by volunteer groups. And we have produced outstanding talent in music also.
committed to supporting the cultural strategy and investing to make it a reality. Pontardawe Arts Centre has an excellent reputation in the UK including Class Act Theatre School nurturing local talent to a high level for over 20 years.
Pontardawe Arts Centre has an excellent reputation of cultural activities and nurturing talent for over 20years.
What about the Romans, Normans- Neath Castle, Churches in Neath??
There is no mention of the Romas fort, Nidum, or the Normans with their churches and castle. Talent was not just produced in the artistic sector; Neath has produced many great engineers; such as David Thomas and Benjamin Baker.
There is a necessity to invest in centres like the Pontardawe Arts Centre so that they can continue to thrive and develop.
I don't believe that NPTCBC invest appropriately in maintaining and promoting cultural assets in Neath
Serious canal regeneration
You have grossly exaggerated the assets.
NPT CBC has been actively ashamed of our heritage and history, across the board - with efforts required from other organisations (mostly unwillingly forced upon said council to achieve changes), where they've actively ignored the organic scenes that were prevalent here but a decade or two ago. No museum - burnt down for tax purposes (Gwyn hall restored but long gone for what it was - having performed there). As a musician: sincerely they've closed more pubs that hosted live music than they've ever reached out to help retain or produce talent here. Our castle: Castell Nedd < the reason for the name of our town, the tunnels underneath... Neath!?! There is so much that this council has moved away from to attain an aesthetic that nobody asked for but has been imposed. Where the same can be said for the state of sports - as there's not a joint attitude for the development of creative culture, but what culture they will allow/want to convey.
Museum -? Utilise old library building
The canan; system is blocked once you go past the basin

I think the above description is overselling. It is not that good and certainly doesn't support an outdoor lifestyle.
Neath has easy access to the sea and mountains as well as mainline train link
No car parking on pavements
Your questionnaire is too broad to allow for a accurate response, eg 'Neath Town Centre having a creative quarter ...' is an exaggeration.
No mention of Pontardawe arts centre. Very Neath centric.
No reference to locations and facilities in the Upper Afan Valley -- Afan Forest Park, SW Miners Museum, Mountain Biking Centre @ Glynccorrwg, tunnels @ Gyfylchi, Gelli and Gwynfi etc.
They need to encourage more stores to open in the town centre and Station road to build our shopping area once more, it has been totally run down and it is not attractive, nor attracting new visitors to the area
Although a great place to walk, the beach at Aberavon needs to be kept on the radar for children's activities.
Natural asserts parks, forests, hills, waterfalls
Rail links with ample parking and on the main bus route
Businesses working in the creativity industries such as television production company Joio are located in NPT but often aren't recognised in surveys of Culture in the authority. There are a number of creative professionals living and working in NPT and their work should be acknowledged and encouraged in order to stimulate Culture for economic growth and employment. Neath Port Talbot is a destination for many film and television companies. This infrastructure should be fostered by the authority and local suppliers developed to serve the industry.
Define 'region'; little reflection on growing inequality within borough and in particular of the growing development of Neath as opposed to Port Talbot; loss of previous facilities; lack of consideration given to the views of the residents etc.
This summary is very centred on Neath and Port Talbot centres with little reference to the assets outside of these areas of which there are many.
I believe that any cultural strategy should be an asset-based strategy, one that focuses on identifying and utilising our existing assets. Making the most of what we already have in the county borough is the right approach to take, and I'm glad to see if reflected here. However; - There is no reference to ArtWalk in Port Talbot, which is something that is not only popular within the county borough but also further afield - Though there is many volunteer groups preserving and showcasing our heritage sites, there could be scope to support them in sharing best practice, collaborating where appropriate, and dealing with larger organisations. - No mention of the wide variety of events - from large festivals to community-organised fun days. These can play a part in identifying and nurturing talent, providing opportunities and can, if marketed, be an attraction in their own right.
Not that there is anything wrong with the statement that "Neath Town Centre has a growing creative quarter with independent galleries and studios", because it does, but this is something that could, potentially, also be trues of Port Talbot town centre if given the proper attention and investment from the local authority and other external sources of funding.
Pontardawe Arts Centre is a fantastic facility contributing to the cultural life and wellbeing of the locality. Accessible to people of all abilities, ages.

The area has a distinguished literary tradition in both Welsh and English, including writers` groups, and performances. See the Literary Tradition of the Neath and Afan Valleys. (Thesis, Swansea University)
Cefn Coed Colliery
Mention of Dulais valley as a community and area of interest
Cefn Coed Museum
Not enough Promoting modern science and inovation
The asset of Culture is the People
Cefn coed colliery museum
Public transport is non existent after 7pm !
Chapels and religious history, Woodlands, waterfalls, and wildlife
Reopen cefn coed colliery museum
More focus on rural communities with historic value. Eg. Dulais Valley, Cefn Coed etc
Would like to see the Roman history arrefacts and displays tgat used to be exhibited in the Gwyn Hall placed somewhere in the town. Would like to see the beautiful Registry building (next door to Boots) renovated and used as an exhibition centre/gallery. Wondering why the great gallery next door to the Masonic Hall has closed down. It really enhanced the street and indeed the town. Was the rent too high?
Maintaining local historical sites it`s our heritage
NPTH has failed in the pass of promoting many projects ...move forward step in when heritage assets are at risk.
Isambard Kingdom Brunel constructed the first rope-operated railway in Britain to solve the problem of bringing coal from the Afan valley to the docks in Briton Ferry. The line ran through the incline (Rhoddfa Clarke) and down through what is now Jersey Park. it was a tortuous route as the line was so steep that steam locomotives could not operate. IKB came up with the idea of working the railway as a rope-operated route, with coal wagons shunting up and down on a Swiss-style funicular system. ISK also built an accommodation bridge so that farmers could take their livestock across the line. The line was owned and operated by the South Wales Mineral Railway. In 1925 the land on the lower part of the line was given to the people of Briton Ferry for the creation of a park, by the Earl of Jersey. Jersey Park is a grade 11 listed landscape and is a very popular and beautiful park.
neath town centre is a tip to many empty shops drugs parking cost
better parking for theatre visits in neath
There are areas like the Cefn coed colliery that could be a great asset if made into a tourist attraction to link NPT with Powys a
Maintain the natural beauty of our valley and heritage
In terms of physical assets I would mention Neath Castle. The survival of the Castle in what was an industrial town is one of the things which makes Neath a bit distinctive and in recent decades its exterior is more visible and it was. The all NPT area has a good number of prehistoric remains which are an asset particularly if one of the objectives of the strategy is to get people out into the countryside to visit these things, if access issues can be resolved. The cultures of the various communities which make up NPT are a valuable asset in themselves as is the as is the cultural and literary history of the area. The work of authors such as Menna Gallie and Bert Coombes stands on its own merit leave alone its relevance the area. The area has a rich history in the visual arts, from visiting artists in the 18th century seeking romantic landscape to modern Welsh artists and

<p>photographers. This is a huge asset sometimes held in public hands (including NPT CBC) and private hands which should be made available to the public. We are fortunate in that there are substantial collections of archival material telling the story of the locality in the West Glamorgan Archives collection in Swansea, the Neath Mechanics Institute and in other national collections. These again are major assets.</p>
<p>Sarn Helen The Roman Road that hasn't once been mentioned</p>
<p>Greater inclusion of leisure/cultural/historical facilities in the valleys as well ad towns.</p>
<p>Not just the performing arts - talks, poetry readings, murals, painting etc - the arts in general. (Music too)</p>
<p>The destruction of our land and heritage to onshore wind and energy parks</p>
<p>More Funds Cefn Coed Museum</p>
<p>The valley communities/rural areas in Neath Port Talbot need more recognition.</p>
<p>Biodiversity in our woodlands</p>
<p>I agree wholeheartedly with the above summary, but I am disappointed not to see Briton Ferry's Jersey Park mentioned, or Briton Ferry's ancient forest. Within Jersey Park there are the remains of Brunel's funicular railway track, which transported coal from Glynccorrwg to Brunel's Floating Dock in Briton Ferry. We have recently have visits from the Brunel Institute, based at the SSGB in Bristol, by its Head of Research, Dr James Boyd and the Institute's Director, Tim Bryan. Mr Bryan is to have a book published next year which includes considerable research on Brunel's activities in Briton Ferry. As a consequence of our relationship with Tim Bryan and Dr James Boyd, our group is now part of the National Brunel Network, alongside the SS Great Britain and the Clifton Suspension Bridge, to name but two.... I do feel that Briton Ferry is often overlooked when resources are being allocated, especially considering its serious deprivation figures.</p>
<p>Our wildlife is an important part of our open spaces and part of our heritage. We must take care to see our open spaces as more than just for people. I I feel also that Aberdulais Falls has been closed for far too long. This site is an important part of the industrial history of NPT.</p>
<p>The council, creative businesses, regional and national partners, educational institutions, and other stakeholders are keen to see a thriving culture in Neath Port Talbot and are committed to supporting the cultural strategy and investing to make it a reality. Neath Town Centre has a growing creative quarter with (one?) independent galleries and studios. · Pontardawe Arts Centre has an excellent reputation in the UK including the Class Act Theatre School nurturing talent to a high level for over 20years.</p>
<p>We have a lot of assets that can contribute to our culture, but they aren't really boasted about enough if at all, and I'm not sure investment is there for the assets, and the borough in general.</p>
<p>There is no comment about the local people as an asset</p>
<p>Town Centre needs a re-vamp. Aberdulais needs to be opened and used. Dulais Rock pub needs to be pulled down/sold/renovated. Public transport needs to improve access to sites</p>
<p>Public parks</p>
<p>Afan Forrest park</p>
<p>No emphasis given to legacy of coal in the upper valleys, particularly the Afan. Not just the mines but the relics of infrastructure which could be integrated with a holistic approach to the whole tourism and cultural package - implicit to this would be sufficient funding, and just recognition of the world importance of coal production to the development of South Wales and Britain.</p>

The council, creative businesses, regional and national partners, educational institutions, and other stakeholders are keen to see a thriving culture in Neath Port Talbot and are committed supporting the cultural strategy and investing to make it a reality.
Neath Abbey Ironworks produced great engineers such as David Thomas, the Father of the American Iron Industry, and Sir Benjamin Baker, the designer of the Forth Bridge and the First Aswan Dam. The ironworks is well connected by bus and train for active travel.
Not just the performing arts - literature and art are also important - painting, wall art, poetry readings etc.
Much of the canal system is blocked once you go past Ynysarward
Art Walk graffiti art
Old buildings of character (such as Eagle House) should be protected from demolition. We have sadly lost too many to the bulldozers, eg parts of the old town and the Craddock pub.
Need more emphasis on the history of Neath Port Talbot including Iron Age settlements and the Roman legacy of the area.
Dathlu enwogion y fro
Ydyn nhw'n cael eu marchnata ddigon? Beth am y ffyrdd o'u cyrraedd ar gyfer rhai nad ydynt yn gyrru?
Does dim son o gwbl yn y testun uchod am dreftadaeth iaith Gymraeg sir CNPT, ac yn benodol Cwm Tawe. Dyma ardal Gymraeg ei hiaith sy'n gyforiog o hanes, diwylliant a threftadaeth Gymraeg o bwys cenedlaethol. Mae'n siom fawr nad oes cyfeirio at hyn yn ein rhestr o 'asedau' fel sir a byddai'n wendid sylweddol yn y strategaeth pe na byddai cyfeiriad at yr iaith, ei diwylliant a'i threftadaeth a'i heffaith ar ein cymunedau hyd heddiw. Rhaid cofio hefyd fod cymaint o weithgaredd diwylliannol yn digwydd heddiw yn y sir trwy gyfrwng yr iaith Gymraeg gan gyfrannu at weithgaredd cenedlaethol megis Eisteddfodau a gwyliau cenedlaethol eraill. Mae gormod o sylw, wedi ei roi dros y blynyddoedd gan y Cyngor Sir i'r parciau mawr oedd yn gysylltiedig â diwydiannwyr a'u cyfoeth e.e. Margam, yn hytrach na mannau agored naturiol oedd yn allweddol i fywydau pobl gyffredin y sir e.e. Mynydd Gellionnen a'i dir comin. Mae angen mwy o ystyriaeth o dreftadaeth 'bottom up' yn hytrach na cyfleu hanes diwydiant a'i sgil-ffeithiau.

Appendix B – Comments on Issues and Challenges

Notes:

- These have been edited only to remove comments that might lead to individuals being identified.
- They have not been changed for grammar, spelling or other accuracy issues.
- All comments made have been included apart from those which said things similar to “nothing to add”.

Is there anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or should be highlighted in the final strategy as an asset?
We are almost devoid of Museums in Neath.
Policy section needs to draw out the importance of working with the volunteers, organisations and independent businesses highlighted in the assets.
Use of Welsh language music and street theatre will add to the tourism and the confidence to use our language. Elected Councillors need to reflect the bilingual nature of their constituents
Sounds like Ricky Gervais wrote this questionnaire
1. Transport needs highlighting. 2. Cefn Coed should be closed permanently and the collections from Neath Museum do not warrant public display. 3. Long term funding solutions must be addressed. It's all very well securing external funding for a project but unless there is a commitment to fully fund the operation then it will not succeed. There is a danger that Council bounces from project to project without building any solid foundation. These projects may end up little more than vanity projects.
Libraries and Family History. Oral History
Under creativity there should be more of a focus on the use of creativity to support wellbeing as well as bringing communities together for skill sharing, friendship and knowledge expansion.
Some of these sights have been used for filming - Margam Park , Neath Abbey Ruins - why cant there be meet the cast events or see the costumes special events this would bring more people to these historical buildings. Also have historical days or audio sets available at these historical buildings this will teach people about who use to live there etc. All interesting information. Put special events on at these historical buildings- Picnic in the Gardens - Neath Ruins make use of the canals- - Canal Boat rides (like they have in Brecon) to the ruins as there is limited parking
Particularly agree with these 2 There is a need for continued investment in green technology to reduce carbon emissions in arts, heritage and leisure facilities. There is a need to grow skills in areas such as conservation, heritage and collections care and management.
We live in a rural, area with large open spaces, coastal region yet we have little green energy being produced. The coastal path region behind the quays is a perfect area to use to create clena green energy for the borough

Developing conservation skills is really important not just for the historical heritage but for the natural heritage too. There are many sites where, at present, we are making choices between history and nature. Margam and the Gnoll are typical examples of that. We want to develop these sites for people but more often than not, it comes at a price and that price is sacrificing habitats for wildlife or plants. We should be emphasizing that conservation work does not always mean one or the other but that both can be done side and side and complement one another but it does require some thought off the onset.

The Art Centre in Pontardawe could be used more to create a hub for creative activities

Again with reference to accessing the arts, you do not assist my hiking up fees to put on performances wind hiking up fees to view the same

Spend money on Cefn Coed Colliery, Neath needs a museum, spend more in the Neath area, not port talbot

Transport, or lack of. Virtually nothing in evenings

Woolly, sounds wonderful rhetorical language that doesn't point to how the arts can be supported and encouraged to grow. How do you ensure arts subjects are set in our schools when tight budgets often cause arts subjects to be squeezed in secondary schools

A museum space is definitely needed in Neath , perhaps using the former library building.

Yes, no acknowledgement of the great community resource that is our libraries. Re-open the ones that have been closed, take back the ones that have been handed over to the communities

Public transport needs improving.

Low carbon transport options, modal shift, the topography of the borough makes accessing services/facilities via active travel routes quite challenging. Behaviour change and attitudes are also key to this strategy being a success.

There are many places to visit but they are not linked - need to develop a heritage trail and similar for other types of culture

There is a large BAME community in Neath Port Talbot. There needs to be more intergration and celebration of the broad ethnicities and cultures too.

There are a lot of areas that need to be cleaned up, lots of rubbish lack of care.

We need to celebrate the industrial heritage of the area. There needs to be more information provided to residents and visitors, through the use of signage and heritage walks.

You haven't money to run a county museum - so why bother trying to train people in heritage skills?

I agree completely. The recent leisure centre is boarded up - what will happen to this?? Why can't the college art department creat murals for boarded up buildings. up

To some extent transport is a separate issue to culture e.g. people in NPT require subsidised transport. If you want to make money in culture you need to attract visitors. Transport within the borough is an issue, but this is within and between communities. Yes there are areas of deprivation. Please dont recite the old 'post industrial area story'.....we are more than that.....we are untlimatley a Celtic race who love belonging, major contributors to the the industrial age and looking forward to creating a sustainable Wales and magnifying the story/use of our raw resources..../people/wind//waves.

<p>Sounds a bit woolly. The first point under communities could be extended to say....contributing to the poor health in the county borough.</p>
<p>Turn around negative attitudes towards trauma responses such as addictions to intergenerational deprivation and deep inequality.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is little dedicated gallery space in the borough with the need to improve access to what already exists. • The fabric of some existing places, such as the Pontardawe Arts Centre, is tired and needs investment to ensure they meet the future needs of residents of NPT. • Arts and cultural activities needs to be made accessible to a wider range of people, especially encouraging younger people. • More can be done to link Arts and Well-being with the health agenda and Swansea Bay University Health Board. • Need to move away from a mindset of subsidy in cultural services to one of investment to realise the wider benefits. • Work out how cultural activities can contribute to the growth of the Welsh language in a predominantly English-speaking borough, building on the work of theatres such as the Pontardawe Arts Centre and with the Arts Council Wales.
<p>Infrastructure - public transport is an area of great concern at the moment with the threats to local bus services and the lack of progress with the S W Wales Metro. Museum space is very sketchy and could be greatly expanded - we need better messages about our early history, about how people have lived through the ages, about our most famous people - why is there no Burton museum in Port Talbot for example? There is also a long history of disregard for our built heritage which is still ongoing (eg the decision to redevelop Eagle House), we need to be protecting and repurposing old buildings rather than knocking or burning them down. Communities - agree that our people should be depicted as active in making their own lives and not as passive responders to industrialisation or to the making of wealth by gentry and industrialists. What are the traditional customs and how were they practised by people locally? What did they sing and what music did they play? In what languages?</p>
<p>There is little dedicated gallery space in the borough with the need to improve access to what already exists. The fabric of some existing places, such as the Pontardawe Arts Centre, is tired and needs investment to ensure they meet the future needs of residents of NPT. Arts and cultural activities needs to be made accessible to a wider range of people, especially encouraging younger people. Work out how cultural activities can contribute to the growth of the Welsh language in a predominantly English-speaking borough, building on the work of theatres such as the Pontardawe Arts Centre and with the Arts Council Wales.</p>
<p>Public Transport is dreadful in the evening.</p>
<p>Pontardawe Arts Centre needs investment to ensure that it meets the needs of residents. Arts and cultural activities needs to be made accessible to a wider range of people, especially encouraging younger people. More can be done to link the arts with health and well-being. The council needs to move away from a mindset of subsidy in cultural services to one of investment to realise the wider benefits. Cultural activities can contribute to the growth of the Welsh language.</p>
<p>There is most definitely a need to develop more effective structures for cross-sector collaborative working, both within and beyond the Council. The Council do not like working with the Voluntary sector and at times can be obstructive to the needs of the Volunteers and the Community. The Council find it difficult to comprehend that the majority of volunteers are working for nothing and on Council property the Council have a duty of care to them. It is most important to develop a clear decision-making framework for prioritization of projects to deliver a strategy with external partners. I feel that</p>

<p>the selection of delivery of projects is not fair. Some areas have far more money poured into them continually than others irrespective of their historic and or cultural background.</p>
<p>There is most definitely a need to develop more effective structures for cross-sector collaborative working, both within and beyond the Council. The Council do not seem to want to work with the voluntary sector, and have a paternalistic and condescending attitude. Decision making seems to come from the top down with no attention paid to the grassroots. Certain areas have far greater funding given to them, irrespective of their heritage value or culture. The Council do not seem to care about their volunteers who are not paid, they are just there to be taken advantage of.</p>
<p>The large number of buildings that are being left in disrepair. The continual building of new houses on green spaces, destroying our beautiful area.</p>
<p>buildings need to be adequately maintained so that they meet the varied needs to the population. It is important to ensure that physical access is developed and that centres address the various needs of all sections of the community.</p>
<p>Investment is needed in the gnoll park. Neath town needs to be made safer and more welcoming like it used to be.</p>
<p>I think the rail links are awful, not a positive as you say.</p>
<p>“Do this work to make a strategy” < which will be put on the fridge so eeeeeeeveryone can see, and the CBC will continue to do what it does... this sounds all to familiar for no matter the evidence one submits, unless it suits the agenda and ticks enough boxes for them before election time it’s all ears! Sorry, but a lot of that I agree with as we need so much investment and development in infrastructure, however making a strategy is but one part - intent on carrying out that strategy is what is the cyclical problem of NPTCBC for they never follow through. 30 years no skatepark.</p>
<p>Neath Town centre needs investment. Also anti social behaviour is discouraging visitors. State of the railway station, lift etc regularly not working and scary to use.</p>
<p>Aberdualis Falls hasn't yet reopened after covid</p>
<p>There is no 'theme' to life here. There is no 'lifestyle' associated with living in NPT apart from negative ones.</p>
<p>I don't know what is to follow but I was hoping for more opportunity to spell out my thoughts on various issues, eg are you aware of the situation currently at Aberdulais Falls which the National Trust appears to be virtually abandoning?</p>
<p>Transport, especially public transport, is NOT good in NPT and quality of road e.g. A4107 is poor.</p>
<p>The cost of transport is a big issue for some families to travel and visit these area's and to be totally honest our current bus service is not fit for purpose.</p>
<p>More development needed. Residents in Aberavon are cut off from all culture. It is not evn safe to walk back from the Princess Royal Theatre. The state of the bus station (that welcomes visitors to Port Talbot) is shocking!!!! The new Plaza development is much welcomed BUT it has to be accessed via Station Road which is a hangout for 'undesirables' and is unsafe after about 3 pm. Much more thought could be given to the shopping mall entrance/exit area and walkway to Aberavon, it makes the area look MUCH worse that it actually is.</p>
<p>Public transport outside the town's is almost non-existent</p>
<p>Art Centres in the authority are woefully under used. They should be bustling and busy places with lots of activity. Centres are often dark of an evening and are run in a corporate way sadly managed by staff</p>

who aren't necessarily creative people. NPT should reconsider the identity of these centres so they become exhibitors of culture but also hubs for the creation of work and centres for artists and makers.

Reference to one sided access to certain facilities - how can someone at the top of the Afan Valley get to Neath leisure facilities whereas it was easier to get to Port Talbot until the facilities were lost. Also, where are the cultural/ arts for the inhabitants of Port Talbot. Without transport, costs prohibit visiting the facilities in Neath. With own transport, it is a nightmare to park in Neath. There is a great need to make the existence of those limited facilities more obvious with better advertisements.

Infrastructure I agree that places like Cefn Coed have been neglected for many years, which has exacerbated the challenging position it now finds itself in. Public transport is currently under threat of additional cuts in funding, but it does play an important part of improving accessibility of many sites across the county borough. The cultural strategy should involve bus companies and users in order to ensure alignment in bus times, appropriate bus stops and sufficient signage is in place. Done correctly, not only will public transport support access to sites, but will also encourage more people to use the bus. For example, accessing Margam Park by bus requires stopping at a bus stop with no physical structure or signage, walking a considerable distance into the park, and to leave to go towards Port Talbot - crossing a busy road. Likewise, Cefn Coed has a bus stop just outside it but has no accessible bus stop going back towards Neath. Many of these sites have built in car biases which need to be addressed. Communities While there is no even spread of assets and facilities, there is scope to build unique offers across community areas. Providing a diverse and community-focused cultural offering, rather than focusing on a small number of attractions or events, can allow more people to access something - overcoming barriers to access and embedding wide benefit to communities. This approach would also cater for areas where the language is more prominent. Creativity Creating a partnership between schools, Sixth Form, Neath Port Talbot College, Swansea University and the wide variety of volunteer groups could allow for more people to either become fully trained in conservation, heritage and collection care/management, or at least develop a foundational level of skills. There is an urgent need to record memories of our industrial heritage right now, while we still can - and maybe that should be an early "win" for the strategy - working with people to record their memories and share their experiences. For example, visiting Cefn Coed when it was open was a great experience at times because of the first hand knowledge of the volunteers. They won't be around forever - so some of what they experienced has to be retained, in their words and utilising their voices. Policy There has been a lack of political will to support this in the past, so there needs to be clear commitments from the Council and buy in from officers. There also needs to be clear links with broad Council policy on matters of wellbeing, language policy, equalities, education and economic development.

Only that the above section seems to focus a lot on what needs to be maintained and preserved, focusing on the past and what has gone before, when perhaps the focus should be on what can be created and developed and made innovative and original to the area.

Investment in Pontardawe arts Centre will continue and improve the contribution of gallery space which exists there, and the growth of Welsh language.

There needs to be a cross over of both old and new, budget cuts are key and must not lose focus on the fact of spending to preserve facilities or open facilities that may not be of interest and waste resources.

We feel that the local authority has a place to support better some of the cultural events that we would like to see take place, particularly around our Welsh language heritage and culture. For example, we work closely with a number of schools / the town council / the Welfare Hall in Ystradgynlais to arrange a St David's Day parade through the town, hundreds of school children marching and singing in Welsh, a small performance in the town square and then a jambori for the children in the Welfare to follow. We coordinate a window decorating competition with the local shops so the whole town really get involved at celebrating Welsh culture. We've in the past tried to work on similar events in NPT but we don't really get any support from the local authority. Our counterparts in Swansea are part of a massive 'Gwyl Croeso' for St David's Day during which the city centre have marquees and a stage erected in Castel Gardens, with Welsh events and food on offer for the people of Swansea for two days. Again, nothing similar is organised by NPT Council. As an organisation we are more than happy to collaborate on events of this kind, but we really need the support of the council when it comes to things like closing roads / performances on the street etc. Ideally, the council needs to take ownership of at least some cultural events, and the community organisations can then get involves / showcase what we do and it would certainly enrich the cultural offering. This years celebrations in Aberafan Shopping centre were fantastic, and that was a collaboration between us and the local authority education department, but to build on this next year and for the life of the new strategy would be fantastic.

We need centres, like the original Afan Arts Centre where groups can gather and projects on things like oral history can be developed.

A plan for Cefn Coed Colliery

It is not a bad thing to move away from a past. Glorifying coal mining white washed the disease and death caused by an unforgiving industry.

heading - Infrastructure - identified issues and challenges of the heritage assets in NPT, this can go into the Heritage Strategy and not relevant to the Culture strategy.

A severe shortage of musical instrument/singing/dance lessons, choirs, orchestras & bands in schools

Municipal buildings, the industrial heritage is weighted too largely, the roman history is overlooked

Cefn coed colliery museum is a great place that I loved visiting as a child & is in my doorstep. It is a shame to see it closed & I would love for my daughter to have the opportunity to go there! Please reopen it! We should be proud of our mining heritage and show it off not leave such a great place waste away!

We must ensure we do not lose our heritage

Reopen Cefn Coed pit to be reopened asap as a local / national museum and also Aberdulais falls still closed WHY ????????

More focus on rural communities with historic value. Eg. Dulais Valley, Cefn Coed etc

The Alfred Russell Wallace building is a superb example of historical importance. Little is made of this building in terms of awareness of the work of this man and his connection with Neath. Also his former home in Llantwit. Much more should be done to celebrate this man here. He was as, if not more important than Charles Darwin!

Local sites not being utilised to full potential E.g central coed

It must be remembered Culture is one of the key element of community development .

Oral histories are such an important part of our heritage they need to be captured. for example, there is a very elderly gentleman living in Briton Ferry who, during WW2 worked on the long term trial of the Pluto line which ran from Llandarcy in Skewen via the Bristol channel and English channel carrying oil under the ocean to supply allied troops in France. it would be wonderful to capture his memories before they are lost to us. Access to recording equipment etc and knowledge about how to preserve the data is not that easy to navigate.

Renewable energy shouldn't be used at the expense of the countryside and nature

Improved public transport services in the valleys of the borough e.b. The X8 used to be direct to Swansea, now it only goes to Neath. In addition, the last bus back up the valley leaves Neath at 6pm which can affect those who work later. Cefn Coed has been closed for some time due to building issues however after spending a lot of money renovating the pit wheels, the site is still closed with no sign of repairs being undertaken. The expanse of the site could also be used for other events there generating revenue.

I agree with green technology but disagree with onshore wind farms. Let us develop off shore wind and tidal energy

I think that an improvement in the facilities for public access to the countryside would pay dividends in terms of well-being and health. Public footpaths need to be maintained and signposted for the public to have confidence to go into the countryside. Existing services could be better integrated to achieve these results e.g., for example, there is a bus service into the Pelenna Valley from Neath which is not very well used. If walking routes back into Neath or to Gnoll Country Park, which already exist, could be promoted in conjunction with that service, usage might be improved. The biggest "infrastructure" problem that we have is the lack of local media. The local weekly newspapers have closed down except for one that incidentally covers the Swansea Valley. The Evening Post mainly covers Swansea and the NPT coverage is poor. The Evening Post previously had its own website but this closed as part of consolidation in Reach and the coverage in Wales online is more or less non-existent. How do people in NPT speak to each other and learn about heritage activities is the question. Some people don't do social media, some of it is good and some of it is negative and hostile. One of the popular local phrases is "I would have gone to that if I'd known it was on".

Cefn Coed museum needs reopening. Has great potential as only rivalled by Big Pit.8

The destruction of the transportation of hirfynnydd will.affect our tourism

To some extent. now is a store room for the council

No to wind turbines!

Heritage and conservation in valley/rural areas need to be protected.

The creation of heritage trails to link places of work such as Cefn Coed with housing, worship, shops of the time.

Cefan Coed Museum needs to be re-opened and developed.

Cefn Coed is definitely an underused asset. As I noted in the previous section, Aberdulais Falls is too important to remain closed

There is little dedicated gallery space in the borough with the need to improve access to what already exists. · The fabric of some existing places, such as the Pontardawe Arts Centre, is tired and needs investment to ensure they meet the future needs of residents of NPT.· Arts and cultural activities needs

to be made accessible to a wider range of people, especially encouraging younger people.· More can be done to link Arts and Well-being with the health agenda and Swansea Bay University Health Board.
Absolutely agree of the need for continued investment in green technology
Cefn Coed museum must be opened
Financial investment is a significant challenge
Think you have coered most of it Transport isa problem without a car=public transport is awful
We need to preserve the natural beauty of the area that has not been destroyed by industry, and not allow projects such as energy parks to further destroy the natural beauty.
Infrastructure: The fabric of some existing places, such as the Pontardawe Arts Centre, is tired and needs investment to ensure they meet the future needs of residents of NPT. Creativity: Arts and cultural activities needs to be made accessible to a wider range of people, especially encouraging younger people. More can be done to link Arts and Well being with health opportunities. Policy: Need to move away from a mindset of subsidy in cultural services to one of investment to realise the wider benefits.
+++++ Museum(s), Educational aspects, Public Transport Brunel Engine House and other aspects Maritime and River aspects. ...for which we are looking to acquire river conservancy and conserv
You recognise its a mostly English speaking area. Put on free Welsh lessons as part of the heritage. Learn Welsh at Margam Park etc leanr elah at the gnoll. People would honestly jump at the chance instead of feeling sour about having a language pushed on them where there isn't and opertunity in their local area to learn it face to face
There is definitely a need to develop more effective structures for cross-sector collaborative working, both within and beyond the Council. Some departments are obstructive, to the detriment of our heritage, and our quality of life. The council seems to have a paternalistic attitude, are aloof, and do not want to be involved with the voluntary sector. - Develop a clear decision-making framework for prioritization of projects to deliver a strategy with external partners.
EG - Aberdulis falls hasn't reopened after covid
Diabled access and inclusion is very very poor. Private businesses make an effort (cinemas and theatres) but events, heritage sites, Afan Argoed cycle track, festivals etc are no go areas for a lot of disabled people
The Welsh language needs to be promoted more.
Improve public transport especially in the evenings.
Does dim ystyriaeth i hanes a threftadaeth amaethyddol y sir. Mae'n allweddol cofio am natur y sir cyn dyfodiad y diwydiannau trwm. Mewn rhai ardaloedd, e.e Cwm Tawe, mae'r diwylliant a'r ffordd yna o fyw yn parhau a dylid ei warchod a'i amlygu gan fod 'cof byw' yr elfen honno o'n treftadaeth hefyd yn cael ei gollu. Mae angen cofio am y diwydiannau bwthyn, bychain e.e. cwmniau crochenwaith yn Ynysmeudwy. Mae angen amlygu'r diwylliant iaith Gymraeg ac nid ei ystyried fel rhywbeth sensitif a effeithiwyd gan ddiwydiannu. Mae'r Gymraeg yn fyw mewn pocedi o'r sir, ac nid dim ond ymhlith y to hÿn. Mae'n fyw ar wefusau plant a phobl ifanc ac mae angen hyrwyddo ac ehangu'r cyfleoedd iddyn nhw ddefnyddio'u Cymraeg o fewn cyd-destunau diwylliannol, gwaith, hamdden a thwristiaeth. Mae'r Gymraeg yn ased i'r sir. Does dim cyfeiriad at dreftadaeth grefyddol y sir. Er fy mod yn anffyddiwr, rwy'n gweld effaith pwysigrwydd ein traddodiad crefyddol - yn enwedig trwy'r iaith Gymraeg - ar ein cymunedau hyd heddiw. Mae'r adeiladau wedi eu gwasgaru trwy'r sir, yn dystiolaeth amlwg o'r hyn

oedd yn bwysig i'n cyn-deidiau ac yn sylfaenol i'w bywydau ochr yn ochr â gwaith. Fedrwn ni ddim deall ein hanes lleol o fewn y sir heb ystyried effaith Anghydfurfiaeth ar y cymunedau - roedd yn mynd law yn llaw â'r diwydiannu a ddigwyddodd yma.

Appendix C – Comments on Strengths and Opportunities

Notes:

- These have been edited only to remove comments that might lead to individuals being identified.
- They have not been changed for grammar, spelling or other accuracy issues.
- All comments made have been included apart from those which said things similar to “nothing to add”.

Is there anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or should be highlighted in the final strategy as an asset?
Little progress has been made in terms of leisure investment or promotion in Cwmtawe
The Welsh traditional arts are a growing opportunity not only for NPT but for Wales as a whole. These traditional art forms already being grasped by other areas of Wales as tools to develop local culture, engagement with the Welsh language and understand of local and national heritage, these foster a sense of belonging to your local and larger community which in turn helps towards social cohesion. NPT is already home to a community of passionate and committed people who work with these arts. It would be great to see NPT helping to lead the way to begin to employ these tools as others across Wales are already doing so.
Creative arts and galleries were listed as assets, but are missing from the list of opportunities and strengths. The list is overly focussed on physical buildings and regional scale resources. Much of the momentum is in activities and voluntary contributions which are not at the major infrastructure scale. More information is needed around how the strategy will support smaller scale, local organisations to continue grass roots work.
There should be a museum in Neath. Turn the old Neath library into a museum.
I disagree that transport links are sufficient. Local bus services are poor beyond 5pm, which in turn could affect attendance at our theatres/cinemas
What has Swansea university campus got to do with creativity in NPT? There is creativity throughout this area which has not been tapped into due to a lack of support and funding. The collaborative spirit needs to be built upon by getting creative people together to explore their strengths and ideas to richen the area.
Again the new Plaza development hasnt been mentioned. Margam Park's various new activities should be highlighted e.g. canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, archery etc as well as the Go Ape Tree Top Adventure.
This all sounds excellent, but have you actually walked through Neath town Centre. The peripheral arears of Neath such as Margam park, the Gnoll park and the Beach are utilised as visitor attractions, but the town centre is like a ghost town. The closed shops and smell that comes from the drains is enough for people to stay on that train and get off in Swansea. You mention excellent transport links, but the drop off points for visitors is not exactly inviting.
Again, mentioning nature as an asset and yet it is all too often being sacrificed or reduced under the premise it is good for us but, as climate change demonstrates daily, this is not the case. Equally, the beautiful historical buildings in the borough are often left to go derelict or maintained by community

groups who not only struggle to maintain them due to the cost but also due to the lack of knowledge of what should or should not be done.
Leisure centre already has significant issues with pool needing to be closed
I have visited many local places Abbey, Gnoll etc and the issue I have is not with the venues it's the rubbish you have to get through walking to these areas. Walk through Fairyland it's filthy not a great first impression
As above, better local transport and better facilities near these natural assets
Woolly ideas. No practical suggestion for implementing.
Can't see anything about the growing public/graffiti art in Port Talbot and the growing Arts scene there
Improve local transport.
There needs to be a team put in place to promote the area to tourists, both local (swansea etc) and further afield like London. Nobody has heard of 'dramatic heart of Wales'
Affordability and accessibility of some of the new initiatives - Wildfox looks great but will local people be able to afford to use the facilities there? It's a good list but needs to be made real for people, be clear what the success in securing Levelling Up monies will actually mean to the people who live here.
Potential for tourism has been neglected for too long eg superb beach at Aberafon linked with Margam needs promoting. The proximity of Neath Abbey to the Ironworks & Aberdulais needs needs enhancement & joint promotion. Access to the waterfall area lies within the Borough.
Small projects are continually overlooked in favour of the Gnoll and Margam, this is so the council can charge more to visit. Small projects have to fight hard to get funding and are not supported by the council
More information is needed about the history of the area. Lots of opportunities to do this. As a newcomer I have found it hard to find out the area and activities.
A need to celebrate the industrial heritage of the area, e.g. provision of signage in the Afan valley to provide information to locals and visitors
MRgam and neTh abbey aren't a draw for pontardawe and the valleys . Small investment needed in these areas to encourage visitors to Pontardawe and the valleys
Without additional funding I can't see how the 'bold new vision' will be anything but words
There is also Neath Little Theatre which is amazing
Details from locals.....looks like you joined all the aims of welsh government and the buzz words and put them all on one page
We need more wind farms, solar farms and renewable energy projects.
Leisure facilities coming back under NPTCBC which can further support and encourage the wellbeing of residents.
Museum in neath. Keep affordable opportunities for all, ie free swim for kids.
There have been much less opportunities for younger generations to get involved in arts and culture due to cuts to funding for music provision for example. Not enough is being done to support those in poverty, or with high level social needs. I live in Neath, not far from the town centre. Although lots of people are proud of our natural areas of beauty, and parks, they are not so proud of our town centre. From what I can see, we have not really seen any benefit from the Swansea Bay uni campus, because although in the boundaries of NPT, it is very much seen as a Swansea asset. Some residents are concerned about how the Wild Fox development will support the local economy, and ensure that the

<p>natural landscape is not damaged too much. Although it sounds like an exciting development, how will it support the local economy if everyone stays on camp like center parcs? Apart from providing jobs.</p>
<p>Neath port Talbot council like Swansea have invested in new build with little thought to environmental Sustainability, care must be taken to reduce the carbon cost of infrastructure improvements and to make sure that such infrastructure is necessary and does not negatively impact local heritage and environment.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three main theatres (Princess Royal, Gwyn Hall, Pontardawe) of varying sizes: the planned investment in a new Cinema in Pontardawe is a key opportunity. • Build on assets such as the Pontardawe Arts Centre which are more than “arts”: blending heritage, culture and leisure. • Swansea University’s £450m Bay Campus provides both a great venue for creative endeavours and courses in several relevant specialisms, developing links with existing venues. • A bold new vision for culture will be developed through this cultural strategy with commitment from NPT Council to use the strategy to drive investment, growth and improve wellbeing
<p>Infrastructure - natural assets are not all in good condition and some of them need much work to restore environment and biodiversity. Heritage assets - once again not all are in good nick, eg the Brunel Dock and the nearby canal. Wildfox - benefits are contested - also creates a threat to archaeological sites, wildlife. Not a project that is in any way linked in with environment or local heritage, it's just a fun park plonked down in the Afan Valley. Creativity - 2017 is now 6 years ago and we've got b*gger all out of it. The challenge is to do our <u>own</u> bid for City of Culture not just going cap in hand to Swansea Policy - feel that redevelopment at Margam Castle should be holistic, easy to concentrate on the gentry and their lives and to forget the common people who worked for them or were their tenants. But the estate has a much older history, there are Celtic sites there which also deserve investigation and their story to be told.</p>
<p>Three main theatres (Princess Royal, Gwyn Hall, Pontardawe) of varying sizes: the planned investment in a new Cinema in Pontardawe is a key opportunity. Build on assets such as the Pontardawe Arts Centre which are more than “arts”: blending heritage, culture and leisure. Swansea University’s £450m Bay Campus provides both a great venue for creative endeavours and courses in several relevant specialisms, developing links with existing venues. A bold new vision for culture will be developed through this cultural strategy with commitment from NPT Council to use the strategy to drive investment, growth and improve wellbeing.</p>
<p>You saying transport is excellent I certainly do not agree with that. All libraries should be given the same opportunities as the larger ones.</p>
<p>I fail to understand why Neath Abbey Ironworks' plans which are listed in the UNESCO Memory of the World register are not mentioned in this Strategy? There are three scheduled ancient monuments on the site. The Ironworks' history is being taught in school with future generations as part of the new curriculum. What more is needed to justify conservation of the site? Examples of the UNESCO Memory of the World register include Magna Carter and the 1689 Bill of Rights.</p>
<p>Why isn't Neath Abbey Ironworks listed as a place with opportunity for enhancement/expansion? Its plans are listed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register along with Magna Carta and the 1689 Bill of Rights; it possesses three scheduled ancient monuments. Cwmfelin's heritage, where the Ironworks is, goes back to before the Norman Conquest. It is being studied as part of the new Cynefin syllabus. What more is needed to justify conservation?</p>
<p>Transport links are poor. Particularly public transportation , That is not correct in the statement. This is a huge opportunity to be addressed to re instate a strong public transport system in the area.</p>

Centres like the Pontardawe Arts Centre are at the centre of their community and provide a wide range of activities for the community as well as attracting people from nearby areas, who then spend their money locally. It would be good to liaise with the university and other local venues to work together on projects which involve different communities in a common endeavour.
The above statements over-state quite a lot of benefits, for example Neath leisure centre doesn't even have a slide like the one it replaced so doesn't meet the needs for all as it's not very fun
Serious commitment to canal regeneration
Support local groups
Who is writing this? 'Wonderful range of natural assets – forests, beaches, moorland, rivers' - I'm not sure that I'm living in the same place.
I think one needs to engage with the nitty gritty as well as wide ranging and regional strategies, eg why haven't we a blue plaque scheme to commemorate significant individuals on a par with those in surrounding places like Swansea, Bridgend and Carmarthen
Again very Neath valley centric. What about enhancements to pontardawe art centre cinema?
Poor transport from peripheral communities to Swansea, Cardiff etc. Considering the NPT CBC have closed virtually all public facilities in our most disadvantaged communities, it is totally incorrect to speak of "significant investment" in community services
Again with the cost of living people haven't got the spare money to travel and visit these area's maybe as an incentive offer free transport so many times a year so the struggling working families are able to afford to attend
Just an emphasise is kept to make sure accessibility and affordable to all ages to all sites and events.
All this sounds good on paper but, bearing in mind residents in Aberavon who are not car owners, it takes longer to access any facilities in Neath than to travel to Swansea since the direct bus service has been cancelled. Arriving back from Cardiff to the PT train station in the evenings is always difficult. Surely with the new Wildfox project the transport facilities and the general feel of PT could/should be enhanced and made to feel SAFER???
Investment in new developments is going ahead - Neath Town centre upgrade, wildfoxbpark etc
There is a community of professional people working in the cultural industries in NPT. How do you harness their abilities and industries in a positive way to generate further activity? There is a risk that the assets and sites mentioned in the consultation document are places where the arts and culture happen. There is an opportunity to develop the idea that these places and sites are also places where culture is created. Enabling these individuals and cultural companies should be paramount. Often these people and businesses and invisible to the community and local authority.
Transport links are unreliable and expensive. Better infrastructure for active travel necessary
Reference made to facilities that are dated and need restoration or replacement. Little reference to build on and improve the limited facilities or the need for more diversification
Better promotion and communications required to sell our services
is the statement on investment in community leisure centres correct? there will be many residents that don't agree with this statement.
There are many strengths and opportunities here in the country borough - which takes me back to a point I made earlier about an asset based approach. However, I don't think the Dramatic Heart of Wales brand has been particularly successful, it is vague, generic and quite empty. The previous Destination Management Plan was a jumbled mess of optimistic statements and aims, rather than a realistic but bold vision. The Council previously ruled out its own City of Culture bid due to having a

complete lack of understanding or appreciation for its own cultural offer and history, so significant barriers exist there and it would be difficult to build on a bid from 2017. These strengths don't highlight some of the big names who were born or lived in the area, some of whom are still alive and whose popularity could be utilised to highlight the area.
Again, there seems to be a lot of focus on what we already have, but no real mention of new things that could be created or introduced from the ground up - especially in terms of creative endeavours, exhibitions, art venues and events, film festivals and creative community projects. Also, the focus continues to be on local history and culture, and while these are important and should be considered, I feel there you should be more emphasis on developing new artistic and creative endeavours, with a strong focus on developing and nurturing new talent within the local communities and providing them the space and opportunities to create new history and new culture.
Developments in Pontardawe such as new cinema facilities in Arts Centre.
The culture strategy should be promoted in a good positive way as this will affect many, including staff.
I think it's important to note how many cultural / third sector organisations already work closely together. For example, we work very closely with Pontardawe Arts Centre on a number of projects, we actually help them to create their annual programme of events to ensure that there are Welsh language and cultural events happening on a regular basis. This strength, and the new Forum for Culture and Heritage by NPTCVS is a definite opportunity for development. The mapping activities undertaken will be very interesting as I'm sure there are opportunities for collaboration that we've not even thought of.
It might be worth looking at the range and success of the 1995 Year of Literature in Swansea, a predecessor of the Year of Culture. (I have details of the 1995 Year. programmes etc., having been on the Board.) It involved a very wide range of events and activities.
The strengths and opportunities of the culture of NPT -Collective desire to succeed and a collaborative spirit. All the rest makes no sense in relation to the strengths and opportunities of culture of NPT
Cefn coed colliery museum
If its an attraction/ location that is more noticed by the general public and further afield then money will be spent on it. Otherwise, outskirts areas get lesser priority
Dramatic Heart of Wales is a great brand, and think it should be built upon as much as possible.
I think large towns and cities have been all funded, should spread the funds wider to fairly "level up"
The Neath and Tennant canals!!! The area at the back of Morrisons should be cleared and developed, as it had started to be, a lovely tourist attraction. If only the canals could be cleaned and mautaided. Look at Brecon. The town has a hidden gem with these canals.
Develop ceanothus coed it is on gateway to Brecon Beacons lost potential ,it could be developed to embrace local crafts, produce and history
The council, functioning as one in and for the best interests of the citizens of the community.
Smaller areas of attraction must not lose out. I appreciate that Margam Castle etc are big attraction areas but as said previously, culture has to be promoted across the borough
briton ferry is not mentioned and yet the brunel docks are there are we a forgotten area once again
Green energy when we have enough for our need will not benefit the countryside and wild life
There is a contradiction in the infrastructure section where you mention the forestry because the development of onshore wind in our valleys destroys the beauty of our natural features.
Transport is very poor from the valleys.Whole transport ie roads, rail and buses are a disgrace

<p>The "Cynefin" curriculum changes in Wales do of course provide an opportunity to promote knowledge of local heritage. The library service heritage group was recently visited by the Cynefin lead and I hope that that will improve relationships between heritage groups and formal education. The worry is that the curriculum changes will create a lot of work for teachers who are stressed as it is and that there will be a lot of duplication between schools. Cooperation between heritage groups and education should facilitate the development. I share the view expressed by a number of people that the Gwyn Hall is an asset which is not fulfilling its potential. The art centre in Pontardawe demonstrates how a mixed and lively programme can foster a ready audience. People need to develop the regular habit of going to live events. Car parking in the town centre to attend the Gwyn Hall has been problematic right from the start. People need to feel safe when attending events, particularly the more elderly. The fact that the multi-storey car park is now open until late to accommodate the new leisure centre may now help the situation provided that this is publicised and people feel safe walking between the two. For some reason NPT events in Port Talbot are advertised by banners in Neath but going all events and not advertised in Port Talbot. The Gwyn Hall and the later opening of the multi-storey car park is an opportunity which needs to be grasped</p>
<p>Remember the valleys ...</p>
<p>Neath is better provided than Port Talbot with spaces for the practice of the arts. We need an even fuller summary of assets and possibilities and more contacts between groups, to share knowledge and expertise.</p>
<p>Protect our heritage from foreign companies</p>
<p>Again focus and preservation of heritage should not be forgotten in valley communities.</p>
<p>Our group believes that the restoration of Brunel's Dock in Briton Ferry is not only a hugely important asset in itself, as a deeply significant historical site and cultural legacy with exciting educational potential, but also it is crucial for the economic recovery of Briton Ferry. Briton Ferry is one of the most deprived areas in Wales. The Dock can be sensitively repurposed into a major wealth-generating leisure facility. It is a five-minute drive off the M4; the main Paddington to Swansea railway line is a couple of hundred yards away from it; it even has its own level crossing, which has survived due to an Act of Parliament, protecting it in case of war; and if the route of Brunel's funicular railway was revived, as a cycling path, it links Briton Ferry with the Afan Valley, through beautiful countryside.</p>
<p>Again, nothing about the natural world and biodiversity. These are as important as the places which are described as natural assets. These are diminished if the wildlife, native plants etc are ignored.</p>
<p>Three main theatres (Princess Royal, Gwyn Hall, Pontardawe) of varying sizes: the planned investment in a new Cinema in Pontardawe is a key opportunity.· Build on assets such as the Pontardawe Arts Centre which are more than "arts": blending heritage, culture and leisure.· Swansea University's £450m Bay Campus provides both a great venue for creative endeavours and courses in several relevant specialisms, developing links with existing venues.· A bold new vision for culture will be developed through this cultural strategy with commitment from NPT Council to use the strategy to drive investment, growth and improve wellbeing.</p>
<p>Glynneath - is one of the four towns. It is difficult to think of any investment in the town for culture or heritage, why is that? What could be done that is creative and original to include the town going forward?</p>
<p>Actions, Actions-not more words and consultations please!</p>
<p>NPT is under sold on a national level. you go through Neath to get to Swansea, Gower and West Wales</p>
<p>Very Neath/PortTalbot town orientated. For example, why £17.5 million leveling up fund restricted to the Neath Valley ? and why Pont Nedd Fechan ?an area within a central Govt funded National Park.</p>

Many valleys in NPT are bereft of funding and dying on their feet. Coal mines in the Afan valley have been closed for over 50 years and no sustainable projects have been established. The Wildfox proposed development (if successful) is nothing more than a centre parks clone and benefits only low paid workers and of no gain to communities there. It seem that strategies are everything and just boxes to be ticked. More needs to be done in the communities of the valleys, and focus should be on the plight of the people and lack of fundamental amenities for all.

Policy: A bold new vision for culture will be developed through this cultural strategy with commitment from NPT Council to use the strategy to drive investment, growth and improve wellbeing.

Give it to the national Trust. Who ever directs these funds will push their own agenda and ideas. At least the national trust will work to preserve only and make things accessible to the public. The national trust also maintains its sights to an exceptionally high standard and always attracts visitors

The Welsh traditional arts including music and dance would be a great opportunity for NPT to develop engagement with local history, national culture and the Welsh Language. These arts have been successfully used employed in other areas of Wales to help develop social cohesion as well as hitting the targets already mentioned.

Drop wildfox, it'll never happen and is an embarrassing scam.

One of our forest areas (between Goytre and Bryn) may soon be covered in wind turbines. In our industrial area we value our green spaces. This should be a major consideration before any plans are approved. I realize that our council decisions may be overridden by the Welsh Assembly, as they were for the turbines we now have on Mynydd Brombil.

Yn anghytuno'n fawr â'r drafnidiaeth. Mae gorsaf drenau CastellNeddyn ased gwerthfawr ond mae rhaid gyrru i'w chyrraedd

Unwaith eto mae'r Gymraeg ar goll. Mae Strategaeth 2050 gan Lywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau miliwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050 ac ni chyfeirir at hyn yn y testun uchod. Mae gan Gastell-nedd Port Talbot Ganolfan Gymraeg ym Mhontardawe sy'n brosiect ar y cyd rhwng y Cyngor Sir a Phrifysgol Abertawe. Enw'r ganolfan yw Ty'r Gwrhyd (Gwrhyd yw un o fynyddoedd Cwm Tawe) <https://www-2018.swansea.ac.uk/press-office/news-archive/2016/nameofnewswanseavalleywelshcentreannounced.php> Mae'r Ganolfan yn gweithio gyda nifer o bartneriaid lleol a chenedlaethol i hyrwyddo'r Gymraeg a hefyd trefadaeth a diwylliant Gymraeg sir CNPT. Nid yw'r buddsoddiad mewn canolfannau hamdden wedi bod yn ddigonol nad yn deg ar draws y sir - mae adnoddau Pontardawe yng Nghwm Tawe yn ddiffygiol iawn, er enghraifft, yn enwedig y pwll nofio. Rhaid cofio am y cymunedau i ogledd y sir nad sydd yn elwa ar isadeiledd gryf o ran trafndiaeth rheilffordd neu briffyrdd. Mae angen cofio bod nifer o'r artistiaid rhyngwladol o'r sir yn siaradwyr Cymraeg e.e. Richard Burton a'u bod yn falch o'u dwyieithrwydd. Rhaid cofio hefyd bod llenorion, cerddorion ac artistiaid o safon cenedlaethol yn hanu o'r sir ac wedi gwneud cyfraniadau aruthrol yn yr iaith Gymraeg e.e. Cleif Harpwood ac aelodau eraill band Edward H. Dafis; Gwenallt y bardd a heddychwyr o Bontardawe; Rachel Thomas yr actores o'r Alltwen, Huw Chiswell o Ystalyfera. Mae angen cydnabod y doniau Cymraeg hyn rhag i ddiwylliant y sir gael ei gam-ddehongli fel un uniaith Saesneg. Mae hyn yn allweddol i gynorthwyo pobl ifanc i gydnabod a deall eu 'cynefin' fel sydd yn ofynnol yn y Cwricwlwm newydd i Gymru.

Appendix D – Comments on Vision

Notes:

- These have been edited only to remove comments that might lead to individuals being identified.
- They have not been changed for grammar, spelling or other accuracy issues.
- All comments made have been included apart from those which said things similar to “nothing to add”.
- One comment couched in offensive language has been removed.

Is there anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or should be highlighted in the final strategy as part of the vision for Neath Port Talbot?
Again, emphasis is concentrated on Port Talbot & Neath with no evidence that Cwmtawe is considered
That Cymer be recognised as the heart of the upper Afan, and the council put some investment into the existing strategic amenities. Swimming pool, gym, library and also invest in derelict buildings. With the investment from Wildfox resort there is an opportunity for the council to expand what visitors want. The valley is not just a mountain biking area it is popular as a triathlon venue and the pool is used regularly by many swimming groups and a diving group. There is also opportunity for the the council to take advantage of local industrial heritage like a short tunnel and a seven arched bridge , along with a metal framed viaduct which has been used for bungee jumping.
I personally, and I know many others who have refused to use the Gnoll Park facilities because of the ridiculous parking charges being levied, previously I was happy to make a donation for the upkeep but having it imposed is a step too far. As a result, use of the facility has dropped to the point where facilities are being reduced. The issue as I see it across the borough is one of mindset and limited experience of business where the only way the local authority see's raising cash is by imposition of costs rather than opportunities to earn. The local authority and various community councils go out of their way to make collaboration to raise funds more difficult. Sadly there is a petty minded and superior attitude which is institutional within both elected and employees of the council. Their M.O. is to be seen to collaborate and help rather than actually do so, and it is this which needs to be addressed because slowly it is strangling businesses to death.
The vision is the first time that cultural events are mentioned. Cultural events should be referenced in assets and opportunities. Long standing events, such as Neath September Fair and the town's relationship with the fairground communities as a stakeholder should be specifically mentioned in the previous sections. The vision should make reference to the Natural heritage theme. There should be a vision aligned with the climate and nature emergency, for example "residents and visitors have an increased awareness of - benefit from -and contribute to enhanced natural environment."
The canals need clearing up. They could be a huge tourist attraction if boats could use tjem
Cymraeg is the main thing that makes us different from other Countries in the UK. We need strong leadership to regain our identity
All sounds very nice, but rather like an artist's impression of any new development, it bears little resemblance to the reality of what will be.
We should have camp sites and caravan parks to capture the increase staycation people

Development needs to be done throughout our towns to make them more appealing. Traders should be supported in order to make small unique shops available for visitors and to create diversity within our streets.
We need to do more and advertise better - Charging for parking is putting people off visiting Margam park, the Gnoll - its way to expensive. I get the need to charge for parking - but charge less and more people will visit. Or offer a Neath Port Talbot annual Parking charge for residence at a discounted rate - to have free parking at the Gnoll- ,Margam etc.
Feel that Margam Park isn't only important for heritage - its natural landscape as a conservation resource should be recognised and managed and its peaceful 'green space' as a benefit for mental health space be included. Have to have space for nature.
To meet this vision, you need to acknowledge that to many people, some of these places are pricing people out. Attending concerts and events or going out can be difficult for many people financially. In order to achieve this vision, you will need to ensure job creation and preservation so people can then be in a position where they can enjoy what NPT has to offer
Again don't agree when you state the council promotes the art when the council make it so difficult for non profit organisations to actually put on productions with the fees of theatres and ticket levy prices
there could be more of a focus on what we are doing with children and young people
Nothing on welsh language. Nothing about the cultural importance of or protection of the environment and how that links to heritage. Nothing about the private sector's involvement. Or the future of green energy and how it can help support and shape communities and culture
Not enough provision of facilities, cafes etc in many places. Nowhere to get a coffee after 3pm in town - suspect it's worse in outlying areas. Not enough choice along seafront, nothing at eastern end and virtually no parking facilities that end (just more and more houses).
Money to develop arts in schools and communities. NPT theatre Hire costs are prohibitive for smaller groups who simply can't afford them and have stopped using them eg Port Talbot Little Theatre and PT Cymric Choir. The venues are of litttuse if they are unaffordable.
Again - where is Pontardawe and it's cultural heritage and Art Centre mentioned?
Not enough public transport. Some people do not have cars so they cannot visit places of interest.
It could be great to host large comic con type events like Margam park once did
It's ambitious which is good but I'm not sure how well received it will be during a Cost of Living crisis. Also, with many town centres clearly struggling it doesn't really seem feasible (ambitious but not realistic)
No mention of Pontardawe town centre 😞
There is far more to NPT than Margam and the Gnoll but the small sites are not supported by the council
I do feel that all the money and resources are always spent on Gnoll Park and Margam. We have fantastic volunteers who manage and maintain all the heritage sites, nature reserves etc but they need the overarching support from the local authority to join it all together
More development for the Valley areas
A general improvement of the environment tidy clean
Don't just focus on the Gnoll and Margam, what about the Afan valley?

I think you mean heritage more than culture. But the major block to this is having a massive steel works blighting the view!
A well connected infrastructure to access villages and communities across the borough.
There needs to be more sustainable funding and support to make this a reality. I also think there should be more investment in community gardens. Or initiatives that tackle poverty. They need to be focusing on lived experiences of poverty, as well as poverty of hope.
Numbers are not the only story, though revenue will always be promoted as positive, integrating the appearance of wilderness with an understanding that the landscape is the result of human exploitation, which has also negatively impacted local communities, is an opportunity for heritage professionals in NPT.
These venues, as well as Port Talbot and Neath and Pontardawe town centres, have also been reanimated with ambitious programmes of events, significant public art commissions, new and growing creative businesses, and inclusive community projects. The benefits of sustained investment in Arts and Culture have been realised with an improvement in Well-being.
Town centres need to reanimated in terms of retail also. And can't we have more music? We need more venues and encouragement for performers. NPT could be made a unique centre for our own but also Wales's story, from Celtic and Roman times, through the Wars of Independence, then the industrial revolution. It's more than big sites. And we should be emphasising non-traditional tourism - nature tourism, heritage tourism, ancestry, and sport. And the strategy should stress that the Welsh language and culture are front and centre in the offering.
Pontardawe town centre The benefits of sustained investment in Arts and Culture have been realised with an improvement in Well-being.
The council say these things constantly but nothing changes.
The benefits of sustained investment in arts and culture will be an improvement in health and well-being
Neath Town Centre appears to be dying and run-down. Entering through Briton Ferry is depressing with the number of empty shops. There is poverty in Neath Port Talbot with the number of food banks. There is violence and crime rates are high. Drugs and Organised Crime Gangs are prevalent in the streets. One of the disadvantages of this strategy is that it completely excludes large areas of the borough- Swansea Valley, Upper Amman and Clydach Valley, Skewen.
The impression that Briton Ferry, Neath and Neath Abbey gives is of decline and neglect. Neath town centre and Briton Ferry have numerous empty shops. As a resident of Neath for all my life, this is the worst I have ever known. Drug taking and organised crime gangs are common on the streets. Many shops are charity shops. Large areas of the borough have been ignored. The Swansea valley is hardly mentioned, the upper Amman and Clydach valleys are not mentioned at all, as is Skewen.
It's important to make sure all centres are included - so mention should be specifically made of Pontardawe in this section.
The vision should say that these things will happen, not that they have happened - it's quite misleading and confusing the way it is phrases
Inclusion of canal infrastructure regeneration in the development of tourism strategy
The vision won't happen as Neath town is dying. You need massive investment now as we are sinking fast.

<p>So you expect charities - funded by the EU or not at all now - to take up the slack from the lack of investment from Council basis? You think what you've listed above constitutes as change or enough to facilitate this idea? You're making jobs for the boys, and it disgusts me that this is being pushed as the vision - for you set the goalposts as to "what history" - no mention of the castle, actual heritage, but more so seek to uphold that of unionism as a failed project which I think speaks to the sheer lack of spine and effort of repeated CBC's. NPT should be focusing on promoting heritage yes, give tours in the steelworks, arrange and *preserve* areas like the Gnoll yourselves without offloading that financial responsibility onto well meaning pensioners in the Gnoll. Sincerely, this is just too accepting of austerity to be a real vision, if so: I want no part in the bastardisation of Neath and "what it is through this very British lense".</p>
<p>Hotels in the town centre. Area around the Parade in Neath is like a no go area .</p>
<p>Some areas of Neath are an eyesore, and embarrassing for visitors to be presented with. Parts of The Parade and Windsor Road in particulates. The entrance into Neath is very unappealing</p>
<p>Both Gnoll and Margam are good. Although the trails at the Gnoll have become unpassable for running in some cases. Neath Abbey could be excellent. Aberdulais - Do something about the pub! Cefn Coed has potential. Both town centers are appalling from a business point of view. Although I do like a couple of eating places that have cropped up in Neath. The seafront at Aberavon needs a look at. It full of dog c@*p.</p>
<p>You seem unaware that initiatives like Brunel's Dock, the state of the two canals, Aberdulais Falls, and, up until recently, Cefn Coed, as well as the rapidly disappearing Ivy Tower are shameful.</p>
<p>Neath centric</p>
<p>Again total failure to highlight opportunities in the Upper Afan Valley --- very disappointing. How is this possible considering SW Miners Museum, Glyncorrwg Mountain Biking etc.</p>
<p>It would be nice to see these area's develop and maybe introduce camping facilities so the local public could stay closer to home and spend thier money within their own communities instead of going to other area's that offer such opportunities</p>
<p>Just keep doing as well as you are currently.</p>
<p>Again, I agree to some extent BUT Port Talbot centre is hardly bustling and safe. Why isn't there a bus that goes into Margam Park instead of having to walk along a road? Why can't Porthcawl be accessed without going into Bridgend? Have you calculated the time it takes to get to Gnoll Park on public transport from PT bus station? Plenty of culture d and beauty to be enjoyed in the environs BUT only for car owners!! Is that the way ahead?</p>
<p>The area has to be made into a tourist destination.The obvious highlights are the parks, open spaces and coastline,but there is a wealth of history for visitors to explore</p>
<p>Port Talbot town and the Aberavon centre are a disgrace and new business needs to be encouraged</p>
<p>Some of the assets mentioned above have been neglected over the years. Local people take it for granted that Briton Ferry Brunel Dock is an important site locally, but not many engage with that place. If these places are to be truly important to us they need to be vibrant and used by the community. It is very disappointing that the authority's museum and art collection has not been on display for many years. I understand the authority owns some excellent art in its collection and there must be ways of displaying it to the community despite there not being an official gallery space.</p>
<p>Advertisement of free events in beautiful spaces is poor. Use social media/ads/influencers to promote</p>

<p>The views of visitors to this area remain 'bleak' in terms of the location and low numbers of quality hotels and restaurants as well as points of interest when staying for more than one night. Little in the way of Port Talbot being reanimated. More and more is being lost.</p>
<p>No mention of the Afan valley and what it has to offer - similarly the Swansea and Amman Valleys. No mention of the canals or growing street art</p>
<p>This doesn't mention Pontardawe or anywhere in the Swansea or Amman Valleys, nor does it mention Afan Forest Park - which is a fantastic asset for the county borough.</p>
<p>It is worrying that is what this consultation perceives Neath Port Talbot to be - "a nationally recognised destination with a reputation for high-quality and varied offer of arts, heritage and culture for visitors and residents." As someone who is a proud resident of Port Talbot, and who brings visitors from all over the UK and other countries here, I can assure it is not perceived as such. While Port Talbot has its fair share of local talent, particularly when it comes to acting and performance, the efforts by the local authority to provide high-quality and varied art is, sadly, lacking. Local efforts such as the numerous street art projects are not to a high standard and could be considered a lack of ambition, and even a degree of laziness, by the local authority to make this a destination for high-quality art. A better and more considered approach would be to invest in new and modern exhibition and display venues such as a local gallery, or even, perhaps a local, modernised arts centre - one that could serve as both an gallery and exhibition space, a local and independent cinema, creative hub and communal centre where artists can not only display their work but can also perform. A good, and successful example of such a venue would be the Chapter Arts centre in Cardiff. Port Talbot currently has a number of unused, and central properties that could be used in such a way.</p>
<p>No mention of Pontardawe.</p>
<p>The vision is directed as a community, which is an ideal for a vision.</p>
<p>One of the ideas put forward in an early meeting of the Culture and Heritage Forum was to make use of empty spaces within the town centres, and to turn them into popups / temporary venues for cultural groups to be able to showcase their work / temporary galleries would also be a great idea for use. This idea needs to be looked at further.</p>
<p>It seems many local businesses are struggling or closing.</p>
<p>Must showcase activity lead attractions. Cycle paths walks etc, not looking to the past</p>
<p>The 2040 Vision is missing! 2040 is in the future, and the first line for example mentioned NPT HAS BECOME.....not a vision for the year 2040, as it is still year 2023 at the moment.</p>
<p>Opportunities for all pupils of all ages to learn an instrument/sing/dance at school</p>
<p>This doesn't sound like a vision statement but about the past and where we are now.</p>
<p>Lowering the rents in the town centre would attract more visitors. Share the town's history and tourist attractions with University students at Swansea. Especially those in the Bay campus. It's a short bus ride to Neath and Port Talbot but it's not advertised or promoted to the students.</p>
<p>More community gardens/ allotments for local produce</p>
<p>Heritage assets need to be brought together to work strategically on promotion and investment</p>
<p>No restoration of the Brunel dock apart from the pump house which was done years ago. The dock area has not been a valued area and has seen no developments, apart for siting the recycling centre!! It is important to share information so that communities are aware of developments.</p>
<p>again develop Briton ferry</p>
<p>More attractions to the Upper Dulais valley is needed</p>

How can the destruction of our valleys attract tourism? Cefn Coed will possibly be an important gateway to the Dulais Valley and GCRE but if EDF's proposal goes ahead then who would want to visit the valley?
I agree that promoting visits from outside the area should be an important part of the vision. However, I went through a previous cycle of activity in promoting tourism in the 1980s and 1990s prior to local government reorganisation in 1996. There was a lot of activity the fruits of which are still visible on the ground, e.g. Gnoll Country Park but the economic impact in terms of employment was modest. Part of the longer term vision must surely centre around NPT inhabitants themselves. Children should grow up with knowledge of their surroundings, why things are as they are and an appreciation of the lived experience of previous generations. Adults should be prepared to engage with their communities, get out into the countryside and get more out of life by doing so. People often say locally "we don't know/appreciate what we've got". Our objective should be communities that do know and do appreciate what they've got.
With the exception of Cefn Coed the NPT valleys seem to be overlooked apart from a solar/wind/battery park that will benefit no one directly in the borough
Don't forget the valleys.
NPT is rich in people of achievement - they can be used, as Richard Burton is to some extent, or Dylan Thomas in Swansea.
Stop destroying our environment
When Neath /Port Talbot Council were deciding what to do with the Neath Model Railway Club at Cefn Coed there was no consultation with the members about its future
Why not have one membership pass for The Gnoll and Morgan Park?
Aberavon Beach
Motorhome stopovers utilising existing car parks would tap into the current uk holiday trend. CAMPRA is an organisation that would give all the advice needed.
You mention "two great historic parks - Gnoll and Margam" but Neath Port Talbot has THREE great historic parks! The third one, Jersey Park, is located in Briton Ferry! Jersey Park will be celebrating its centenary in 2025 and has a very important history. A stretch of the pathway in the park is a repurposed section of Brunel's funicular railway, going through a railway cutting and under a bridge built by Brunel. It is an extremely popular, well-used park within the community and it facilitates access to the wonderful walks in Briton Ferry's ancient woodlands. The park is underfunded and relies largely on a volunteer group of retired individuals to help maintain it. It requires a major injection of sustainable resources.
The emphasis again is on people only and not biodiversity, without which these parks etc become meaningless.
Major restorations or development have taken place at Margam Castle, Neath Abbey, Briton Ferry Brunel Dock, Aberdulais and Cefn Coed. These venues, as well as Port Talbot and Neath and Pontardawe town centres, have also been reanimated with ambitious programmes of events, significant public art commissions, new and growing creative businesses, and inclusive community projects. The benefits of sustained investment in Arts and Culture have been realised with an improvement in Well-being. New ways of working collaboratively Cultural activities are significantly improving people's health and wellbeing.
Find the money to enable Cefn Coed Museum to reopen
I think we need investment in places to stay in too to further boost tourism.

Disagree with pleasure boating at the Gnoll-what about the wildlife on the ponds?
Public parks
Once again Towncentric and Authority owned attractions. This misses the opportunity to rejuvenate the dying valleys. Very much more needs to be done "on the ground" in the community.
Pontardawe and the Swansea Valley is missing. Suggested text: "These venues, as well as Port Talbot and Neath and Pontardawe town centres, have also been reanimated with ambitious programmes of events, significant public art commissions, new and growing creative businesses, and inclusive community projects. Add a sentence: The benefits of sustained investment in Arts and Culture have been realised with an improvement in Well-being. New ways of working collaboratively have been invented and embraced by the public, private and voluntary sectors and there are passionate, committed groups
The numbers from when and two of tourists increasing.
Development of beach front, recognising industrial heritage and supporting/maintaining current world leading steel industry. age
Gellir gwneud llawer mwy i hyrwyddo hanes y Gnoll
Yn gyntaf oll, nid gweledigaeth sydd wedi ei rannu uchod ond datganiad a disgrifiad. Mae'n trafod beth sydd wedi digwydd yn hytrach na beth yw'r nod. Yn ail, mae'r ffocws ar gyfer hyrwyddo treftadaeth y sir i gyd ar ochr ddeheuol y sir, does dim cyfeirio at atyniadau neu gryfderau y wardiau gogleddol a chymoedd Tawe a Nedd o gwbl. Mae mwy i'r sir na Margam a threfi Port Talbot a Chastell-nedd! Nid yw'r 'weledigaeth' hon yn ysbrydoli o gwbl nac yn meithrin hyder y bydd diwylliant a threftadaeth y sir yn cael ei warchod, ei hyrwyddo a'i ddatblygu'n llwyddiannus.

Appendix E – Comments on Key Themes

Notes:

- These have been edited only to remove comments that might lead to individuals being identified.
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- All comments made have been included apart from those which said things similar to “nothing to add”.

Is there anything that you feel is missing from this section and/or which should be highlighted in the final strategy?
The Welsh traditional arts would be a perfect tool to celebrate our local assets alongside celebrating our language. Welsh traditional music is rooted in the landscape and it deeply tied to place. NPT is no exception - our songs celebrate events and places which are still relevant today.
NPTC until recently hardly made a bid in sustainable transport facilities opting to simply accept the core grants on offer. A reduction in the maintenance of pathways etc has seen many nice walks become unusable. Again we see lip service and box ticking but not a lot else. certainly no collaboration
The power of community and local scale action should be drawn out as a distinct theme. Not clear if this is support to be covered in the innovate section. Nature and wellbeing and active travel are blurred together. Nature and wellbeing only references the ability to get out and about to walk and cycle. This should be added to the active travel theme, which currently does not include the health and wellbeing benefits of non-motor travel. The nature theme should include clearer links to the nature and climate change emergency, and the importance of changing peoples relationship with access to nature, and encouraging responsible, positive behaviours around maintaining and enhancing nature. The strategy should capitalise on the strong relationship people have to their local place (natural and built), to encourage behaviours which will make communities more climate resilient.
The Roman and Norman contribution
Free Welsh lessons provided
The whole area needs to be cleared of rubbish and knot weed. Natural diversity can only do so much.
A lot of time and effort is being spent on developing active travel routes for people to walk, run, cycle but once these infrastructures are in place, they are not very well looked after. They are also often constructed with materials which are not sustainable and despite the routes being 'shared', they cause more conflict than anything else. Perhaps a way to reverse that would be to review how these routes are developed and start looking at how users want to use the space. Tarmac cycling routes are great when the weather is dry but they can be lethal when the leaves and twigs and broken glass that litter them are left in situ. There is no programme to make sure these are swept and kept from debris. Additionally, the culture of pedestrian vs cyclists also hasn't changed. Lack of courtesy from both sides causes tension and animosity. More needs to be done there. Finally, once again, these active travel routes also often come at the price of sacrificing nature for us to be able to navigate around. Who are we to say what is more important? Our immediate wellbeing or that of nature and future generations?

Don't understand why these are not in the vision? Green / sustainable is the future; it should be integral
Save our canals
The rich history of the area isn't common knowledge, it's not celebrated nearly enough.
Need to develop on road cycle paths linking all sites and make it safer to cycle around the borough
More of a focus on socially responsible and just development of the natural and cultural capital. Focus development on contemporary residents of NPT rather than just attracting tourists.
Pavements need to be for everyone, so we don't have to use cars.
Without radical improvement in public transport between the valleys all the areas that aren't on the coastal strip (Neath and Port Talbot) will remain isolated and neglected.
Increased cycling opportunities are important
More allotments, how to grow edibles at home. More waste verges turned into wild flower displays for bees, to involve residents, old and young.
Investment in sustainable transport will require changes in bus contracting, as large buses often run empty, bus companies do not have electric buses or smaller buses. A massive amount of work needs to be done to create a safe cycle network. The planning department need to be forced to only approve new build on brownfield, never on Greenfield sites, unless such developments can be shown to positively benefit the local environment.
Our cultural strategy will celebrate past innovators, interrogate and tell the more difficult parts of their stories, and inspire future, socially just, innovators. For 1,000s of years the people of Neath Port Talbot communicated in Welsh. We want to bring the beauty and richness of our place names, songs, poetry and more to both Welsh and English speakers through brilliant interpretation and signage and nation leading use of incidental Welsh. We want to continue to welcome and integrate new people, including of different faiths: our communities have been built through immigration for centuries.
Innovation - is something in itself but where there is innovation, there is also a response to it and consequences from it - that is also part of the story. Some of it is about great individuals, especially in the arts and sport, but some things would have been done anyway and it's the movement rather than the individual that are important. Nature and wellbeing - I would expand this to show a commitment to biodiversity and restoration of habitats (including microhabitats)
We want to continue to welcome and integrate new people, including of different faiths: our communities have been built through immigration for centuries.
Transport is poor we need to get that sorted asap.
There is an enormous potential for expansion of renewable energy generation in the county, and to improve energy efficiency in all the council's buildings and activities.
Neath Abbey Ironworks was the centre of innovation. There is no mention of Joseph Tregelles Price and his role in the Peace Movement. There is no mention of the Quakers, their Meeting House and their influence on the Industrial Heritage of this area.

<p>Ulrich Fosse's ultramodern copper smelting was in the 16th century, not the 17th as you say. The most innovative place in Neath Port Talbot was Neath Abbey Ironworks: It was a cradle of iron shipbuilding, and built the first 1,000 ton iron sailing ship in the world, it built the first adhesion/rack drive steam locomotive. It was the first place in Wales to be lit by gas, and one of the first in the world. It made the rails for the Stockton to Darlington Railway. It introduced steam navigation into the Bristol Channel. It powered the Industrial Revolution and helped to make Wales the first Industrial nation.</p>
<p>As well as the emphasis on the Welsh ness of the area, there should be consideration given to welcoming new people who want to mnake their lives here.</p>
<p>Sometimes being able to get places quickly is necessary</p>
<p>How can you propose this to happen when you finger point to NRW, and they point wherever they can as to avoid culpability of the quality of our nature and waterways!? Offloading the problem and not taking responsibility for it - or not demanding the devolved powers to act to be able to uphold these ideological fantasies. More Cymraeg the better, where a shit excuse is better than none, but I still expect better and more for those in charge of public tax payers money.</p>
<p>Safer cycle and walking route from Neath to the Afan Valley is required. We cycle from Cimla. It's far too dangerous on the main road, and the old route past the Trecking centre is not too bad until Pontrhydyfen. Much of the path has eroded and it here are obstacles in place, preventing those less able to access the path up to the viaduct.</p>
<p>Why aren't we using the river as a power generator?</p>
<p>Afan forest is not natural. It's an industrial area. First the forest was cut down for sheep farming and coal mines, rail then it was replanted to produce wood. Now it's being cut down to be burned in a power plant. The problem with the language is how it is taught. My daughter is about to leave school with a hatred of the language because of her teacher. It needs to be a 'natural' aspect of life, not a curriculum subject. There is also some strange kind of 'superiority' to some welsh speakers in south Wales. We tend to get this in a professional capacity.</p>
<p>A wonderful natural asset in Drumau mountain, which overlooks so many local communities, is now threatened with being covered by a solar farm.</p>
<p>Neath centric</p>
<p>No reference to mining industry and it legacy !!!</p>
<p>Bus services to many residential areas are horrendous!</p>
<p>Again it comes down to transport to these area's and our local bus services truly need to be updated and reduced fares for the struggling community to visit and use these area's of beauty.</p>
<p>Since the removal of thousands of trees on the Dinas mountain the accessibility to some paths which were past walks are now not there. A regeneration of the mountain was promised and hopefully some strategy will be followed.</p>
<p>I think it's quite ridiculous to create a slogan for 'Unhurried Travel' trying to make something positive out of poor transport links!</p>
<p>While making the language visible in signage is important, there should be efforts made for the language to be heard and spoken. As part of Welsh Government's policy of reaching 1 Million Welsh speakers by 2050 the authority could actively support arts groups working in community settings through the medium of Welsh. There could be a theatre group for young people using Welsh, or a youth choir singing in Welsh. The authority should also commit to hosting the National Eisteddfod of Wales and use this commitment as a focus for promoting the language.</p>

<p>Need for Government Departments to refocus on the assets of the area and return them to their former levels e.g. Natural Resources focussing on regeneration of the woodlands and repairing footpaths, drainage systems and promoting the assets of the area by not closing large areas for months on end.</p>
<p>I am not against the welsh language, but I don't speak welsh and don't want to - most people in the Borough are like this and this should not be overlooked.</p>
<p>Innovation There could be a mention of Alfred Russel Wallace who was one of those who developed the theory of evolution, not only was he a revolutionary mind in that field - he also wrote on social justice issues. Welsh to our bones There is enormous scope for use of Welsh to highlight a unique character and create a warm, welcoming sense of place. This could also assist in wider language promotion policies.</p>
<p>Again, these statements all tend to focus on what has gone before, and maintain that, rather than looking ahead and developing new, more modern and innovative culture - something that really could make Neath Port Talbot a real cultural and arts destination, and not sure another stop on a history tour of Wales (which is what these statements seem to be implying).</p>
<p>The power and wellbeing should be the future points highlighted as future planning is key to vision and culture change as previous pages mentioned.</p>
<p>Agree very strongly, especially regarding Welsh to our Bones. There are a number of areas within the borough with such interesting and diverse Welsh language histories, including dialects only spoken in those areas.</p>
<p>The people of NPT are also important - they are obviously part of this vision - but The borough and the world is their theme - for instance, a lad from Cwmafan fpunded Beijing University and helped to pacify the Boxer Rebellion. Brunel and Co. came in - but we also went out. This could bring in people from elsewhere to see their own roots.</p>
<p>Let's not be another Welsh valley looking back to the past, there is more to be celebrated than the heritage of coal. We have great scenery walks beaches, biggest sand dune area red kites wildlife and more. So we don't need to spend money on another coal museum.</p>
<p>Please refer to the Wellbeing for Future Generation Act 2015</p>
<p>'Wind and solar can transform npt future ' but also destroy the beauty and heritage of the countryside if npt continue to approve solar and windfarm developments</p>
<p>Council Members must share the same overall vision for the community as well as a commitment to a common mission - working together to build a better city for future generations.</p>
<p>There are other areas of beauty other than margan and afan Valley let's focus on those too</p>
<p>There is no need to destroy the countryside with more and more wind farms. There are several proposals for wind farms and solar farms however these will destroy habitats for wildlife and increased heavy traffic will destroy parts of the valley. There must be some alternative to solar and wind farms.</p>
<p>On shore wind is destroying NPT as revenues go back to the companies' country of origin!!! I am aware of Wales' 2040 policy but NPT is becoming a dumping ground for foreign onshore wind power. If the free port application is successful then the way forward is with off shore / tidal and hydro power.</p>

<p>I have got a serious reservation about the use of the words "Welsh to our bones". I appreciate that it is not the intention to say that Welshness is about ancestry but "to our bones" can, in my view, give that impression. In reality our current "Welshness" is partly constructed out of waves of immigration and adaptation; the Celts themselves were immigrants in their time. Welsh identity and, in this instance, local identity should be open to all who are interested and prepared to give their commitment.</p>
<p>The natural beauty of the Sarn Helen Roman Road and the historic St Illtyd's walk</p>
<p>We could do with better internal transport links - to join up sites like Margam. Neath Abbey, Aberdulais for instance, to provide a tour experience for visitors.</p>
<p>Stop foreign companies destroying our beautiful land and making profits</p>
<p>No to wind turbines/farms. The energy produced will not benefit the people of Crynant and will ruin our village.</p>
<p>The residents of Tonmawr are trying to protect access to their country walks in Pelenna and the preservation of Cwm Pelenna Colliery Ventilation Furnace and Cwm Pelenna Ventilation Stack (Cadw Grade II listed) from the proposed DNS Mynyff Fforch Dwm windfarm application .</p>
<p>Before money is spent on encouraging visitors, our town and surrounding road system needs to be cleared of rubbish and kept clear. It is an absolute disgrace and an embarrassment to the citizens of Neath. Travelling all over the country I have not encountered any town as bad as ours.</p>
<p>Regarding signage, our group have put forward the suggestion of signs celebrating Isengard Kingdom Brunel at each entrance to Briton Ferry, promoting our culture and heritage with words such as, "Welcome to Briton Ferry, a Brunel Town". The Director of the Brunel Institute at the SS Great Britain, Tim Bryan, on a recent visit to Briton Ferry, made the point that the name "Brunel" is a significant brand in itself, attracting the many admirers of a man who was voted the second greatest Briton after Winston Churchill. Presently, there is no celebration at all of Brunel's pivotal influence in the town.</p>
<p>The area is in danger of becoming surrounded by wind farms to the detriment of the environment and the beauty of our hills. Regarding solar power, I do not see the need to have solar farms in our countryside when these could be put on factory and warehouse roofs and also on new build housing etc. It is a great pity that the atrium of the Council offices in Baglan does not generate electricity for the building through the use of solar.</p>
<p>For 1,000s of years the people of Neath Port Talbot communicated in Welsh. We want to bring the beauty and richness of our place names, songs, poetry and more to both Welsh and English speakers through brilliant interpretation and signage and nation leading use of incidental Welsh. We want to continue to welcome and integrate new people, including of different faiths: our communities have been built through immigration for centuries.</p>
<p>wind and solar power can absolutely transform Neath Port Talbot's future in a positive way. The harm of burning dirty fuel here should be highlighted and discouraged.</p>
<p>Stop the Hirfynedd Energy park</p>
<p>Under the heading of culture I would have expected to see something more about the arts than just a recognition of Richard Burton - culture is also dynamic, the artistic activity and expression of ideas. The focus above is on the environment with no recognition of the cultures of choirs, silver bands, festivals etc.</p>
<p>How to get to Afan and Margam+ the Gnoll with out a car?????????????????????Or any where else in the area?</p>

<p>Baglan Bay Power station operation until green alternatives take over.</p>
<p>SIGNPOSTING !! Today there are no signs for afan forest park on the "A" or "M" roads. In France, in every department, they are proud of the distinctive uniqueness which is evident by road signs heralding you entering their area. Nothing on the M4 for AFAN.</p>
<p>Wind and Solar power farms will destroy the natural environment so it is in direct conflict with the vision of preserving natural beauty for tourism.</p>
<p>Benefits of Arts to Nature and Wellbeing.</p>
<p>The number of wind turbines planned for the Bryn windfarm will have a negative impact on our area. They are very noisy.</p>
<p>Unhurried travel is great unless you are in a hurry! Public transport needs to be improved and upgraded.</p>
<p>Cytuno'n gryf iawn â hyrwyddo treftadaeth ieithyddol. Ar bwynt arall, mae angen gwella iechyd er mwyn i bobl allu manteisio ar deithio gwyrdd. Nid pawb all gerdded a seiclo.</p>
<p>Arloesedd - mae digon o ffigurau a phrosiectau heddiw y dylid rhoi sylw iddyn nhw yn hytrach nac ystyried arloesedd yn rywbeth hanesyddol. Dylid cael cyd-bwysedd rhwng y ddoe a'r heddiw a sut mae datblygiadau cyfredol yn y sir am newid y byd yfory. Mae digon o brosiectau gwyrdd yn digwydd yn yr ardal trwy fentrau cymunedol, arloesol, a hefyd trwy brosiectau arian mawr Prifysgol Abertawe. Natur a llesiant - Unwaith eto mae'r ffocws ar ochr ddeheuol y sir - mae gan Gwm Tawe ei llwybrau seiclo, ei choedwigoedd a'i rhaedrau hefyd y dylid eu hamlygu! Mae angen mwy na defnydd o arwyddion neu 'Gymraeg achlysurol' i gyfleu ein traddodad Cymraeg! Mae angen sicrhau dwyieithrwydd ym mhopeth diwylliannol mae'r sir yn ei hyrwyddo. Hefyd, nid darparu cyfieithiadau Cymraeg a Saesneg ochr yn ochr yn slafaid ond darparu Cymraeg sy'n siarad yn awthentig â'r gynulleidfa iaith Gymraeg. Mae angen cofio hefyd fod y cynnwys i drafod y Gymraeg a'i hanes o fewn yr atyniad dan sylw e.e. sut y cyfrannod y Gymraeg at ddatblygiad Mynachlog Nedd, neu beth oedd ei rhan o fewn y byd diwydiannol. Mae angen adlewyrchu hanes y Gymraeg yn y sir.</p>

Appendix F – Comments on Outcomes Priorities

Notes:

- These have been edited only to remove comments that might lead to individuals being identified.
- They have not been changed for grammar, spelling or other accuracy issues.
- All comments made have been included apart from those which said things similar to "nothing to add".

<p>Is there anything that you feel is missing from this list and/or which should be highlighted as a priority outcome in the final strategy?</p>
<p>It seems rather simplified to rate these individually. These outcomes all support each other and should be portrayed as such.</p>
<p>I personally have approached the local authority on multiple occasions with ideas that would and should have been used, but on every occasion have been met with indifference or lip service/timewasting. The local authority have absolutely no interest in working with local businesses, they prefer to use businesses outside of Wales or the borough. Many of my ideas have sadly been implemented in areas outside of Wales within the UK, and including the USA. The level of arrogance and self worth shown by council employees and elected members is astonishing.</p>
<p>This is the first time that "sustainability" is mentioned. Why isn't this drawn out more clearly in the previous sections? Volunteering- why is this only referring to volunteer networks? Other networks are also important, such as local business networks. All these are important priorities and all are interlinked. Too simplistic to rank 1 to 8.</p>
<p>Maybe developing a Welsh language/cultural centre like Canolfan Soar in Merthyr Tydfil</p>
<p>All are Priority - Jobs in particular. We buy in products, food from out of country with no understanding of where they are from. There are amazing good quality local products that can be used to support the community. For example - a café/ Restaurant in the area should use - local Art, Local food produce , Local Artist to sing and perform etc</p>
<p>Affordable hire costs for small groups.</p>
<p>Culture = wellbeing !</p>
<p>Why not make all the unemployed wasters volunteer at the parks and heritage sites etc</p>
<p>If the culture, heritage etc is supported then the jobs and tourism will follow automatically</p>
<p>Volunteering is grossly undersupported (as a heritage professional who has spent years volunteering in the museums of NPT). It should be a higher priority to invest in sustainable job creation, investing in developing talents and expertise within the community</p>
<p>Encouraging local people to feel proud of their heritage and where they live. To take a pride in the area.</p>
<p>Supporting businesses to grow and maximise opportunities linked to these potential growth areas.</p>

Transitioning to an environmentally sustainable society
Job Creation - creating high quality employment Sustainability to include investment in the arts infrastructure, including Pontardawe Arts Centre. Volunteering is low to minimise risk of displacing paid roles. All in Q13 overlap, mutually dependent - vs competing priorities.
Job Creation - creating high quality employment Sustainability to include investment in the arts infrastructure, including Pontardawe Arts Centre. Volunteering is low to minimise risk of displacing paid roles. All in Q13 overlap, mutually dependent - vs competing priorities.
Education about the importance of maintaining our local heritage for future generations.
Many of the above, such as social impact, lead to job creation. Preserving for future generations is vital.
While it is good to get people involved with opportunities for volunteering, it is also essential that there are well-paid and high quality jobs. It is also important that there is investment in the buildings so that there are good facilities throughout the area.
Safety - my children don't feel safe going to Neath town and this is not acceptable, due to the anti social behaviour there
You should be investing in local venues for live music, you should invest in access to learn these given arts or for artists/performers to be able to hand down this knowledge, and investing in culture and heritage - whilst digitising experiences to maintain and make more accessible to those who can't physically do or attend these events.
Would have liked to have rated all of the above as 1
The image needs to be focused on something clearer. It's a bit bland at the moment.
Visit our town centre and Station road to see how run down and depressing the area has become, it is putting people off going there where we should be trying to build the area and encourage growth.
I would say that these are all high priority. ALL areas of improvement to enhance the local culture/heritage/ wellbeing are necessary and would be very welcome so we could appreciate what we have around us. Not forgetting of course the local council's involvement with street cleaning which is INCREDIBLY poor.
I think the parking fee is way too expensive. Should allow a modest fee for 1-2 hours. Older people need transport and just want a stroll around the pond. Thank you.
improving transport links
quite challenging to prioritise as they can be mutually dependant and...? (can't read note)
places to stay - good hotels wales future is in tourism, we need tourist info hubs back. more car parking (glynn neath/waterfalls. better transport - buses/trains - not just for students in swansea welcoming town centre in neath, not empty shops. give people help to start up businesses in middle of town.
protection of free services like the library
make sure there is proper infrastructure to ensure it doesn't become out of balance with what community can cope with need volunteer coordinators - can't rely on volunteers without education or financial aid innovative new stories to be told, develop sustainable action plan drawing on lessons of the past climbing centres/horse riding needed.

Introduce a better charging system at Margam Park to increase revenues. The £5 charge per car is not enough and many visitors avoid paying by walking in an parking elsewhere. This needs to be looked at so that Margam Park is able to raise more money.
All of these are essential priority areas, and should not be in competition.
As stated in previous comments, I feel there should be a much stronger focus on developing and nurturing local artists and Welsh talent - notably in art, photography, film, music and performance; and that there should be a much stronger focus on providing central, easily accessible venues for such artists and creative talent to showcase their work and share a creative, communal space where art and creativity is encouraged, celebrated and shared. Such venues could be, as mentioned, local art galleries and studios, an independent cinema (there are funding opportunities and help available for this from the National Lottery and British Film Institute), or a central creative arts hub that combines all of these aspects, while also acting a bar and restaurant that all walks of the community can enjoy and benefit from. Similarly, I feel there should be a stronger focus on local events - such as art and photography exhibitions, film festivals and literary festivals, and spoken word and live music events.
culture changes that are to happen for the local environment
I am sorry not to have ranked these in order, but I see them as interdependent - for instance, more tourism means more jobs, more opportunities for volunteering ...
Involve younger people in decision making.
collaborative working and long-term thinking and decision making instead of quick fixes, preventative measures etc (please refer to wellbeing for Future generation Act 2015)
Environmental imp for future projects
A better way to establish priorities is to put rank ordering aside and return to first principles of objectives, resources, and timing.
pay people do not rely on elderly volunteers to do some jobs
I feel the various possibilities are too intertwined to abk sensibly.
Stop welsh government with onshore wind
The preservation of heritage assets before they are lost for future generations. They tell the story of our heritage and industrial past and should be protected.
Containing two of the most deprived wards in Wales, Briton Ferry has been totally neglected. We believe that the restoration of Brunel's Floating Dock in Briton Ferry would tick all eight of the above points, preserving the past and driving the economy and jobs of the future.
The priority must be protecting our open spaces, particularly the uplands from industrial scale wind and solar farms.
Job Creation - creating high quality employmentSustainability to include investment in the arts infrastructure, including Pontardawe Arts Centre. Volunteering is low to minimise risk of displacing paid roles.
What is the purpose of ranking these? I think that listing these in order of importance is quite unhelpful! They are all obviously important; in some cases you to put investment in place before other activities can can be achieved. Inherent in a strategy is an understanding of how one of these impacts the others - no one will volunteers is there is nothing to volunteer for, good quality events and cultural sites will attract tourists (but better promotion might become a priority)
Public transport to all these places
Very difficult to rank above as all equally important in my opinion

Teach the poor people of port talbot Welsh for free as part of the Strategy.
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Supporting local artists/theatre groups

Gwella mynediad pobl at yr iaith Gymraeg a'i diwylliant a'i threftadaeth - mae'n cael cyffwrdd â ac yn cael effaith ar wella addysg, lles pobl, enw da y celfyddydau, ehangu mynediad, denu mwy o bobl ac arian i'r ardal.
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Appendix G – Comments on Cultural Priorities

Notes:

- These have been edited only to remove comments that might lead to individuals being identified.
- They have not been changed for grammar, spelling or other accuracy issues.
- All comments made have been included apart from those which said things similar to “nothing to add”.

<p>Is there anything that you feel is missing from this list and/or which should be highlighted as a priority for support and development in the final strategy?</p>
<p>Too simplistic to rank 1 to 15. The key decision is whether to invest in enhancing current strengths, or those areas which have minimal traction (like museums and galleries). The strategy should focus on supporting bottom up collaborative action at the local community scale, for example opportunities and education to support/inspire local sports and visual and performing arts. Larger scale county wide activities, like festivals at margam, libraries, leisure centres and parks and public spaces are already the responsibility of the council and should be part of its corporate strategy.</p>
<p>I don't like this question one bit. Many of the areas you list overlap with others on the list. Not going to answer this one.</p>
<p>All above are priority</p>
<p>Cefn coed colliery needs to be saved</p>
<p>Too long a list to make meaningful choices. Does are equally important</p>
<p>Funding needs to be directed to Pontardawe. Neath and Port Talbot seem to have better facilities. The residents of Pontardawe deserve a nice swimming pool and money needs to be available for the upkeep and development of Pontardawe Arts Centre.</p>
<p>Although i ranked the above as requested the need for ranking is artificial , many of the areas are equally important. The list is well balanced the request for ranking is not.</p>
<p>We need a museum of Neath to display all the wonderful artefacts we have. Cefn Coed museum should have more investment in it.</p>
<p>sorry gave up halfway thru.....survey fatigue and i honestly thought it was about culture in NPT but it seems to be about all public facilites and aims and objectives of welsh govt</p>
<p>It was extremely difficult to prioritise this list, because they are all priorities in my opinion.</p>
<p>All rest are equal. All impact on one another and can be complementary vs competing priorities.</p>
<p>Difficult to rank some of these</p>
<p>All rest are equal. All impact on one another and can be complementary vs competing priorities.</p>
<p>I think all of the above are equal to each other for support!</p>
<p>I don't think it is possible to rank these as they are inter-dependent - ie music and musicians need venues, audiences and education... which can be provided through events and festivals, community arts event ... It's more important to consider how these things and inter-dependent and complementary, rather than being in competition with each other.</p>

Live comedy
The inclusion and development of heritage assets
TL DR - I'm not deciding your policies for you, that's for you to decide and for us to vote you into/out of power for.. doesn't matter what I say, you'll give jobs to the boys as per usual.
Safe walking and cycling routes across the borough.
Again, all should be 1
The general health of the population here is very poor. Activity and exercise need to woven into the fabric of life here.
More affordable events for all with access to suitable transport
Safe public transport to access all these facilities.
Parks - skateparks/bike pump tracks (Rhos Park - really run down). An idea for a traffic park for children - set out like a road with traffic lights etc for them to ride bikes on and learn how to ride on the road. Should be a bike shed to BORROW (not hire) bikes and helmets. Not forgetting balance bikes for the toddlers. Not enough free low-effort every day activities for them.
Scoring in this manner is not eally reflecting one's views. Emphasis needs to be placed to the same degree on more than one topic and this scoring system does not allow for it.
More things for children and youths
physical and physiological improvement to ? access to the countryside and open spaces development of the historic canal environment and infrastructure
Need a social club for older people to dance and meet friends. Neathg's working man club closed and is a great loss.
creative arts, radio broadcasting, filming training etc
mutually dependent
all very important, but funding seems main issue
renewable energy
nature connection and wellbeing an assett. ecosystem service acknowledged - adaptive capacity plans - recognition of the need to become increasingly sustainable. horse riding, climbing centre, eden project minature partnerships
people come to wales for nature place emphasis on environment so people leave feeling refreshed from their stay so they come back. maintain reputation of beauty and wildlife
adventure/risk sports climbing/surfing/sauna spa waterfall
i would like to see the culture strategy ? wildlife lessons as an opportunity. local artists / indistrual heritage creative products for sale economic development team scope existing or future opportunities
withous education and jobs what use are these questions? top priority
Al important, difficult to rank remaining.
The ones I have ticked are those that are important to me, but that is not to say that I do not recognise the importance of the others.Prioritising depends to a considerable extent on what is available at the time.
Wildlife protection.

The canals, disused railway lines, public transport, roads and pavements, ease of access to nature/landscape/rivers/lakes/coast, sports facilities,all the services and facilities for people to live in NPT and not decide to move to other places with better culture.
Parking at parks and public spaces (e.g. Gnoll and Margam) should be way cheaper.
objective must be successfully accomplished within a specified amount of time, no matter what.
public free parking
Again I find it difficult to rank these - they are too connected.
Campsites / motorhome aires
Again the natural world which is such an important part of our heritage and culture is mentioned only as parks and public spaces.
All rest are equal. All impact on one another and can be complementary vs competing priorities.
Neath town centre has a reputation for violence. A cafe / arts culture is dead in the water unless this is addressed.
I haven't prioritised venues, as several have been upgraded in recent years.
Again I have found ranking to be very difficult! All have their place and are important in different ways
No. Just bear in mind Swansea has a new stadium for music. We need to offer something different to attract people. I think museums, parks and spaces etc, are a good way to go especially with the new activity development up a fan. People from Cardiff and city's can come and get away from the stadiums and music and enjoy the outdoors, it would still makes jobs for local people, and tackle the obesity crisis. Residents can access the facilities for free or discounted (same as Cardiff Castle gives a 'key' to Cardiff residents) we are poor deprived community,
Diogelu treftadaeth ieithyddol a'r Gymraeg.
Mae'n anodd gwahaniaethu rhwng blaenoriaethu hanes a diwylliant celfyddydol heddiw, ond bydden i'n dymunod gweld y Sir yn gwarchod yr hanes a'r dreftadaeth sydd yn parhau i fodoli gan hefyd hyrwyddo diwylliant celfyddydol a chreadigol yn y sir.

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Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

This Integrated Impact Assessment considers the duties and requirements of the following legislation in order to inform and ensure effective decision making and compliance:

- Equality Act 2010
- Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Version Control

Version	Author	Job title	Date
V1	Chris Saunders	Head of Leisure, Tourism, Heritage & Culture	26 August 2023

1. Details of the initiative

	Title of the Initiative: Culture Strategy
1a	Service Area: Head of Leisure, Tourism, Heritage & Culture
1b	Directorate: Education
1c	Summary of the initiative: The Culture Strategy has been developed with the wider policy context in view, particularly the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and is designed to ensure that both the seven goals and five ways of working of the act are embedded throughout the actions of both the Council and other stakeholders. The Strategy provides the framework for the Council's services and functions to capture and promote the fantastic opportunities culture can afford our local communities. There are 5 emerging themes in the strategy: Wellness, Energy

	<p>Welsh and Heart Talent Innovation</p> <p>The strategy has an action plan and most of the E&D issues will be assessed as part of the detailed actions as they come forward.</p>
1d	Is this a 'strategic decision'? yes - the Culture Strategy sets out our short, medium and long-term approach for delivery and implementation.
1e	Who will be directly affected by this initiative? The Council, key stakeholders, council staff, partner's and everyone who lives, works and/or visits Neath Port Talbot
1f	<p>When and how were people consulted? T</p> <p>Through our Let's Talk engagement activity during summer of 2021 Heritage, Culture and a strong sense of place ranked important to people in the area. The Culture Strategy will ensure this important placemaking tool has an integral role in the realisation of our purpose as a local authority, namely 'To help Neath Port Talbot residents to live good lives'. It will identify approaches to deal with the challenges of climate change, cost of living crisis and government policy ensuring that the strategy is flexible moving forward.</p> <p>It will support the vision enshrined in the Corporate Plan 'Recover, Reset, Renew', focusing on using our natural and built environment to deliver life enhancing projects and services that fulfil our four wellbeing objectives. Particularly wellbeing objective three, 'Our local environment, heritage and culture can be enjoyed by future generations' and 'People actively conserve, improve and enjoy our stunning natural environment, treasure the Welsh language and are actively engaged with the rich sporting, cultural and industrial heritage of the area.'</p> <p>The Strategy lies the groundwork to develop collaborative partnerships with key stakeholders and communities to pursue new and existing opportunities to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of all our people, so we can sustain our diverse communities for years to come.</p> <p>Considerable consultation at the start of the strategy process elected 288 responses, together with a number of face to face interviews.</p>
1g	What were the outcomes of the consultation?

The consultation helped form the key themes and particularly help develop the action plan and the detailed results are appended to the strategy report.

2. Evidence

What evidence was used in assessing the initiative?

- Cultural strategy consultation outcomes.
- Best practice case studies
- Neath Port Talbot Visitor Survey 2022

The action plan is fundamental to the delivery of the strategy and many of the benefits will come as those actions are developed and delivered.

3. Equalities

a) How does the initiative impact on people who share a **protected characteristic**?

Protected Characteristic	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
Age	+			Culture transcends generations, children at school are equally important as people in care homes. The culture strategy will help bring culture opportunities to all, hopefully breaking down some of the generational barriers. The majority of the respondents to the survey were in the 30-74 age group but the actions have been carefully crafted to include all ages.
Disability	+			The Strategy has identified actions that will potentially have a positive impact on those with a disability, for example providing greater opportunities for participation, improvements to access and to public rights of way. 15% of respondents considered themselves disabled.

Gender reassignment			+/-	The Culture strategy will have neither a negative or positive effect on this characteristic.
Marriage & civil partnership			+/-	The Culture strategy will have neither a negative or positive effect on this characteristic.
Pregnancy and maternity			+/-	The Culture strategy will have neither a negative or positive effect on this characteristic. Only 1.1% of respondents were pregnant.
Race	+			One of the key strategic themes is Welsh at Heart and this aims to build upon the important cultural aspect of life in Wales. Of the respondents to the consultation 54% of people had little or no ability with the Welsh language – the strategy aims to increase the access to Welsh culture and the language in turn.
Religion or belief			+/-	The Culture strategy will have neither a negative or positive effect on this characteristic. 50% of the respondents classified themselves as having no religion. The next highest was 46 % as Christian.
Sex			+/-	The Culture strategy will have neither a negative or positive effect on this characteristic. The majority of the respondents were female at 64% so a close watch will need to be kept on the action plan as they develop to ensure gender parity
Sexual orientation			+/-	The Culture strategy will have neither a negative or positive effect on this characteristic.91% of respondents considered themselves heterosexual with prefer not to say the next highest category. As the action plan develops and especially wit events and festivals this will need to be planned carefully.

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

The culture strategy action plan includes initiatives which will positively impact on the protected characteristics. Things like events and festivals, trails, developing a library strategy are just a few examples.

b) How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the **Public Sector Equality Duty**?

Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
To eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation	+			The culture strategy supports placemaking in its widest sense. It will transcend communities and generations.
To advance equality of opportunity between different groups	+			NPT has many different representative groups for heritage and culture and the strategy will help guide funding bids and priorities.
To foster good relations between different groups	+			NPT has many different representative groups for heritage and culture and the strategy will help guide funding bids and priorities. The cultural partnership will be key to understanding and monitoring this.

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

Projects will be designed to ensure that they are accessible to local communities both from a physical and social perspective. The cultural partnership will monitor these on a regular basis.

4. Socio Economic Duty

Impact	Details of the impact/advantage/disadvantage
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Positive/Advantage	The Culture strategy links to the Destination plan and the Heritage strategy. Both will have positive effects on the local economic outputs through increasing the value of tourism , employment opportunities and bringing money directly into the local economy.
Negative/Disadvantage	N/A
Neutral	N/A

What action will be taken to reduce inequality of outcome

A holistic approach will be taken in supporting investment opportunities across the valleys, coastal and rural areas of the county where there is greatest need of investment to support diversification of the local economy. This includes working closely with the Council’s Economic Development Team to support small businesses and investors and identifying and designing projects which will be of benefit to communities across the county.

The Culture strategy will help to draw together communities and is applicable to all corners of the county Borough.

5. Community Cohesion/Social Exclusion/Poverty

	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
Community Cohesion	+			The DMP and culture strategy take into account the need to ensure that as a destination we develop a distinct ‘sense of place’. The term ‘sense of place’ relates to what individual residents (and visitors) perceive to be the intrinsic character of a place and the meaning people give to it. Neath Port Talbot as a ‘place’ can mean many things to many people, but through investment on the ground and promotion of the area it is possible to encourage a shared vision for the area.

Social Exclusion	+			The Culture strategy action plan develops a number of initiatives which positively reflect the nature of the valley communities. They cut across generations and will give opportunities for all members of society to be involved.
Poverty	+			The strategies will have a positive economic impact through the development of heritage products and the associated growth in tourism & job growth

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

The proposed actions set out within the action plan will all contribute to delivering investment which makes our sense of place more tangible and a more thorough reflection of the wide ranging perspectives of people who live in Neath Port Talbot, which in turn can encourage cohesion within our communities.

6. Welsh

	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this effect?
What effect does the initiative have on: - people's opportunities to use the Welsh language	+			One of the key themes for the Culture strategy is Welsh at Heart which is specifically aimed at building on the foundations already laid through Welsh culture at places like Pontardawe Arts Centre, to promote a strong Welsh cultural offer, making it accessible, visible and relevant.
- treating the Welsh and English languages equally	+			As above

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

The priorities and actions set out within the Culture Strategy action plan will support the use of the Welsh language through projects and events and also celebrating the ‘sense of place’ that our Welsh language creates for visitors and residents.
 A ‘welsh’ organization will be appointed to the Cultural partnership board and the impact and progress will be monitored at the high governance level.

7. Biodiversity

How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the **Biodiversity Duty**?

Biodiversity Duty	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity	+			Biodiversity, climate change and the nature emergency are embedded in the document. There are a number of actions which look to help support the work the Biodiversity team are undertaking.
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.	+			One of the key themes is Energy and another is Innovation. Both themes build on the heritage of the area in developing new technologies and the one of the actions is to adopt and build on the climate change action plan.

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

The priorities and actions set out within the Culture Strategy action plan will support the biodiversity duty through projects and events.

8. Well-being of Future Generations

How have the five ways of working been applied in the development of the initiative?

Ways of Working	Details
i. Long term – looking at least 10 years (and up to 25 years) ahead	The culture strategy has been developed with longer term sustainable thinking. It will help set up the cultural ecosystem for the next 10 years plus. The action plan is flexible and will be regularly updated.
ii. Prevention – preventing problems occurring or getting worse	The Culture strategy alongside the DMP and Heritage strategy, is designed to enhance and protect our important culture and heritage assets and areas of visitor interest. This includes long term investment in putting in place the visitor infrastructure needed to prevent the negative impacts of visitors on our local communities.
iii. Collaboration – working with other services internal or external	The whole tenant of the Culture strategy is about collaboration. The intention is to set up a Cultural Compact type governance model whereby local industry, education, NHS and other partner develop ownership of the cultural themes.
iv. Involvement – involving people, ensuring they reflect the diversity of the population	The culture strategy has been developed through an extensive series of consultation events.

v. Integration – making connections to maximise contribution to:	
Council’s well-being objectives	Well being objective 3 is largely based on the Culture, strategy and heritage strategies and these will be fundamental to shaping and developing WBO3
Other public bodies objectives	The cultural partnership will help unlock the potential that partners can bring. Work is ongoing with the Public services board to improve intregation.

9. Monitoring Arrangements

Provide information on the monitoring arrangements to:

Monitor the impact of the initiative on Equalities, Community Cohesion, the Welsh Measure, Biodiversity Duty and the Wellbeing Objectives.

The Cultural compact model will ultimately be the governance model which monitors and manages the equalities arrangements and delivery.
The action plan is the delivery method and equality’s will be assessed again as actions are developed.

10. Assessment Conclusions

Please provide details of the conclusions reached in relation to each element of the assessment:

	Conclusion
Equalities	The Culture Strategy will have a positive impact
Socio Economic Disadvantage	The Culture Strategy will have a positive impact

Community Cohesion/ Social Exclusion/Poverty	The Culture Strategy will have a positive impact
Welsh	The Culture Strategy will have a positive impact
Biodiversity	The Culture Strategy will have a positive impact
Well-being of Future Generations	The Culture Strategy will have a positive impact

Overall Conclusion

Please indicate the conclusion reached:

- **Continue** - as planned as no problems and all opportunities have been maximised x
- **Make adjustments** - as potential problems/missed opportunities/negative impacts have been identified along with mitigating actions
- **Justification** - for continuing with the initiative even though there is a potential for negative impacts or missed opportunities
- **STOP** - redraft the initiative as actual or potential unlawful discrimination has been identified

Please provide details of the overall conclusion reached in relation to the initiative


The priorities and actions which will be delivered through the Culture Strategy will have a positive impact in all areas assessed.

11. Actions

What actions are required in relation to obtaining further data/information, to reduce or remove negative impacts or improve positive impacts?

Action	Who will be responsible for seeing it is done?	When will it be done by?	How will we know we have achieved our objective?
Ensure that the compact is set up and monitors the equalities impacts	Chris Saunders	Ongoing basis	Compact successful
Ensure that equalities are considered as the actions it he plan are developed and delivered	Compact board	Regular board meetings	

12. Sign off

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by	Chris Saunders	Head of Leisure, tourism , Heritage & Culture		13/09/2023
Signed off by	C Saunders	Head of Service/Director		

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

This Integrated Impact Assessment considers the duties and requirements of the following legislation in order to inform and ensure effective decision making and compliance:

- Equality Act 2010
- Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Version Control

Version	Author	Job title	Date
Version 1	Bethan Dennedy	Project Manager	23/08/2023

1. Details of the initiative

	Title of the Initiative: Destination Management Plan
1a	Service Area: Tourism
1b	Directorate: Regeneration & Economic Development
1c	Summary of the initiative: The Neath Port Talbot Destination Management Plan (DMP) outlines how the county intends to sustain, grow, and manage its visitor economy between 2023 and 2028. The DMP is a shared statement of intent to develop tourism in Neath Port Talbot to deliver exceptional experiences and transform people's perception of our distinctively different area. The DMP recognises the economic and social value of tourism, articulating the role of different stakeholders and identifying priority actions that reflect resources. The DMP is intended to be a living document that will be periodically reviewed to take into account new opportunities, the operating environment and market considerations.
1d	Is this a 'strategic decision'? Yes

1e	<p>Who will be directly affected by this initiative? The Local Authority, residents, visitors to NPT, businesses and other stakeholders.</p>
1f	<p>When and how were people consulted? Members, tourism businesses, tourism stakeholders and strategic partners (such as Natural Resources Wales, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, Visit Wales etc) were consulted.</p> <p>Consultation exercises were undertaken via;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two online surveys (one for members and one for industry stakeholders) undertaken in Dec 2022/Jan 2023. • Four workshops (one focusing on the valleys areas and one on the coastal area, one workshop with elected members and one workshop with strategic partners) • A wide range of one to one follow up interviews were also conducted with cabinet members, senior offices and key industry representatives to inform the plan. <p>Although not direct consultation on the plan itself, the views of visitors has been taken into account within the plan by integrating the findings of the 2022 Neath Port Talbot visitor survey which was undertaken in the summer of 2022. This was a face to face survey at key ‘visitor’ locations in the county. The total number of respondents to the visitor survey was 1,216.</p>
1g	<p>What were the outcomes of the consultation? The purpose of the consultation was to co-produce a plan in partnership with the tourism industry and all relevant stakeholders. As a result, the consultation exercises link directly to the formation of the DMP priorities and the identification of actions within the action plan.</p> <p>93% of Member respondents felt that developing the tourism sector to support the growth of the Neath Port Talbot economy is very important and a further 7% felt it is important.</p> <p>Only 13% of participants believe that Neath Port Talbot County Borough has a high level of awareness / recognition across the UK as a tourist destination.</p>

Key strengths associated with the county borough are linked to the landscape, heritage and history associated with the county borough. Specific sites mentioned include Aberavon Beach, Margam Country Park, Gnoll Estate Country Park and Afan Forest Park alongside the canals. One participant felt that the neighbouring Brecon Beacons also represents a strength for Neath Port Talbot. The people / communities were highlighted by two participants, the outdoor activity offer was only specifically mentioned by one participant and the location/accessibility was also mentioned as a strength.

A full baseline report is available upon request which outlines all data which has inputted into the compilation of the DMP and which has formed the basis for decision making around the plan's priorities.

2. Evidence

What evidence was used in assessing the initiative?

- The outcome of all consultation exercises
- Best practice case studies
- Neath Port Talbot Visitor Survey 2022
- Consultation exercises relating to LUF projects undertaken in the last 12 months.
- Welsh Government and UK Government data on visitor market trends.

3. Equalities

a) How does the initiative impact on people who share a **protected characteristic**?

Protected Characteristic	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
Age	X			The proposed actions set out within the DMP will have a positive impact upon people with this protected characteristic as the strategy (alongside the Heritage and

				<p>Culture Strategies) aim to encourage participation in the Heritage and Culture of Neath Port Talbot and develop a 'sense of place' within the county.</p> <p>The Destination Management Plan has been co-produced with consultees within the local community and within the tourism sector through consultation events including workshops, online surveys and one to one interviews.</p>
Disability	X			<p>The proposed actions set out within the DMP will have a positive impact upon people with disabilities as a key aim is to encourage more accessible experiences and encourage wider participation in the Heritage, Culture and attractions in Neath Port Talbot and to establish the area as an inclusive visitor destination.</p> <p>The Destination Management Plan has been co-produced with consultees within the local community and within the tourism sector through consultation events including workshops, online surveys and one to one interviews.</p>
Gender reassignment			X	
Marriage & civil partnership			X	
Pregnancy and maternity			X	
Race	X			<p>The proposed actions set out within the DMP will have a positive impact upon people with this protected characteristic as the DMP, alongside the Heritage and Culture strategies, aims to encourage wider participation in the Heritage and Culture and attractions in Neath Port Talbot. This includes developing projects and initiatives which celebrate the range of cultures present within the area.</p> <p>The Destination Management Plan has been co-produced with consultees within the local community and within the tourism sector through consultation events, workshops, online surveys and one to one interviews.</p>
Religion or belief			X	
Sex			X	
Sexual orientation			X	

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

The DMP includes actions which will deliver a more inclusive visitor experience. Accessible experiences and facilities will be developed as a key element of all projects which arise from the plan.

We will also ensure that projects which have the potential to encourage participation in visitor attractions and locations within the county are included in future proposals for securing external and internal funds to deliver destination development and destination marketing initiatives.

b) How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the **Public Sector Equality Duty**?

Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
To eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation			X	
To advance equality of opportunity between different groups	X			The DMP sets out priorities and actions for the development of the visitor economy within the county. The priorities and actions within the plan will seek to ensure that the outcomes on the ground are accessible and of appeal to all groups.
To foster good relations between different groups			x	

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

Projects will be designed to ensure that they are accessible to local communities both from a physical and social perspective.

4. Socio Economic Duty

Impact	Details of the impact/advantage/disadvantage
Positive/Advantage	<p>The DMP will have a positive impact on encouraging the growth of the visitor economy in coastal, rural and valleys areas where diversification of the local economy and local, flexible employment opportunities are most needed to support individuals.</p> <p>The DMP is a partnership document which has been co-produced in partnership with tourism stakeholders and strategic partners. This encourages joint working for the benefit of our local communities and avoids duplication of effort and resources.</p>
Negative/Disadvantage	N/A
Neutral	N/A

What action will be taken to reduce inequality of outcome

A holistic approach will be taken in supporting investment opportunities across the valleys, coastal and rural areas of the county where there is greatest need of investment to support diversification of the local economy. This includes working closely with the Council's Economic Development Team to support small businesses and investors and identifying and designing projects which will be of benefit to communities across the county.

Many of the actions within the DMP relate to investment in infrastructure such as walking trails or mountain biking and cycling trails. These are free to access and will benefit local communities living in close proximity by expanding the overall recreational and wellbeing offer near to local communities.

5. Community Cohesion/Social Exclusion/Poverty

	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
Community Cohesion	X			The DMP takes into account the need to ensure that as a destination we develop a distinct 'sense of place'. The term 'sense of place' relates to what individual residents (and visitors) perceive to be the intrinsic character of a place and the meaning people give to it. Neath Port Talbot as a 'place' can mean many things to many people, but through investment on the ground and promotion of the area it is possible to encourage a shared vision for the area.
Social Exclusion			x	
Poverty	X			The DMP aims to 'create thriving businesses' by attracting investment in the tourism sector in turn creating a wide range of opportunities for job growth and impacting levels of poverty in the area.

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

The proposed actions set out within the action plan will all contribute to delivering investment which makes our sense of place more tangible and a more thorough reflection of the wide ranging perspectives of people who live in Neath Port Talbot, which in turn can encourage cohesion within our communities.

6. Welsh

	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this effect?
What effect does the initiative have on: – people’s opportunities to use the Welsh language	X			A core feature of the DMP is to celebrate and encourage the use of the Welsh language in NPT and with visitors to NPT. The strategy references the importance of integration of the Welsh Language and Welsh culture in delivering the actions identified.
– treating the Welsh and English languages equally	X			The DMP has been developed bilingually as per our public sector duty. All projects which arise from this plan will be delivered in line with our public sector duty as the use of the Welsh language will be embedded into projects which arise. Projects will take full account of delivering the aims of the NPT Welsh Language Promotion Strategy.

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

The priorities and actions set out within the DMP will support the use of the Welsh language through projects and events and also celebrating the ‘sense of place’ that our Welsh language creates for visitors and residents.

7. Biodiversity

How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the **Biodiversity Duty**?

Biodiversity Duty	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity				Some projects which arise from the DMP will have a positive impact on maintaining and enhancing biodiversity. This will include environmental enhancements,

			integration of green infrastructure into capital projects, or encouraging visitors to be more mindful of their impact on the local environment.
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.			Some projects which arise from the DMP will have a positive impact on promoting resilient eco systems. This could be through integrating sustainable solutions in capital projects or delivering initiatives linked to supporting sustainable practices in heritage, culture and tourism.

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

Biodiversity enhancement and the promotion of resilient ecosystems will be designed into projects which arise of the DMP action plan. We can also promote responsible visitor behaviours through our marketing campaigns to limit the impact that they have on the local environment. For example we currently promote Visit Wales ‘Addo/Promise’ which sets out the behaviours expected of visitors who visit our local communities.

8. Well-being of Future Generations

How have the five ways of working been applied in the development of the initiative?

Ways of Working	Details
i. Long term – looking at least 10 years (and up to 25 years) ahead	The DMP has a lifespan of 5 years as the tourism sector continues to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and we learn more about what the new normal looks like in terms of visitor trends and the impact of economic turbulence on business. The action plan is a fluid document which can be updated to reflect actions over the next five years and beyond.

ii. Prevention – preventing problems occurring or getting worse	The DMP, alongside the Culture and Heritage strategies, is designed to enhance and protect our important culture and heritage assets and areas of visitor interest. This includes long term investment in putting in place the visitor infrastructure needed to prevent the negative impacts of visitors on our local communities.
iii. Collaboration – working with other services internal or external	The Destination Management Plan has been co-produced with local Members as well as key partners including, Natural Resources Wales, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, Cadw and Wildfox Resorts. The Visitor Economy Team works closely across all relevant teams within the Council, with a particular focus on collaboration with Economic Development and Regeneration, Estates, Countryside and Wildlife, Planning, Street Care and Environment Health
iv. Involvement – involving people, ensuring they reflect the diversity of the population	The Destination Management Plan has been co-produced with consultees within the Neath Port Talbot tourism sector through consultation events including workshops and online surveys.
v. Integration – making connections to maximise contribution to:	All priorities and actions within the DMP are designed to achieve the aims of the Council, and its partners, in particular Wellbeing Objective 3 whereby, <i>‘Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations’</i> . The DMP also contribute to the delivery of Wellbeing Objective 4 whereby <i>‘Working with our partners we create the conditions for more secure, well paid and green work in the area and support local people into those jobs’</i> . The Destination Management Plan will have specific input in this area as the plan is designed to encourage the sustainable growth of the visitor economy within Neath Port Talbot
Council’s well-being objectives	<p>The DMP has been designed to clearly align to Wellbeing Objective 3 of the Corporate Plan. All aims, objectives and outputs are designed to achieve the aims of the Council, and its partners, whereby, <i>‘Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations’</i></p> <p>The DMP will also have specific input in the delivery of Wellbeing Objective 4 whereby <i>‘Working with our partners we create the conditions for more secure, well paid and green work in the area and support local people into those jobs’</i>. The DMP is designed to encourage the sustainable growth of the visitor economy within Neath Port Talbot.</p>
Other public bodies objectives	The DMP is designed to align to the Welsh Government Welcome to Wales: priorities for the visitor economy 2020 to 2025. The DMP has been co-produced with strategic partners such as Visit Wales, Natural Resources Wales, Cadw and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park in order to reflect our collective aims for the development of the visitor economy.

9. Monitoring Arrangements

Provide information on the monitoring arrangements to:

Monitor the impact of the initiative on Equalities, Community Cohesion, the Welsh Measure, Biodiversity Duty and the Wellbeing Objectives.

The DMP delivery will be overseen by the Destination Management Leadership Group which will be made up of industry and partner representatives.
A report will be brought to board annually to report on progress against the actions within the DMP. The range of impacts will be monitored through data collection and will be summarised within the annual report.

10. Assessment Conclusions

Please provide details of the conclusions reached in relation to each element of the assessment:

	Conclusion
Equalities	The DMP will have a positive impact.
Socio Economic Disadvantage	The DMP will have a positive impact.
Community Cohesion/ Social Exclusion/Poverty	The DMP will have a positive impact.
Welsh	The DMP will have a positive impact.
Biodiversity	The DMP will have a positive impact.
Well-being of Future Generations	The DMP will have a positive impact.

Overall Conclusion

Please indicate the conclusion reached:

- **Continue** - as planned as no problems and all opportunities have been maximised
- **Make adjustments** - as potential problems/missed opportunities/negative impacts have been identified along with mitigating actions
- **Justification** - for continuing with the initiative even though there is a potential for negative impacts or missed opportunities
- **STOP** - redraft the initiative as actual or potential unlawful discrimination has been identified

Please provide details of the overall conclusion reached in relation to the initiative

The priorities and actions which will be delivered through the DMP will have a positive impact in all areas assessed.


11. Actions

What actions are required in relation to obtaining further data/information, to reduce or remove negative impacts or improve positive impacts?

Action	Who will be responsible for seeing it is done?	When will it be done by?	How will we know we have achieved our objective?
Ensure that the DMP is subject to ongoing monitoring and reporting	Karleigh Davies, Visitor Economy Manager on behalf of the Destination Management Leadership Group	Annually	Monitoring of economic data and recording on project outcomes achieved.
Ensure that inclusivity and accessibility are factored into all projects which arise from the plan from the outset.	Karleigh Davies, Visitor Economy Manager Strategic Partners via the Destination Management Leadership Group (DMLG)	At the commencement of each project and monitored through the DMLG which will meet quarterly.	Monitoring of visitor and resident attitudes via benchmarking research to be undertaken in 2022 and 2024.

			Monitoring of visitor satisfaction via visitor surveys undertaken every 5 years.
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12. Sign off

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by	Karleigh Davies	Visitor Economy Manager	KE Davies	31/08/2023
Signed off by	Chris Saunders	Head of Service/Director		31/08/2023

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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

20 September 2023

Report of the Head of Leisure, Tourism, Heritage & Culture – C.Saunders

Matter for Decision.

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Report Title:

Heritage Strategy

Purpose of the Report:

This report outlines the main principles of the Draft Heritage Strategy and seeks approval to undertake a public consultation of the Strategy and its Action Plan.

Executive Summary:

This report outlines the background behind the development of a Heritage Strategy and the impact this will have on conserving our heritage assets for generations to come.

The Strategy highlights programmes, training opportunities, partnership working, resourcing and investment requirements to deliver the actions to protect our built and natural environment.

The outputs of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, promoted as ***Heritage NPT***, is the development of the heritage strategy document setting out the historic/cultural features present within the borough; the creation of management plans for priority heritage sites; action plans for future capital projects; consultations and stakeholder events to promote our unique heritage, cultural history and historic environment; volunteer training opportunities; expand the membership of local heritage groups; make the heritage and cultural organisations sustainable and resilient; improve access to heritage and cultural activities.

The Strategy is currently in draft form, enabling amendments, additions and omissions to be made following the results of the consultation process.

Background:

The Let's Talk Campaign demonstrated a clear public will to invest in and develop our Culture and Heritage sector. As a result, one of the 4 wellbeing objectives was set to specifically deliver on this area; *Our local environment, heritage and culture can be enjoyed by future generations.*

Consequently Culture, Destination and Heritage strategies have been commissioned to provide the strategic narrative for this objective. They aim is to provide a framework from which the Council, its partners and the wider community can be built upon to actively conserve, improve and enjoy our stunning natural environment, treasure the Welsh language and actively engage with the rich sporting, cultural and industrial heritage of the area.

All three strategies have been created with the wider policy context in view, particularly the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, and are designed to ensure that both the seven goals and five ways of working of the act are embedded throughout the actions of both the Council and other stakeholders.

The **Heritage Strategy** is a project fully funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), to develop:

1) A Heritage Strategy to ensure the protection and sustainability of our built and natural heritage.

A project that will generate strategic documents, including an audit of existing heritage assets, conservation management plans and action plans that will inform the Local Development Plan (LDP) and provide guidance and instruction for future heritage policy and development, as well as developing a priority package of future capital projects.

2) Support for local communities in promoting local culture and heritage and assist them to develop Heritage and Culture projects for delivery across NPT.

The project provides assistance to local heritage groups to recruit new members to promote their sustainability, co-ordinate local events, organise training events for volunteers, develop education and tourism related projects and assist in securing funding for future heritage and cultural capital projects

NPTCBC currently has limited resources and expertise to undertake this important exercise of compiling and documenting a data base of the built and natural heritage. This project has brought in expertise to undertake that exercise and will enable the authority to be pro-active in delivering sustainable projects. The Heritage Strategy will reinforce policy making to regulate future development through the planning system with a series of Action Plans and Conservation Management Plans, with onus on landowners to protect and preserve heritage features and local culture.

This Strategy will ensure the special qualities of our historic assets are protected, enhanced and enjoyed by our future generations.

The project has enabled the recruitment of a community heritage officer to assist the local heritage groups to be sustainable and autonomous and enable them to protect and promote their own local heritage and culture.

The project will teach communities how to take ownership and stewardship of their local heritage and improve access to their cultural heritage.

It will ensure our arts, culture and heritage organisations are independent and able to prosper.

The main principles of the Heritage Strategy are:

To develop a strategy that will inform Planning Policy for the future use of listed structures and heritage sites.

To develop Action Plans and Conservation Management Plans to protect and secure our heritage stock.

- To support local heritage groups to take ownership of their local heritage and promote access to culture and heritage within their local communities.
- To develop a list of capital projects for delivery
- To protect, enhance and promote NPT's heritage and cultural assets.
- Prepare a strategic document to inform and develop Planning Policy,
- Agree priorities for project investment.
- Secure external funding streams to assist community groups, the public and private sector to deliver aspirational projects
- Support partnership working that will achieve agreed priorities.
- Meet the aims and objectives of Cadw Conservation Principles:
 1. Historic assets should be managed to sustain their values
 2. Understanding the significance of historic assets
 3. The historic environment is a shared resource
 4. Everyone will be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment

Two posts were created with NLHF funding, a Heritage Strategy Officer (HSO) and a Community Heritage Officer (CHO). Both posts

have been working closely with external partners and internal officers from all departments of the authority, to create a sustainable strategy for our historic environment, identifying opportunities for conservation and enhancement of our built and natural environment; encourage investment whilst creating regeneration opportunities to boost the economy and tourism footfall and support community heritage groups to become sustainable and assist in the delivery of their local projects.

We work closely with the volunteer sector, government sectors, education and the private sector to prepare a sustainable and enduring project to protect the natural environment, cultural and heritage offer in NPT.

Financial Impacts:

No implications.

The costs associated with the production of the Heritage Strategy and the accompanying consultation process are 100% funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required. A summary is included below:

The Strategy does not have any negative impacts upon individuals or groups with protected characteristics.

The strategy has a positive impact upon the achievement of Wellbeing Objective 3 and 4 of the NPT Corporate Plan.

Through the range of actions identified within the strategy there are further positive impacts on the use and promotion of the Welsh language.

By integrating sustainability into the design of projects which arise from the strategy there are opportunities presented to enhance biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems.

The strategy embraces all 5 sustainable development principles and in the long term will result in developing a sense of pride in Neath Port Talbot.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

The Heritage Strategy is designed to have a positive impact on our valleys communities by enhancing and enriching the Heritage in those communities.

The Strategy's action plan will provide the delivery tool to promote and celebrate local heritage, drive economic prosperity and facilitate improvements to historic buildings, parks and landscapes

Workforce Impacts:

This report will have no implications on the workforce.

Legal Impacts:

There are no legal impacts associated with this report

Risk Management Impacts:

The Heritage Strategy sets out a framework that will in time, help reduce the Council's risk in terms of historic building and conservation management in particular.

Consultation:

An extensive consultation exercise was undertaken for the Culture Strategy which has also been used to guide the Heritage Strategy. The methodology and results of the consultation are attached in the appendices to this report

Face to face Focus Groups have been held with volunteer heritage groups and online surveys, requesting feedback on how the public value their heritage and the positive impact it has on their wellbeing.

Due to the statutory nature and funding arrangements for the Heritage Strategy, this report is requesting approval to undertake a wider consultation with the public, private and third sectors along with other stakeholders and volunteers. The Consultation process will commence September 25th and end October 27th 2023.

The results of the consultation process will be collated and reported to cabinet later in the year when the Strategy and Action Plan will be finalised for approval.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet Formally approve that a Public Consultation exercise for the Heritage Strategy document is undertaken by the Regeneration and Heritage teams during September and October of this year, and a subsequent report be brought back to Cabinet, following consultation, for adoption.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

The consultation process will inform the final Strategy document of our obligations and requirements to conserve our local heritage and enable us to deliver the Wellbeing Objective 3: Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period

Appendices:

- Appendix A Draft Heritage Strategy – To Follow
- IIA First Stage Assessment

List of Background Papers:

- Counterculture – Neath Port Talbot Culture Strategy – Public Consultation Results and Analysis

Officer Contact:

Chris Saunders, Head of Leisure, Tourism, Heritage & Culture
c.saunders@npt.gov.uk

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Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

This Integrated Impact Assessment considers the duties and requirements of the following legislation in order to inform and ensure effective decision making and compliance:

- Equality Act 2010
- Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Version Control

Version	Author	Job title	Date
e.g. Version 1			31.08.2023

1. Details of the initiative

	Title of the Initiative: A Heritage Strategy for Neath Port Talbot 2023- 2038 (RESTORE, REGENERATE, REPURPOSE)
1a	Service Area: Leisure, Tourism, Heritage & Culture and Regeneration and Economic Development.
1b	Directorate: Education & Environment
1c	<p>Summary of the initiative: The Heritage Strategy has been developed with the wider policy context in view, particularly the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and is designed to ensure that both the seven goals and five ways of working of the act are embedded throughout the actions of both the Council and other stakeholders. The strategy provides the framework for the Council's services and functions whilst discharging duties set out in various legislation that safeguard the Historic Environment.</p> <p>The Heritage Strategy will set out actions to ensure the sustainable conservation and management of our heritage assets, and measures that can add value to the wellbeing of the area. Its vision is ensuring the conservation, protection and sustainability of Neath Port Talbot's heritage.</p>

	<p>Raising awareness of the county's exceptional heritage, including its economic, wellbeing and environment value is central to the success of the strategy. It is partly about public awareness, but it is also about corporate awareness within the Council. Strengthening our commitment to positive management of the historic environment and the role we play in building a positive legacy for the future, across diverse service areas and corporate functions.</p> <p>The Strategy identifies the challenges that face the historic environment during these precarious times, whilst positively identifying opportunities that supply maximum beneficial outcomes for our heritage.</p> <p>The strategy's five themes focus on the need to value our historic environment and to work collectively with partners and stakeholders to implement far-reaching and long-term interventions. The five themes are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding our heritage and its significance 2. Conserving & Investing in our heritage for future generations 3. Capitalising & Building on our heritage 4. Positive Management of our heritage 5. Celebrating & Promoting our heritage.
1d	<p>Is this a 'strategic decision'? Yes, the draft Heritage Strategy sets out our short, medium and long-term approach for delivery and implementation.</p>
1e	<p>Who will be directly affected by this initiative? The Council, key stakeholders, partner's and everyone who lives, works and/or visits Neath Port Talbot</p>
1f	<p>When and how were people consulted?</p> <p>January 2023 - Engagement with community heritage groups during the launch of the Community Heritage Grant Fund – identifying what heritage assets are important to them.</p> <p>Outcome: Heritage Assets/sites identified include a mixture of Council owned/managed sites and privately owned assets/sites that are of significance in the Historic Environment and play an important part in the identity and sense of place to people from both the community heritage groups and wider community.</p> <p>February – March 2023- Culture Strategy Consultation</p>

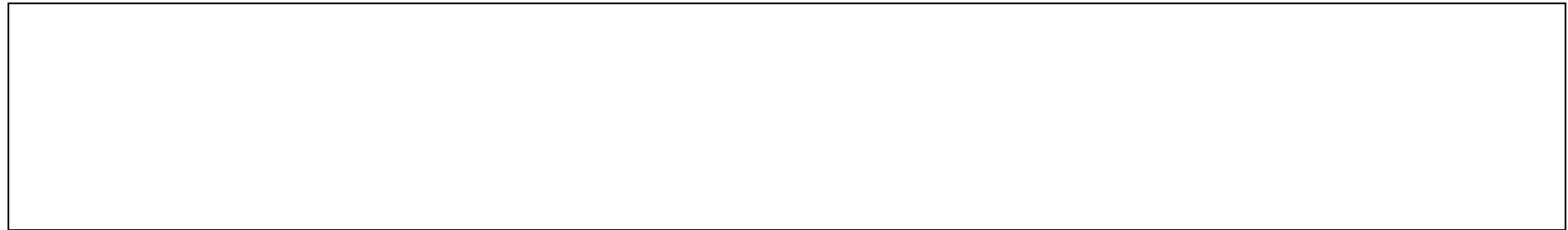
	<p>Consultation: Counter Culture undertook an extensive consultation exercise for the Culture Strategy, which has also been used to guide the Heritage Strategy.</p> <p>Outcome: Identified the importance of Parks & Open Spaces and Heritage & Historic Environment to the people of Neath Port Talbot.</p> <p>August/September 2023 – Focus Groups (face-to-face and online with community heritage groups and recipients of the Community Heritage Grant Fund) – the outcomes from these Focus Groups will be collated and inform an interim report (as part of the Evaluation and Monitoring of the wider Heritage NPT Project). The interim report is expected October 2023</p>
1g	<p>What were the outcomes of the consultation? 25th September – 27th October 2023</p> <p>The full public consultation on the draft plan will not close until October 2023 so the outcomes are not yet known.</p>

2. Evidence

What evidence was used in assessing the initiative?

Through our Let's Talk engagement activity during summer of 2021 Heritage and a strong sense of place ranked important to people in the area. Evidence from the Let's Talk feedback: 'What matters?' resoundingly supported the Heritage Strategy's vision of **ensuring the conservation, protection and sustainability of Neath Port Talbot's heritage.**

Additionally, feedback from the Culture Strategy consultation in March 2023 identified the top two cultural priorities for the 288 respondents as Parks & Open Spaces and Heritage & Historic Environment. These findings guided and informed the Heritage Strategy.



3. Equalities

a) How does the initiative impact on people who share a **protected characteristic**?

Protected Characteristic	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
Age	+			Training provided on how to use social media, Geo-systems mapping on sites and other digital technological based activities, is envisaged to enable groups to widen their appeal to attract a wider diverse audience to engage and participate in activities and volunteering opportunities with groups. Additionally, in order to target younger people to engage with heritage and community groups, the 'Be a Part of Our History' competition was launched (Sept 23) open to 16- 25 year olds (living, studying and working in NPT). Inspired by the heritage of Neath Port Talbot and what it means personally to them, the young person will produce and submit a 'creation' and have a chance to have their creation publicly displayed and win a Cadw Family Membership for 12 months. Fostering a sense of belonging and identity for the young person.
Disability	+			The Strategy has identified actions that will potentially have a positive impact on those with a disability, for example providing greater opportunities for participation, improvements to access and to public rights of way.
Gender reassignment			+/-	Impacts on this group is unknown at this time but will be tested during extensive consultation which will be undertaken during September to October 2023.
Marriage & civil partnership			+/-	Impacts on this group is unknown at this time but will be tested during extensive consultation which will be undertaken during September to October 2023.

Pregnancy and maternity			+/-	Impacts on this group is unknown at this time but will be tested during extensive consultation which will be undertaken during September to October 2023.
Race	+		+/-	Improvements in terms of accessibility, employment and volunteering opportunities that attract a range of people from different backgrounds, ensuring that any promotion /activities consider diversity thereby helping make the sites more appealing to visit.
Religion or belief	+		+/-	Improvements in terms of accessibility, employment and volunteering opportunities that attract a range of people from different backgrounds, ensuring that any promotion /activities consider diversity thereby helping make the sites more appealing to visit.
Sex			+/-	Impacts on this group is unknown at this time but will be tested during extensive consultation which will be undertaken during September to October 2023.
Sexual orientation			+/-	Impacts on this group is unknown at this time but will be tested during extensive consultation which will be undertaken during September to October 2023.

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

Consultation is required to identify actual impact in relation to the protected characteristics of Age, Gender reassignment, Marriage & civil partnership, Pregnancy and maternity, Race , Religion or belief, Sex and Sexual orientation.

b) How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the **Public Sector Equality Duty**?

Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
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To eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation				Improvements in terms of accessibility, employment and volunteering opportunities that attract a range of people from different backgrounds, ensuring that any promotion /activities consider diversity thereby helping make the sites more appealing to visit.
To advance equality of opportunity between different groups				
To foster good relations between different groups	+			

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

Feedback from the formal consultation will further inform this section.

4. Socio Economic Duty

Impact	Details of the impact/advantage/disadvantage
Positive/Advantage	The strategy will have a positive effect on the achievement of our Wellbeing objectives helping build confidence and pride both as individuals and communities as well as opportunities to engage and participate in cultural heritage activities to improve wellbeing and health. It is envisaged that through the strategy’s measures there will be greater access to heritage sites at little or no cost.
Negative/Disadvantage	

Neutral	
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What action will be taken to reduce inequality of outcome
Feedback from the formal consultation will further inform this section.

5. Community Cohesion/Social Exclusion/Poverty

	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
Community Cohesion	+			The strategy will facilitate greater cohesion by enabling communities to work with the Council, agencies and stakeholders to develop community capacity, resilience and work on projects that benefits and unites communities.
Social Exclusion	+			Opportunities to increase social and cultural interaction will be created as a result of the proposed actions within the strategy, and this will have a positive impact for individuals and communities.
Poverty	+			It is anticipated that proposed measures to look at repurposing vacant heritage buildings for mixed and communal uses will enhance communities and alleviate poverty of opportunity.

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

Feedback from the formal consultation will further inform this section.

6. Welsh

	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this effect?
What effect does the initiative have on: – people’s opportunities to use the Welsh language	+			The initiative will produce promotional materials to engage Welsh speakers to participate in activities and use the Welsh Language whilst engaging with groups. Working with Welsh Language support organisations like Menter Iaith to provide and promote opportunities where people can use the Welsh language. Employment and Volunteer opportunities would provide opportunities to use the Welsh language and to increase the amount of Welsh spoken and the numbers who speak Welsh.
– treating the Welsh and English languages equally	+			The strategy will ensure that there is availability of information in both languages and there will be the potential of receiving services and communicating with staff equably in both Welsh and English.

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

Feedback from the consultation will further inform this section

7. Biodiversity

How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the **Biodiversity Duty**?

Biodiversity Duty	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity	+			The strategy supports the wellbeing objective that specifically targets the conservation and improvement of our natural environment, including biodiversity. Measures will encourage positive action to support and connect people to nature at our heritage sites, schemes including 'Green Flag' status and 'NPT Bee Friendly' can conserve and enhance our biodiversity resource. Enabling nature and heritage to harmoniously exist and become green heritage spaces for everyone to enjoy.
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting	+			Through measures that encourage and deliver positive action to improve our natural environment, adopting natural solutions to issues and delivering green

protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.				infrastructural approaches, to ensure resilience of our ecosystems. To restore natural processes to mitigate and develop greater resilience to climate change.
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What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

Feedback from the consultation will further inform this section

8. Well-being of Future Generations

How have the five ways of working been applied in the development of the initiative?

Ways of Working	Details
i. Long term – looking at least 10 years (and up to 25 years) ahead	The strategy is reviewed periodically to ensure that designated priorities lead to actual improvement in the historic environment for our communities. Sustainability plays a key role in the strategy, in terms of positive and progressive management and maintenance of our heritage assets and sites in the long term.
ii. Prevention – preventing problems occurring or getting worse	The priorities described in the strategy will, it is envisaged limit the further deterioration of heritage assets in our historic environment and raise awareness of this issue within our communities.

iii. Collaboration – working with other services internal or external	Collaboration is a key tenet of the strategy. Working in partnership with key partners and stakeholders will ensure improvements are made to our historic environment, which in turn contribute to the social, economic, cultural, and environmental wellbeing of Neath Port Talbot.
iv. Involvement – involving people, ensuring they reflect the diversity of the population	The strategy sets out measures to ensure inclusivity in its engagement with community groups. By identifying additional groups and working with these groups, it is anticipated that individuals participating in heritage opportunities will reflect the diversity of the population of the borough.
v. Integration – making connections to maximise contribution to:	The strategy adopts an integrated approach to making connections to maximise its contribution to well-being goals and other public bodies' objectives.
Council's well-being objectives	Well-being Objective 3: Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People actively conserve, improve and enjoy our stunning natural environment, treasure the Welsh language and are actively engaged with the rich sporting, cultural and industrial heritage of the area.
Other public bodies objectives	Public Services Board priorities Well-being Objective 3: Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage engagement and participation in cultural activities and the celebration and preservation of our cultural assets.

9. Monitoring Arrangements

Provide information on the monitoring arrangements to:

Monitor the impact of the initiative on Equalities, Community Cohesion, the Welsh Measure, Biodiversity Duty and the Wellbeing Objectives.

The consultation, surveys and workshops delivered to inform the strategy will monitor its impact on Equalities, Community Cohesion, the Welsh Measure, Biodiversity Duty and the Wellbeing objectives. Additionally, the end of project Evaluation and Monitoring Report will provide feedback on the impact of the project on wider measures, objective and outcomes.

10. Assessment Conclusions

Please provide details of the conclusions reached in relation to each element of the assessment:

	Conclusion
Equalities	
Socio Economic Disadvantage	
Community Cohesion/ Social Exclusion/Poverty	
Welsh	
Biodiversity	
Well-being of Future Generations	

Overall Conclusion

Please indicate the conclusion reached:

- **Continue** - as planned as no problems and all opportunities have been maximised

- **Make adjustments** - as potential problems/missed opportunities/negative impacts have been identified along with mitigating actions
- **Justification** - for continuing with the initiative even though there is a potential for negative impacts or missed opportunities
- **STOP** - redraft the initiative as actual or potential unlawful discrimination has been identified

Please provide details of the overall conclusion reached in relation to the initiative

11. Actions

What actions are required in relation to obtaining further data/information, to reduce or remove negative impacts or improve positive impacts?

Action	Who will be responsible for seeing it is done?	When will it be done by?	How will we know we have achieved our objective?
Consultation on the Heritage Strategy.	Heritage NPT Team	October 2023	When the feedback is collated and informs the final strategy and action plan.
Final Evaluation & Monitoring Report on the Heritage NPT project is produced.	External Contractor	March 2024	The final report is published and findings and recommendations can be acted on.
Competition 'Be a Part of Our History' (16-25yrs).	Heritage NPT Team	October 2023	The number of entrants to the competition (highlighting their locality and age)

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12. Sign off

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by				
Signed off by		Head of Service/Director		



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

CABINET

20th September 2023

Report of the Chief Finance Officer – H.Jones

Wards affected – All

Matter for Decision

Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 – As at the end of June 30th 2023

Purpose of Report

To provide Members with information in relation to the Council's projected revenue budget position and savings as agreed for 2023/24.

Background

This report sets out the Council's projected budget position based on information available as at 30th June 2023.

Budget Management Responsibility

Under the Council's Constitution and Financial Procedure Rules Corporate Directors are responsible for managing their Budgets within the overall cash limit approved by Council.

A Corporate Director may exercise virements on budgets under his or her control for any amount on any one budget head during the year, following notification to the Chief Finance Officer provided that:

- a) overall expenditure and income is contained within the cash limit
- (b) except where virement would involve a significant variation in the level or nature of the delivery of the service approved by Council in the Revenue Budget.

Summary

The Council's net revenue budget for 2023/24 is £360.973m (£338.020m in 2022/23). When the budget was set a number of service savings and efficiencies were required totalling £15.352m. The current position on these savings are attached in appendix 2, with a red,amber,green (RAG) rating to show their current status.

The overall budget position as at June 2023 is a £2.867m overspend. As the financial year progresses, services will need to continually review expenditure and income in their areas to mitigate the impact of the overall budget overspend.

Summary 2023/24								
	Original Budget	Virements Qtr 1	Revised Budget	Projected Outturn	Possible pay award adj	Probable Commitment	Reserves	Variance ~ Under / (Over)
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning - Schools	102,086		102,086	102,086	0			0
Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning - Other	31,677	-272	31,405	32,288	-442		2	-443
Social Services Health & Housing	105,572	337	105,909	108,349	-1,000			-1,440
Environment	46,262		46,262	47,953	-1,000		277	-968
Strategy and Corporate	21,357	-45	21,312	22,802	-387		-637	-466
Directly Controlled Expenditure	306,954	20	306,974	313,478	-2,829	0	-358	-3,317
Levies and contributions	10,203		10,203	10,203				0
Capital financing	19,608		19,608	19,608				0
Pay contingency	4,714		4,714	0	2,829	1,885		0
Contingency	781	-20	761	761				0
Energy efficiency/Transition/Contingency	2,800		2,800	0		2,800		0
Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS)	19,413		19,413	18,963				450
								0
Contributions from reserves	-3,500		-3,500	-3,500				0
								0
(Overspend) / Underspend	360,973	0	360,973	359,513	0	4,685	-358	-2,867

At present it is difficult to quantify the effect of the pay settlement for 2023/24. The current projections reflect the latest pay offer for green book staff of £1,925 per employee up to grade 13 and then 3.88% thereafter. The base budget included a provision for a 4% pay award and it has been calculated that based on the current offer that a further £2.8m will be required to fund this uplift. A pay contingency budget was set aside in the 2023/24 budget setting process and once the pay award has been finalised, a virement will be requested to move this budget to the individual service directorates.

The vacancy management target for the council in 2023/24 is £2.915m. To date Social Services, Health and Housing Directorate have indicated that this will be met in full with a shortfall of £1.032m in total for the rest

of the Council. For the purposes of this budget monitoring report, this unidentified shortfall of £1.032m has not been built into the current overspend as it is anticipated that as the year goes on, these targets will be met in full or savings elsewhere will be identified to offset them.

The cost of energy remains difficult to predict. Officers are currently working on projections for 2023/24 and a separate paper will be brought to update members. As a reminder, an inflation increase of 50% was allocated for energy in base budgets, with a further 50% placed in an energy contingency/renewable energy budget.

In order to try to address the overspend position Officers will look to implement additional cost saving and income generation measures in year. These measures will only be where they can be delivered within existing policy frameworks.

Significant service variances of £100k or more are detailed below.

Education Leisure and Lifelong Learning (ELLL)

Based on costs incurred to date the ELLL directorate is projected to overspend by £443k assuming additional funding is provided to cover the additional pay award. The main variances included in this £443k overspend are:

Out of County placements £229k underspend

Due to a mixture of additional income from children attending NPT schools and a reduction in independent sector placements.

School specific contingencies £223k overspend

This relates to the current cost of providing portacabins on the Cwmtawe school site for the pupils from Godre'rgraig primary school. Officers have been asked to look into the option of purchasing these portacabins to see whether this would represent better value for money.

Home to school transport £488k overspend

There have been 23 new routes since the budget was set, this pressure now brings the current cost of the home to school service to approximately £9.4m.

The following risks have been identified within the ELLL directorate:

Welsh Government (WG) has passed legislation that means speed limits on most restricted roads will reduce from 30mph to 20mph from September 2023. The transport section are currently reviewing the impact of this on Home to School Transport. It is likely some existing routes will need to be revised and additional routes procured.

Schools have indicated that they will need £8.5m over and above the delegated budget this year. There is currently only £6.5m in reserves meaning that potentially schools will go into a deficit reserve position of £2m. All schools currently reporting a deficit budget have been requested to submit a recovery plan and going forward in 2023/24 all schools will be asked to submit a quarterly budget position which will be monitored and reported to cabinet.

Social Services Health & Housing (SSHH)

Based on costs incurred to date the SSHH directorate is projected to overspend by £1.440m assuming additional funding is provided to cover the additional pay award. The main variances included in this £1.440m overspend are:

Adoption Service £100k underspend

The cost of the joint service is shared out between the partners, Swansea, NPT and Bridgend and is apportioned on the number of adoption placements made each year. It is anticipated that NPT will receive a refund of £100k of its initial contribution based on refunds received in prior years. There is a risk that NPT adoption numbers could be higher this year and therefore a greater contribution required, placements will be monitored throughout the year and adjustments made if necessary.

Elderly Residential Care £1.22m underspend

The under spend is due to additional income, an increase in pensions has led to increased assessed charges and additional recovery of fees following the sale of residents assets.

Elderly Domiciliary Care £601k overspend

An overspend in the external market due to additional hours commissioned, 7,885 hours per week compared with 7,345 in the budget. This is partially offset by vacant posts within the in-house homecare service.

Physical Disability Placements £212k overspend

Due to new placements.

Learning Disabilities £207k overspend

The projection is based on placements agreed and approximate start dates included for new placements. No costs have been included for placements that have been agreed in principle but no placement found, assuming that the additional cost will be offset by placement discharges.

The following risks are highlighted as potential future costs which are not included in the figures:

- Implications for night care from Fire Service report, need for more than 1 member of staff on night cover
- New placements (Careers Wales) at Star College and Beechwood College

Mental Health £827k overspend

Projection includes any placements where costs have been agreed. New placements where costs have been agreed will have approximate start dates. It does not include placements agreed in principle and out to brokerage, on the assumption that the additional cost will be offset by placement discharges.

Housing Advice/Supported Tenancies £1m overspend

At the start of the pandemic WG changed the policy relating to homelessness to ensure no-one was sleeping rough. The policy change resulted in a much higher than average demand for temporary accommodation and meant that a significant amount of additional accommodation needed to be sourced urgently.

That specific change in policy has now been integrated into the Housing Wales Act via a secondary legislation change, therefore the majority of households presenting are now eligible for temporary accommodation so demand is likely to remain at current levels for some time.

Prior to the pandemic, average number in temporary accommodation at any one time was 50 households. Latest figures show 185 households are in temporary accommodation.

Work is ongoing to implement the Rapid Rehousing Plan which will ultimately reduce the use of temporary accommodation in the longer

term and increase the stock of social housing across the borough, however this will develop over a period of between 5 – 10 years.

Hostels £190k overspend

This overspend is due to additional security being needed at two hostel sites.

Risks

The SSHH budget is currently being underpinned by the use of £4.8m of earmarked directorate reserves. These reserves are being used to fund the 'pressures to be monitored' which were included in the 2023/24 budget proposals as potential pressures which would not be built into the base budget but would require reserve funding if they became real costs.

It is not sustainable to continue to fund these costs from reserves on a permanent basis as the directorate reserves will run out in 2025/26 so consideration will need to be given as to how these costs can be funded on a permanent basis if they are going to be ongoing.

Environment (ENV)

Based on costs incurred to date the ENV directorate is projected to overspend by £968K assuming additional funding is provided to cover the additional pay award. The main variances included in this £968k overspend are:

Public lighting £492K overspend

This is due to the energy inflationary increase being in excess of the inflationary allowance, which is partially offset by other savings. This estimate has been based on one months' bill so will be monitored each month and regularly updated.

Car Parking £326K overspend

This overspend is due to two reasons. Firstly, due to a fall in footfall since COVID in town centres, the car parking income is lower. Secondly the budget agreed at Cabinet and Council included a proposal that car parking income would need to increase by £200k. To date Members have not agreed to any increases, the overspend is therefore based on existing car parking charges and usage,

Civic Buildings £411K overspend

This is due to increases in electricity and gas in excess of the inflationary allowance. This estimate is based on current bills and will be regularly monitored and updated.

Refuse Disposal £413K Underspend

This saving is mainly due to the anticipated increased waste recycling income compared to budget. This has arisen due to the introduction of a new sorting line to separate aluminium from steel cans, resulting in a much improved price per tonne of income for the recycling products. The full impact of the improved income will not be experienced until July and this figure may be further increased.

Corporate Services (CORP)

Based on costs incurred to date the CORP directorate is projected to overspend by £466K assuming additional funding is provided to cover the additional pay award. The main variance included in this £466k overspend is:

Digital Services £305k overspend

This overspend is due to an increase in the software licenses over the past 5 years.

Central Budgets

Council tax reduction scheme £450k underspend

This budget is projecting to underspend by £450k with 15,699 people currently receiving a reduction to their council tax in year.

Virements

Please see below proposed virements which will need to be agreed as cross directorate budget transfers.

Virements across directorates			
Directorate	Service Area	Value £	Reason
To SSHH from ELLL	Community Safety	292,553	Community Safety now sits under SSHH
To SSHH from ELLL	Substance misuse action fund	43,797	Substance misuse action fund now sits under SSHH

To ELLL from CORP	Commercial and Income Generation	64,984	Commercial officer post moved under new line management
To CORP from Central Budgets	Digital Services	£ 20,000	Agreed contribution to staffing costs
		421,334	

Update on actions included within the 2023/24 budget strategy

The approved budget strategy for 2023/24 included a number of actions which were to be progressed during the financial year. This section of the report contains some information in regards to progress to date.

Expansion of Welfare Rights Service

The budget strategy allowed for a temporary expansion of the Welfare Rights Service. Two additional posts have been created and appointments made and the staff have commenced employment.

Further streamlining of internal assessment arrangements

Scoping work has been undertaken to map current arrangements in terms of where assessments take place and what software is used to store the relevant information. Further work to streamline the above will need to feature in the forward work programme for digital services and prioritised accordingly.

Improvements in speed of payment to microbusinesses

Changes have been made to payment processes for residential care providers, reducing transaction time and saving the equivalent of one post within the finance division. Further work will need to be undertaken on different business sectors.

Expansion of work with Chwarae Teg

The Ment2Be mentoring scheme has been launched - the scheme was developed with the primary aim of supporting the career development and progression of low paid women within our workforce, but it will be inclusive offer open to all employees who are interested in career development. Further work is currently being developed.

Energy efficiency arrangements and renewable energy

Work has commenced with schools regarding looking at ways of reducing consumption as we move into the winter months. The environment directorate have identified an officer to work initially with the top fourteen energy consuming schools. An external organisation with

expertise in helping schools reduce consumption is also in the process of being commissioned.

A number of potential renewable energy schemes have also been identified at various school sites. Discussions will take place with the relevant head teachers once the autumn term re-commences in September.

The Director of Strategy and Corporate services is working on a number of proposals in relation to reducing energy consumption in Civic buildings over the winter period. The details are currently being worked through with staff and trade unions.

Work is progressing to migrate physical IT servers onto 'the cloud' with seventy out of two hundred and fifty being able to be migrated in the first tranche which will again reduce energy costs.

Internal capacity is to be created to progress with work on looking at transitioning to renewable energy as this cannot be accommodated from within existing resources.

Council Reserves

Under the Council's constitution the use of existing reserves by Corporate Directors requires prior consultation with the Chief Finance Officer. The current position in relation to reserve balances as at 1st April 2023 and commitments agreed to date is detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.

Integrated Impact Assessment

There is no requirement to undertake an integrated impact assessment as this report summarises the Council's financial position

Valleys Communities Impacts

No Impact

Workforce Impacts

No Impact

Legal Impact

No Impact

Risk Management Impact

Due to the cost of living crisis, rising energy prices, inflation and post covid recovery, there is risk within the current budget projections which could result in significant variances.

Recent Welsh Government budget announcements also mean that there may be a risk around the availability of some in-year specific grants. Officers will monitor this situation and include any implications in subsequent budget monitoring reports.

Consultation

This item is not subject to external consultation

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- **Note** the contents of this report in relation to the current projected budget outturn and reserves position
- **Approve** the virements set out in the main body of this report.
- **Note** the progress against the agreed savings
- **Note** that Officers will look to implement additional cost saving and income generation measures in year in order to reduce the current overspend position. These measures will only be where they can be delivered within existing policy frameworks.

Reason for Proposed decision

To comply with the Council's constitution in relation to budget for virements.

Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

Appendix 1-Reserve Schedule

Appendix 2-Agreed savings RAG rating

Background Papers

Budget Working Papers

Officer Contact

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Appendix 1 – Reserve Schedule

Description	Reserve Balance at 1st April 2023 £	Original budget reserves 2023/24	Current Projected Balance @ 31st March 2024 £	Additional movements to June 2023 £	Closing reserves 2023/24 £
Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning					
<u>Delegated Schools Reserves</u>					
ERVR Primary	Cr9,675	0	Cr9,675	9,675	Cr0
Primary Schools	Cr3,248,428	0	Cr3,248,428		Cr3,248,428
Secondary Schools	Cr2,382,943	0	Cr2,382,943		Cr2,382,943
Special Schools	Cr825,780	0	Cr825,780		Cr825,780
Middle School	Cr98,639	0	Cr98,639		Cr98,639
Repair & Maintenance	Cr161,160	0	Cr161,160		Cr161,160
	Cr6,726,626	0	Cr6,726,626	9,675	Cr6,716,951
<u>Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Other</u>					
Additional learning needs reserve	Cr2,741,462	0	Cr2,741,462	0	Cr2,741,462
Equalisation Account-Education	Cr1,324,038	362,905	Cr961,133	0	Cr961,133
Home to School Transport	0	Cr253,000	Cr253,000	0	Cr253,000
	Cr4,065,500	109,905	Cr3,955,595	0	Cr3,955,595
Total Education Leisure & Lifelong Learning	Cr10,792,126	109,905	Cr10,682,221	9,675	Cr10,672,546
<u>Social Services, Health and Housing</u>					
Homecare ECM Equipment reserve	Cr361,756	6,756	Cr355,000	0	Cr355,000
Community Care Transformation Reserve	Cr2,249,661	1,499,661	Cr750,000	0	Cr750,000
Children's Residential Placements	0	0	0	0	0
SSHH IT Renewals Fund	Cr1,900,000	0	Cr1,900,000	0	Cr1,900,000
Social Services Equalisation	Cr3,370,114	2,873,873	Cr496,241	0	Cr496,241
Community Resilience Fund	Cr1,750,000	0	Cr1,750,000	0	Cr1,750,000

Description	Reserve Balance at 1st April 2023 £	Original budget reserves 2023/24	Current Projected Balance @ 31st March 2024 £	Additional movements to June 2023 £	Closing reserves 2023/24 £
Housing Warranties Reserve	Cr220,000	0	Cr220,000	0	Cr220,000
Hillside General Reserve	Cr431,098	0	Cr431,098	0	Cr431,098
Ring fenced homecare funding	Cr234,000	0	Cr234,000	0	Cr234,000
Youth Offending Team Reserve	Cr167,897	0	Cr167,897	0	Cr167,897
Adoption Service	Cr880,000	500,000	Cr380,000	0	Cr380,000
Total Social Services, Health and Housing	Cr11,564,526	4,880,290	Cr6,684,236	0	Cr6,684,236
<u>Environment</u>					
Transport Reserve	Cr315,173	60,000	Cr255,173	0	Cr255,173
Asset Recovery Incentive Scheme	Cr44,593	0	Cr44,593	Cr43,301	Cr87,894
Swansea Bay City Deal	Cr221,000	0	Cr221,000	0	Cr221,000
Local Development Plan	Cr363,124	76,787	Cr286,337	0	Cr286,337
Parking improvement	Cr88,000	63,000	Cr25,000	0	Cr25,000
DARE Reserve	Cr2,000,000	0	Cr2,000,000	0	Cr2,000,000
Waste Reserve	Cr1,536,454	900,000	Cr636,454	0	Cr636,454
Winter Maintenance Reserve	Cr568,429	0	Cr568,429	0	Cr568,429
Neath Market	Cr253,107	0	Cr253,107	0	Cr253,107
Baglan Bay Innovation centre - dilapidation reserve	Cr77,517	0	Cr77,517	0	Cr77,517
Renewable Energy Reserve	Cr17,959	0	Cr17,959	0	Cr17,959
Environmental Health - Housing Equalisation	Cr95,000	58,301	Cr36,699	0	Cr36,699
LAWDC Contingency Reserve	Cr815,177	0	Cr815,177	0	Cr815,177
Workways – NPT	Cr325,522	0	Cr325,522	0	Cr325,522

Description	Reserve Balance at 1st April 2023 £	Original budget reserves 2023/24	Current Projected Balance @ 31st March 2024 £	Additional movements to June 2023 £	Closing reserves 2023/24 £
Environment Equalization Reserve	Cr1,097,403	147,556	Cr949,847	104,177	Cr845,670
Metal box Reserve	Cr779,909	Cr305,333	Cr1,085,242	0	Cr1,085,242
Pantteg Landslip Reserve	Cr500,000	0	Cr500,000	0	Cr500,000
					0
<u>Trading Account</u>					0
Operating Account –Equalisation	Cr36,043	0	Cr36,043	0	Cr36,043
Vehicle Tracking	Cr92,186	0	Cr92,186	0	Cr92,186
Vehicle Renewals	Cr3,471,874	2,275,246	Cr1,196,628	0	Cr1,196,628
Total Environment	Cr12,698,470	3,275,557	Cr9,422,913	60,876	Cr9,362,037
<u>Chief Executives</u>					
Elections Equalisation Fund	Cr151,139	Cr15,000	Cr166,139	0	Cr166,139
Health & Safety/Occupational Health	Cr40,501	0	Cr40,501	0	Cr40,501
Digital Transformation Reserve	Cr1,170,000	0	Cr1,170,000	590,000	Cr580,000
Schools IT Equalisation (HWB)	Cr470,000	70,000	Cr400,000	0	Cr400,000
Development Fund for Modernisation	Cr76,032	0	Cr76,032	0	Cr76,032
Digital renewal reserve	Cr1,754,394	400,000	Cr1,354,394	0	Cr1,354,394
Chief Executives Equalisation Reserve	Cr359,736	105,000	Cr254,736	0	Cr254,736
Organisational development reserve	Cr4,636,436	280,000	Cr4,356,436	17,000	Cr4,339,436
Building Capacity	Cr241,295	52,000	Cr189,295	30,000	Cr159,295
Voluntary Organisation Reserve	Cr89,744	0	Cr89,744	0	Cr89,744
Total Corporate Services	Cr8,989,277	892,000	Cr8,097,277	637,000	Cr7,460,277

Description	Reserve Balance at 1st April 2023 £	Original budget reserves 2023/24	Current Projected Balance @ 31st March 2024 £	Additional movements to June 2023 £	Closing reserves 2023/24 £
<u>Corporate Other</u>					
Insurance Reserve	Cr4,445,382	280,000	Cr4,165,382	0	Cr4,165,382
Covid recovery	Cr1,406,578	824,650	Cr581,928	0	Cr581,928
Income Generation Reserve	Cr1,663,230	0	Cr1,663,230	0	Cr1,663,230
Members Community Fund Reserve	Cr351,974	0	Cr351,974		Cr351,974
Capital support reserve	Cr683,447	0	Cr683,447	0	Cr683,447
Hardship relief scheme	Cr1,725,000	0	Cr1,725,000	0	Cr1,725,000
Service resilience	Cr874,072	874,072	0	0	0
Discretionary fund	Cr335,725	0	Cr335,725	0	Cr335,725
Corporate Contingency	Cr2,492,766	930,273	Cr1,562,493	Cr349,922	Cr1,912,415
Strategic regeneration capacity building	Cr1,500,000		Cr1,500,000		Cr1,500,000
Treasury Management Equalisation Reserve	Cr8,407,767	0	Cr8,407,767	0	Cr8,407,767
Accommodation Strategy	Cr2,273,580	0	Cr2,273,580	0	Cr2,273,580
Total Corporate Other	Cr26,159,521	2,908,995	Cr23,250,526	Cr349,922	Cr23,600,448
<u>Joint Committee</u>					
Margam Discovery Centre - Building Maintenance Reserve	Cr117,107	Cr57,333	Cr174,440	0	Cr174,440
Workways - Regional Reserve	Cr169,860		Cr169,860	0	Cr169,860
Environment Legacy Reserve (SWTRA)	Cr59,728		Cr59,728	0	Cr59,728
Substance Misuse Area Planning Board	Cr153,568		Cr153,568	0	Cr153,568
WB Safeguarding Board Reserve	Cr94,676		Cr94,676	0	Cr94,676
Intermediate Care pooled fund	0		0	0	0

Description	Reserve Balance at 1st April 2023 £	Original budget reserves 2023/24	Current Projected Balance @ 31st March 2024 £	Additional movements to June 2023 £	Closing reserves 2023/24 £
Total Joint Committee	Cr594,939	Cr57,333	Cr652,272	0	Cr652,272
Total All Earmarked Reserves	Cr70,798,859	12,009,414	Cr58,789,445	357,629	Cr58,431,816
General Reserve	Cr20,150,693	4,900,000	Cr15,250,693	0	Cr15,250,693
TOTAL ALL RESERVES	Cr90,949,552	16,909,414	Cr74,040,138	357,629	Cr73,682,509

2023/24 Budget – Savings monitoring RAG Analysis

Ref	Savings strategy	Responsible officer	2023/24 Saving £	Deliverability Status R/A/G	Comment/ Consequence
	Efficiency/Economy measures identified				
E&E1	Car Allowances	All managers	400,000	Green	
E&E2	CRB Checks	All managers	10,000	Green	
E&E3	Eye tests	All managers	7,000	Green	
E&E4	Water	All managers	52,000	Green	
E&E5	General office expenses, books and subscriptions	All managers	125,000	Green	
E&E6	Pat testing	All managers	10,000	Green	
E&E7	Periodicals, municipal journals etc.	All managers	2,500	Green	
E&E8	Window cleaning	All managers	10,000	Green	
E&E9	Canvassing	All managers	10,000	Green	
E&E10	Stationery	All managers	75,000	Green	
E&E11	Conference fees - overnight travel etc.	All managers	5,000	Green	
E&E12	Furniture purchasing	All managers	10,500	Green	
E&E13	Postages	All managers	3,000	Green	
E&E14	Medical Fees	All managers	40,000	Green	
E&E15	External printing	All managers	33,888	Green	
E&E17	Hire of room	All managers	17,000	Green	
	Accommodation				
ACC1	Buildings to be vacated - Closure of 5 satellite office buildings in phase 1 (2023/24)	Simon Brennan	158,000	Green	£113k achieved to date, Unable to negotiate surrender of Baglan resource centre-current lease ends August 25 th 2029. Savings achieve elsewhere
	Grants				
GR1	Maximisation of external grant funding	Simon Brennan	500,000	Green	Relates to SPF funding

Ref	Savings strategy	Responsible officer	2023/24 Saving £	Deliverability Status R/A/G	Comment/ Consequence
GR2	Offset ALN post against existing grant	Hayley Lervy	63,190	Green	
GR3	Catering business administrative post against grant	Rhiannon Crowhurst	48,000	Green	
<u>Subsidy removal</u>					
SUB1	Margam Park	Chris Saunders	100,000	Green	
SUB2	Increased income at skills and training unit	Chris Millis	25,000	Amber	Still in process of identifying what option to use to achieve this saving-original option no longer available
SUB3	Full cost recovery of school cleaning service	Rhiannon Crowhurst	167,275	Amber	Discussion ongoing regarding phasing
SUB4	Gnoll County Park	Mike Roberts	30,000	Red	Subject to delivery of LUF project
SUB6	Afan forest park	Simon Brennan	1,882	Green	
SUB0	Leisure Services	Chris Saunders	250,000	Green	One of pension saving and additional income
<u>Service Remodelling and integration</u>					
SERV1	Digital Savings (Mobile and Photocopier contracts)	Chris Owen	150,000	Green	
<u>Other</u>					
OTHER1	Pension Recharges - reduction in historic early access charges as numbers drop	Huw Jones	67,000	Green	

Appendix 2

Ref	Savings strategy	Responsible officer	2023/24 Saving £	Deliverability Status R/A/G	Comment/ Consequence
OTHER2	Treasury Management - increased interest on investments	Huw Jones	500,000	Green	
OTHER3	Management of change recharge - Remove base budget for ER/VR use Organisation Development reserve if required	Andrew Thomas	200,000	Green	
OTHER4	Fall in pupil numbers as per settlement	Andrew Thomas	733,000	Green	
OTHER5	Pension Recharges - reduction in employer contribution rate from 2023/24	Huw Jones	5,109,000	Green	
OTHER6	Reversal of Social Care Levy - reduced employer national insurance contributions	Huw Jones	1,364,000	Green	
OTHER7	Vacancy management target - assumed 5% reduction in salary costs due to natural vacancies / turnover	All Directors	2,915,000	Amber	To date there is a shortfall of £1.032m
OTHER8	Council tax reduction scheme - reduction in claimants since pandemic levels	Huw Jones	750,000	Green	
OTHER9	Council tax collection rate - Cabinet approved increase to collection rate of 98% in Nov2022	Huw Jones	1,000,000	Green	
OTHER10	Offset costs against capital programme	Huw Jones	260,000	Green	
OTHER11	Corporate savings-Cex Budget - various initiatives across the four divisions of the corporate services portfolio - Legal, Finance, Digital and Organisational Development	Noelwen Daniel	150,000	Green	
Total			15,352,235		

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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

CABINET

20TH September 2023

Report of the Chief Finance Officer - H.Jones

Wards affected – All

Matter for Decision

Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 – As at end of June 2023

Purpose of Report

To provide Members with information in relation to delivery of the 2023/24 Capital Programme.

Background

On 1st March 2023 Council approved its Capital Programme for 2023/24; the report detailed planned Capital Expenditure totalling £118.053m for the financial year.

The purpose of this report is to update Members as to the delivery of this Programme as at 30th June 2023 and to seek approval for a further updated budget position.

Targeted Achievements

As Members are aware the following achievements are being targeted during this financial year:

- Continuation of the capital Universal Free School Meals projects.
- Progress with the regeneration programme including the next phase of the re-development of the former Crown Foods Site.
- Continued investment in Disabled Facilities Grants.
- Investment in school buildings and ICT.

- City Deal – progression of the Homes as Power Stations and the remainder of the Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth projects.
- Levelling up (LUF) – commencement of the projects at Gnoll Country Park and Pontneddfechan.
- Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) – commencement of the 8 capital schemes as detailed in Appendix 1.

Changes to the approved Budget

The updated Capital Programme now totals £93.489m with the main changes proposed being:

- Projects and funding carried forward from 2022/23 totalling £4.967m.
- Grant approvals received, after the original programme was set of £5.396m, predominantly relating to transport, drainage works and sustainable schools challenge.
- In 2023/24 a budget of £20.998m had been included for Ysgol Newydd Swansea Valley. Following a consultation process Members decided not to progress with the current project therefore the budget has been removed from the capital programme. A report will be submitted to Members in the Autumn which will detail revised proposals to provide education for the pupils of the Godre'r graig catchment area.
- A budget totalling £3.325m had originally been included in 2023/24 for Match Funding for WG & UK Government Funding Streams. Part of this budget was to match our unsuccessful LUF projects in Port Talbot. Therefore, £2.831m has now been re-profiled into 2024/25 and will be used to match fund any future projects that come to fruition during the next financial year.
- Budgets totalling £5.467m had originally been included in 2023/24 for the City Deal Homes as Power Stations Project. £3.761m has now been re-profiled into 2024/25 to reflect the profile of the works required. The Financial Incentives Fund is soon to be released but payments will be subsequent to the completion of schemes and not on approval of funding as originally profiled.

Where projects have been re-profiled into subsequent years there has been no loss of funding.

Further details of the Budget changes are shown at Appendix 2. A capital programme of £90m represents a significant positive investment right across the County Borough.

Members should note that the delivery profile of some of the City Deal projects is currently being reviewed and may need to be re-profiled into 2024/25. This funding is not time limited so there is no risk of the funding being lost.

2023/24 Capital Expenditure

Details of capital expenditure as at 30th June 2023 is outlined in Appendix 1 of this report.

Financial Impact

All relevant details are set out in the body of the report.

Valleys Communities Impact

The Capital Programme provides investment in assets across the County Borough.

Workforce Impacts

There are no workforce impacts arising from this report.

Legal Impacts

There are no legal impacts arising from this report.

Risk Management

The capital programme is actively managed by managers and the Capital Programme Steering Group to comply with all relevant planning conditions, legislation, regulations and health and safety.

Consultation

There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet approves and commends to Council:

- The approval of the updated proposed 2023/24 budget totalling £93.489m;
- Note the position in relation to expenditure as at 30th June 2023.

Reason for Proposed Decision

To comply with the Council's constitution in relation to budget virement, re-profiling between financial years and to update the Council's Budget projections for 2023/24.

Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Details of Capital Expenditure as at 30th June 2023

Appendix 2 – Details of Budget Changes as at 30th June 2023

List of Background Papers

Capital Programme working files

Officer Contact

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Capital Budget and Spend 2023/24 as at 30th June 2023

	Original Budget £'000	Revised Budget £'000	Actual @ 30 th June £'000	Comments
Education, Leisure & Lifelong Learning				
Ysgol Newydd Swansea Valley	20,998	0	0	
Capital Maintenance - ELLL	1,429	1,540	0	Works to commence in school summer holidays.
Capital Maintenance for Schools Previous Years Grants	3,400	3,286	8	Works to commence in school summer holidays.
Universal Primary Free School Meals	1,555	1,432	17	Works to commence in school summer holidays.
Supporting Learners with Additional Needs	0	503	0	Allocation agreed, to be actioned.
Childcare Offer Grant – Small Grants, Cwmavon & YGG Blaendulais	1,879	2,315	0	Planning applications for the schemes in Cwmavon and YGG Blaendulais to be submitted in September.
Community Focused Schools Hubs 1-4	0	16	0	
Sustainable Schools Challenge – YGG Rhosafan	0	450	0	
Hwb IT for Schools	0	449	0	
Leisure Investment	283	289	44	
Margam Park Stonework Repairs	228	532	137	
Pontardawe Arts Centre Cinema	1,306	591	10	

	Original Budget £'000	Revised Budget £'000	Actual @ 30th June £'000	Comments
Dyfed Road Site Clearance	0	650	0	Started on site week commencing 31st July.
Other – Education & Leisure	924	746	0	
Environment				
Highways and Engineering Maintenance	2,128	2,449	144	
Drainage Grants	0	1,853	547	
Match funding for grants (including flood prevention)	500	500	0	
Additional major engineering works Norton/Bevan Terrace	1,186	1,209	0	Majority of Norton Terrace works to be complete by October.
Decarbonisation Strategy (DARE)	250	0	0	
Resilient Roads Fund - Castle Drive Cimla	200	166	1	
Road Safety 20mph (multiple locations)	336	2,421	714	Scheme to be complete in Autumn and full spend likely by the end of the December.
Active Travel	0	1,206	1	Budget is made up of various schemes. Due to go out to tender the end of August on the largest scheme. The remainder of the schemes are at design stage/discussions ongoing with the relevant parties.
Covid Recovery	380	426	4	

	Original Budget £'000	Revised Budget £'000	Actual @ 30th June £'000	Comments
Covid Recovery - Catch Up, Clean Up, Green Up Capital Works	1,500	1,497	184	
Additional Works Programme	2,662	2,555	140	
Major Bridge Strengthening - A474 Neath	284	294	0	
Health & Safety	1,300	1,207	55	
Neighbourhood Improvements	150	328	166	
Pavilions	256	252	70	
Disability Access	150	124	7	
Crymlyn Burrows Transfer Station - site improvements	700	1,555	761	
Waste Fleet Relocation Works	3,400	1,750	0	Works to commence over the summer.
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	1,017	1,044	282	
Vehicle Replacement Programme	3,579	3,579	244	
Environment Street Scene Works	890	997	9	
Regeneration: Match Funding for WG & UK Government Funding Streams	3,325	494	0	Spend dependant on grant received. Grants awarded to be to be reviewed as part of the Q2 budget monitoring process and budget updated if required.
Regeneration: Harbourside Infrastructure	434	441	0	
Regeneration: Margam Country Park EV Charging and Public Facilities	153	198	0	
Regeneration: Crown Buildings	316	378	0	

	Original Budget £'000	Revised Budget £'000	Actual @ 30th June £'000	Comments
Regeneration: Neath Transport Hub	2,192	2,192	0	Site relocation works ongoing. Potentially, budget to be slipped to 2024/25.
Regeneration: Place Making 2 & 3	810	200	47	
Regeneration: Commercial Property Grant	296	316	0	
Regeneration: Other	1,635	581	0	
City Deal: The Technology Centre	0	64	0	Scheme now complete, some further staff costs likely in 2023/24.
City Deal: SWITCH Building at Harbourside	14,150	14,171	0	Successful contractor announced on 2 nd May with 12 month design process commencing immediately. Potentially, part of the budget to be slipped to 2024/25.
City Deal: Advanced manufacturing production facility at Harbourside	10,550	10,599	0	Ongoing discussions around land acquisition. Potentially, part of budget to be slipped to 2024/25.
City Deal: Low Emission Vehicles (LEV)	475	250	0	Goods due to be ordered.
City Deal: Air Quality Monitoring	190	190	0	Goods due to be ordered.
City Deal: Hydrogen Stimulus	926	926	0	Payment to University of South Wales imminent.
City Deal: Property Development Fund	1,500	498	0	Companies due to submit stage 2 applications.
City Deal: Homes as Power Stations	5,467	1,706	11	The Financial Incentives Fund is to be released soon.

	Original Budget £'000	Revised Budget £'000	Actual @ 30th June £'000	Comments
Levelling Up: Gnoll Country Park	6,453	6,442	89	Planning application to be submitted in September. Potentially, part of the budget to be slipped to 2024/25.
Levelling Up: Pontneddfechan	4,185	4,178	2	Contractor to be appointed by the end of August. Potentially, part of the budget to be slipped to 2024/25.
Shared Prosperity Fund: Valley Industrial Units	250	249	1	Due to go out to tender by end of September.
Shared Prosperity Fund: Aberavon Seafront Masterplan	50	49	0	Due to go out to tender for consultant middle of August.
Shared Prosperity Fund: NPT Heritage, Culture & Tourism Fund	250	250	0	Enquires received, eligible projects invited to submit applications - first panel 30th of August.
Shared Prosperity Fund: Sustainable Communities Growth Fund	350	350	0	Some projects being invited to submit full applications.
Shared Prosperity Fund: Third Sector Growth Fund	231	231	0	Expressions of interest taken to panel, round 2 now open.
Shared Prosperity Fund: Open Call (RD&I)	535	535	0	Projects to commence imminently.
Shared Prosperity Fund: Valleys & Villages	300	293	0	Projects actively in development, due to go to panel 30th August.
Shared Prosperity Fund: Supporting Local Business	800	400	0	Trial of live grant applications through online process.
Other - Environment	483	1,198	58	

	Original Budget £'000	Revised Budget £'000	Actual @ 30th June £'000	Comments
Social Services Health & Housing				
Capital Maintenance	350	354	52	
NPT Rent Rescue	0	825	0	Properties purchased in July. Maintenance works commenced.
Homecare Electric Vehicles	0	152	0	
Supported Living New Build	1,266	0	0	
Enable – Support for Independent Living	281	281	42	
Disabled Facilities Grants	4,085	3,568	776	
Other – Social Service & Housing	0	142	0	
Other Services				
School IT/ Vehicle Financing	1,090	1,090	424	
Civic Accommodation Modernisation	250	0	0	
Income Generation Proposals	534	0	0	
Other - Corporate Services	0	70	10	
Contingency	1,021	1,417	0	
Total	118,053	93,489	5,057	

Capital Budget Changes to 30th June 2023

Budget Changes	£'000	Comment
Original Budget 1st April 2023	118,053	
Budget Changes		
2022/23 Funding Carried Forward to 2023/24	4,967	2022/23 funding carried forward to 2023/24
Childcare Offer Grant – Small Grants, Cwmavon & YGG Blaendulais	410	New grant awarded
Ysgol Newydd Swansea Valley	-20,998	Scheme no longer going ahead. Revised proposals to be submitted to Welsh Government.
Community Focused Schools Hubs 1-4	16	New grant awarded
Dyfed Road Site Clearance	650	New scheme
Hwb IT for Schools	449	New grant awarded
Pontardawe Arts Centre Cinema	-750	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend – no loss of funding
Sustainable Schools Challenge – YGG Rhosafan	450	New grant awarded
Universal Primary Free School Meals	-1,000	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
Other – Education & Leisure Schools Core IT Infrastructure	-772	Re-profiled to 2026/27 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
Highways and Engineering Maintenance Carriageway Surface Treatment (various)	352	Realignment of revenue and capital budgets
Highways and Engineering Maintenance - Former Schools	-28	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding

Budget Changes	£'000	Comment
Highways and Engineering Maintenance - Completion of 22/23 Schemes	-181	Realignment of budget to below scheme
Neighbourhood Improvements	181	Realignment of budget to above scheme
Additional Works Programme - Electricity Hook-up in event area	-30	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
Additional Works Programme - Improvements to Public Toilets	-100	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
Drainage Grants	492	New grant awarded
Road Safety 20mph (multiple locations)	2,393	New grant awarded
Active Travel	1,206	New grant awarded and realignment of part of below
Other Environment Village Road - Road Safety Measure	-178	Now part funded by the above grant
Contingency	158	As per above
Decarbonisation Strategy (DARE)	-250	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
Waste Fleet Relocation Works	-1,650	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
Environment Other - Waste Strategy	200	New scheme funded from contingency as below
Contingency	-200	To fund new Waste Strategy scheme as above
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	-14	Reduction in cost of scheme
Additional major engineering works Norton/Bevan Terrace	7	Realignment of budget to below scheme
Other - Environment Additional Highway Works Tonmawr Road Gabions (strengthening works)	-7	Realignment of budget to above scheme

Budget Changes	£'000	Comment
Other - Environment Additional Highway Works - Public Lighting Column RTA's - mitigation measures	-50	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
Other - Environment - Dock Road Feeder Bridge	479	New scheme
Other - Environment Physical Regeneration	-73	Realignment of budget to below scheme
Regeneration: Crown Buildings	73	Realignment of budget to above scheme
Regeneration: Match Funding for WG & UK Government Funding Streams	-2,600	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
Regeneration: Place Making 2 & 3	-610	Reduction in cost of scheme
Regeneration Other Former Port Talbot Magistrates Court Refurbishment	-79	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
Regeneration Other Employment & Business Start Up Space	-474	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
Regeneration Other Neath Strategic Hub	-250	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
Regeneration Other Community Self Build Housing	-150	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
Regeneration Other Heritage Works	-130	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
City Deal: Air Quality Monitoring	-9	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
City Deal: Low Emission Vehicles (LEV)	-250	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
City Deal: Homes as Power Stations	-3,761	Re-profiled to 2024/25 and 2025/26 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
City Deal: Property Development Fund	-1,000	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding

Budget Changes	£'000	Comment
Shared Prosperity Fund: Supporting Local Business	-380	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
Environment Street Scene Works Gnoll Park Visitors Centre	-35	Realignment of budget to below scheme
Additional Works Programme Gnoll Adventure Playground	35	Realignment of budget to above scheme
NPT Rent Rescue	825	New Scheme
Supported Living New Build	-1,266	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
Homecare Electric Vehicles	152	New Scheme
Civic Accommodation Modernisation	-250	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
Income Generation Proposals	-534	Re-profiled to 2024/25 to reflect planned spend– no loss of funding
Updated Budget as at 30th June 2023	93,489	



NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER – HUW JONES

20th September 2023

Matter for Monitoring

Wards Affected - All

TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING 2023/24

Purpose of Report

1. This report sets out treasury management action and information for 2023/24.
2. This report will also be forwarded to the next Governance and Audit Committee in line with the Council's Treasury Management Practices Scrutiny arrangements.

Rates of Interest

3. Over the past 18 months, the cost of living has risen sharply. The speed of this increase is called the 'rate of inflation'. It is the job of the Bank of England to keep this rate around their target of 2%, however, it is currently above this – mainly due to the higher price of goods coming in from abroad along with the increase in the cost of energy.
4. To reduce the rate of inflation, the Bank of England increase their interest rates. Since March 2022 the interest rates have increased as per below:

Effective Date	Bank Rate
16 th March 2022	0.75%
5 th May 2022	1.00%
16 th June 2022	1.25%
4 th August 2022	1.75%
22 nd September 2022	2.25%
3 rd November 2022	3.00%
15 th December 2022	3.50%
2 nd February 2023	4.00%
23 rd March 2023	4.25%
11 th May 2023	4.50%
22 nd June 2023	5.00%

5. The following table provides examples of external borrowing costs as provided by the Public Works Loans Board (certainty rate) as at 26th July 2023:

	Equal Instalments of Principal		Annuity		Maturity	
	Previous 20Jan23	Current 26Jul23	Previous 20Jan23	Current 26Jul23	Previous 20Jan23	Current 26Jul23
	%	%	%	%	%	%
5-5.5 years	4.20	5.62	4.20	5.60	4.13	5.29
10-10.5 years	4.12	5.26	4.12	5.22	4.26	5.07
20-20.5 years	4.26	5.07	4.32	5.11	4.58	5.29
35-35.5 years	4.55	5.27	4.59	5.28	4.44	5.14
49.5-50 years	4.57	5.27	4.48	5.17	4.25	4.97

General Fund Treasury Management Budget

6. The following table sets out details of the treasury management budget for 2023/24 along with outturn figures for 2022/23. The budget consists of a gross budget for debt charges i.e. repayment of debt principal and interest, and interest returns on investment income.

2022/23 Outturn £'000		2023/24 Original Budget £'000
21,646	Principal and Interest charges	20,732
	Investment Income	
(1,523)	- Total	(1,500)
577	- less allocated to other funds	375
(946)	Subtotal Income	(1,125)
0	Contribution from General Reserves	0
0	Contribution to General Reserves	0
(186)	Contribution to/(from) treasury management reserve	0
20,514	Net General Fund	19,607

NB: Other funds include Trust Funds, Social Services Funds, Schools Reserves, Bonds etc.

Borrowing

7. The below table shows the new loan agreements entered into since the last quarterly report to Cabinet.

Counterparty	£	Description	Period
City of Edinburgh Council	£10m	Temporary loan to fund short term cash flow issue at year end	20 th March 23 – 12 th April 23
Middlesbrough Council	£4m	Temporary loan to fund short term cash flow issue at year end	17 th March 23 – 27 th March 23

Investments

8. The following are a list of investments as at 30th June 2023:

<u>Counterparty</u>	<u>Value (£)</u>	<u>Investment type</u>	<u>Investment start</u>	<u>Investment maturity</u>	<u>Interest rate</u>
Goldman Sachs International Bank	£5,000,000	Fixed	25 th May 2023	24 th Nov 2023	5.24%
Santander UK	£5,000,000	Fixed	20 th Jan 2023	20 th Jul 2023	4.15%
Cambridgeshire C.C.	£5,000,000	Fixed	6 th Dec 2021	6 th Dec 2023	0.40%
Plymouth City Council	£5,000,000	Fixed	8 th Sep 2022	7 th Sep 2023	3.05%
South Ayrshire Council	£5,000,000	Fixed	27 th Mar 2023	27 th Mar 2026	4.30%
Medway Council	£5,000,000	Fixed	10 th Feb 2023	10 th Feb 2027	4.35%
DMO	£20,600,000	Fixed/ Overnight	N/A	N/A	4.50% - 4.88%
Santander	£10,000,000	Call Account	N/A	N/A	4.50%

9. Please note – the Council’s investment criteria (appendix 1) allows for a maximum investment for an F1 rated counterparty to be £15m. Santander are currently an F1 rated counterparty – however, the policy also allows for this to be temporarily exceeded in exceptional circumstances.

Investment Income

10. In line with the Council’s Investment Strategy, the 2022/23 original budget target for investment income is £1.5m, income for the financial year to date totals £578k. This target will be reviewed throughout the year and adjusted if necessary with any variances going into/out of the Treasury Management reserve.

11. Members should note that the short-term investments are classified as 'specified' i.e. up to 12 months and are currently deposited with DMO, Local Authorities, Goldman Sachs International Bank, and Santander Bank.
12. The Council policy allows long-term investments up to a maximum of £25m for periods of more than 1 year and up to 5 years. The Council has two investments in this category which are both made to other Local Authorities.

Financial Impact

13. All relevant financial information is provided in the body of the report.

Integrated Impact Assessment

14. There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for monitoring purposes.

Valleys Communities Impacts

15. No implications

Workforce Impacts

16. There are no workforce impacts arising from this report.

Legal Impacts

17. There are no legal impacts arising from this report.

Risk Management

18. Borrowing and investment decisions are made in line with the Council's Treasury Management Policy. The Council has appointed Link Asset Services to provide support and advice in relation to this policy.

Consultation

19. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation

20. It is recommended that Members monitor the contents of this report.

Appendices

21. Appendix 1 - Specified Investments

List of Background Papers

22. PWLB Notice Number 281/23

Officer Contact

Mr Huw Jones – Chief Finance Officer
E-mail - h.jones@npt.gov.uk

Mr Ross Livingstone – Group Accountant – Capital and Corporate
E-mail – r.livingstone@npt.gov.uk

Specified Investments

	Minimum 'High' Credit Criteria	Funds Managed	Max Amount	Max Duration
Term deposits				
Term deposits - Debt Management Office	N/A	In-house	Unlimited	1 year
Term deposits – local, police and fire authorities	N/A	In-house	£10m	1 year
Term deposits – Nationalised & Part Nationalised UK banks/Building Societies	Fitch short-term rating F1+, F1	In-house	£20m	1 year
Term deposits – UK banks/Building Societies	Fitch short-term rating F1+	In-house	£20m	1 year
Term deposits – UK banks/Building Societies	Fitch short-term rating F1	In-house	£15m	6 months or 185 days
Callable deposits				
Callable deposits – Debt Management Agency deposit facility	N/A	In-house	Unlimited	
Callable deposits – Nationalised & Part Nationalised UK banks/Building Societies	Fitch short-term rating F1+, F1	In-house	£20m	
Callable deposits – Nationalised & Part Nationalised UK banks/Building Societies	Fitch short-term rating F2	In-house	£10m	
Callable deposits - UK banks/Building Societies	Fitch short-term rating F1+ or F1	In-house	£15m *	
Term deposits – non UK banks	Fitch short-term rating F1+	In-house	£5m	6 months or 185 days

* Where necessary this limit may be temporarily exceeded with the Authority's bankers only.

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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

20 September 2023

Report of
Head of People and Organisational Development
S.Rees

Matter for Monitoring

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title:

1. Quarter 1 (1st April 2023 – 30th June 2023) Corporate Level Measures and Strategy and Corporate Services Directorate Service Measures 2023/24

Purpose of the Report:

2. For Cabinet to receive quarter 1 2023/24 service performance information and compliments and complaints data within Cabinet's purview (Appendix 2 & 3). In addition to receive quarter 1 2023/24 information in relation to a set of Corporate Level Measures (Appendix 1).

Executive Summary:

3. Summary performance information is drawn out for Members below relating to information within Appendix 1, 2 & 3 with more detailed information available within each Appendix.
4. The Corporate Level Measures are a set of cross cutting indicators providing Council level detail.

5. New quarterly performance reports are reported to Chief Officers and Members from the 1st quarter 2023/24. This new format moves away from the table format that we have previously reported for a number of years to a graph format. The reports will include more cumulative quarterly trend data and have been developed to be visually better. Appendix 1 and 2 include a performance summary doughnut within the cover page.
6. The new reports also take into account feedback from some members at Cabinet Scrutiny Committee on 5th April 2023. Some of the feedback included comments that the 2022/23 performance reports were difficult/hard to read and needed to be more user friendly. Members will receive performance scrutiny training during October 2023 which will include a section on the new reports format.
7. The following information provides a high level summary of the performance detailed within each appendix:

Appendix 1 – Corporate Measures - Quarter 1 - 2023/2024

8. 13 of 20 measures are reported as information with five measures improving or on target and two measures 5% or more off track.
9. The five improving measures or measures on target are further increases in council apprenticeships, reduced employee sickness rates, zero Welsh Commissioner complaints, increase in online payments and there were no successful judicial reviews or challenges to decision making by the council in this period.
10. The two measures 5% or more off track relate to invoices paid within 30 days and the number of data breaches. The number of data breaches are all low level breaches.
11. The 13 measures provided for information only are website visits, employee Welsh language measures and employee starters/leavers measures.

Appendix 2 – Strategy and Corporate Services Directorate Service Measures - Quarter 1 - 2023/2024

12. 19 measures reported in the period. 10 are improving or on target, one is 'just off' track, six measures are 5% or more off track and two measures are not suitable for comparison.
13. The 10 measures improving or achieving target are:
 - Both CCTV measures;
 - Standard searches within timescales and licensing act applications within timescales;
 - Council Tax recovery rates;
 - All four Digital Services measures;
 - Internal Audit reports issued within timescales;
14. The one measure showing as Amber that is marginally lower than the target of 99.95% is accuracy of benefits payments, however, it is close to 100%.
15. The six measures 5% or more below target or previous year's performance are the two customer services measures relating to average time to answer telephone calls, average days to complete benefit claims, NNDR recovery rates (which is expected to achieve normal recovery rate by year end), Safeguarding Group A training for staff and the percentage of the internal audit plan completed.

Appendix 3 Strategy and Corporate Services Directorate Service Compliments and Complaints - Quarter 1 - 2023/24

16. **Stage 1 complaints** - There has been a small increase of two Stage 1 complaints received in quarter 1 2023/24 compared to this same period last year. However all six stage 1 complaints were not upheld. In quarter 1 last year (2022/23), one of three (33%) complaints that were closed was upheld.

17. **Stage 2 complaints** – One Stage 2 complaint was received in quarter 1 2023/24, the same as quarter 1 last year. The one Stage 2 complaint received was not upheld.
18. No ombudsman complaints have been received following a stage 1 and stage 2 for the previous 3 years.
19. There has been an increase in compliments. 45 compliments were received in quarter 1 2023/24 compared to 19 in quarter 1 2022/23. Detail on the nature of the compliments is included in measure number 6 in appendix 3.

Background:

20. Where possible, each measure will show a link how it contributes to at least one of the council's well-being objectives. Some measures will link directly to the Governance and Resource theme.
21. Where available, the appendices provide quarterly performance cumulative data for all four quarters for 2021/22 and 2022/23 and quarter 1 performance for 2023/24.
22. A small number of measures (4) are reported annually and will be included within quarter 4 2023/24 report.

Financial Impacts:

23. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

24. There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for monitoring purposes.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

25. No implications.

Workforce Impacts:

26. The progress described in this report was achieved whilst the workforce continued to respond to and continue to recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

Legal Impacts:

27. This Report is prepared under:

- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- The Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021
- The Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Constitution requires each Cabinet Committee to monitor quarterly budgets and performance in securing continuous improvement of all the functions within its purview.

Risk Management Impacts:

28. Failure to provide a suitable monitoring report within the timescales could lead to non-compliance with our Constitution. Also, failure to have robust performance monitoring arrangements in place could result in poor performance going undetected.

Consultation:

29. There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations:

30. For Members to monitor performance contained within this report.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

31. Matter for monitoring. No decision required.

Implementation of Decision:

32. Matter for monitoring. No decision required.

Appendices:

33. Appendix 1 – Quarter 1 - Corporate Measures - 2023/2024, period: 1st April 2023 – 30th June 2023.

34. Appendix 2 – Quarter 1 – Strategy and Corporate Services Directorate Service Measures - 2023/2024, period: 1st April 2023 – 30th June 2023.

35. Appendix 3 – Quarter 1 – Strategy and Corporate Services Directorate Compliments and Complaints information 2023/2024, period: 1st April 2023 – 30th June 2023.

List of Background Papers:

36. [Corporate Plan 2022-2027](#)

Officer Contact:

37. Sheenagh Rees, Head of People and Organisational Development. Tel: 01639 763315 or e-mail: s.rees5@npt.gov.uk

38. Caryn Furlow-Harris, Strategic Manager - Policy & Executive Support. Tel: 01639 763242 or e-mail: c.furlow@npt.gov.uk

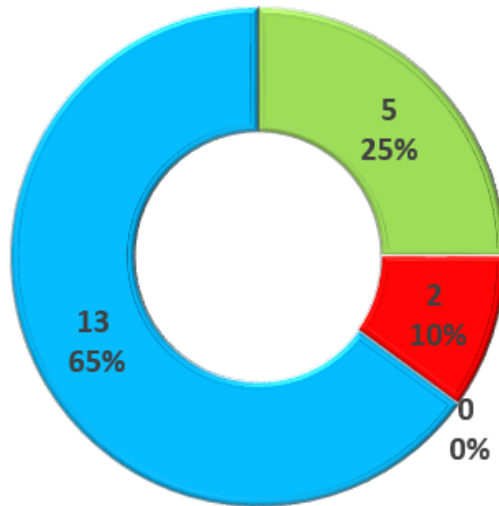
39. Shaun Davies, Corporate Performance Management Officer. Telephone: 01639 763172. E-Mail: a.s.davies@npt.gov.uk



Performance Measures

Appendix 1 - Cabinet – Corporate Level Measures -
Quarter 1 (1st April - 30th June) - 2023/24

Performance Measures Summary



Performance Key BRAG (Blue, Red, Amber, Green)

Not suitable
for
comparison

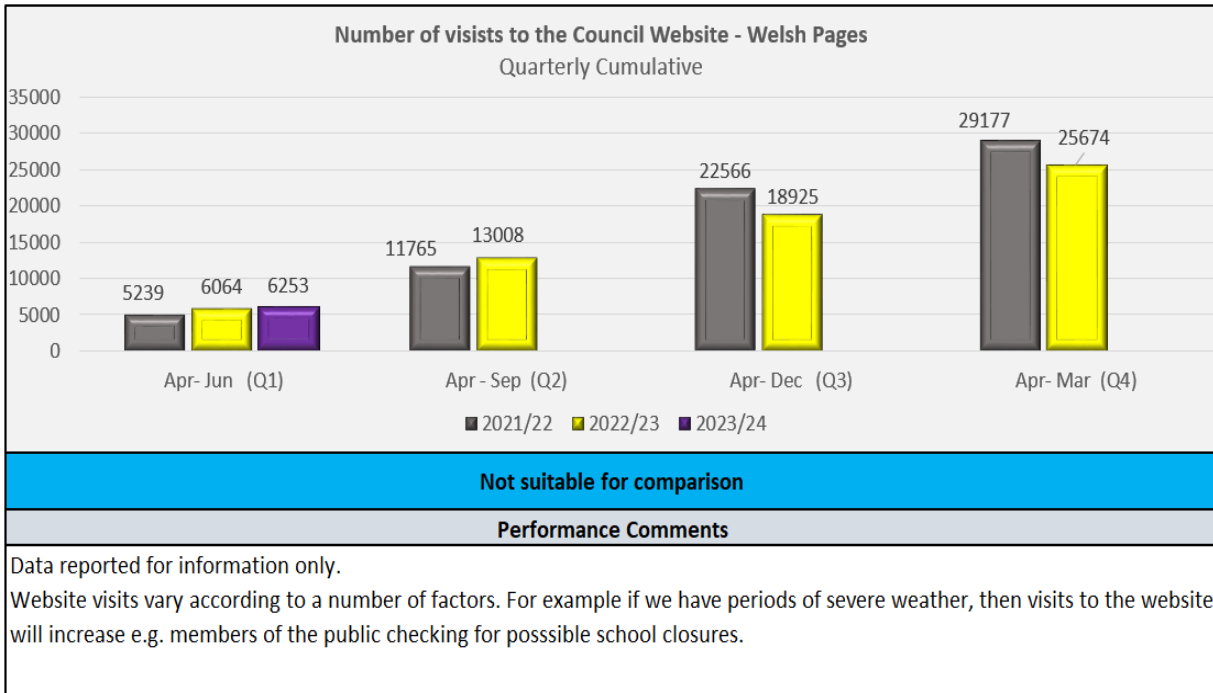
5% or more
below target
or previous
years
performance

Within 5% of
target or
previous
years
performance

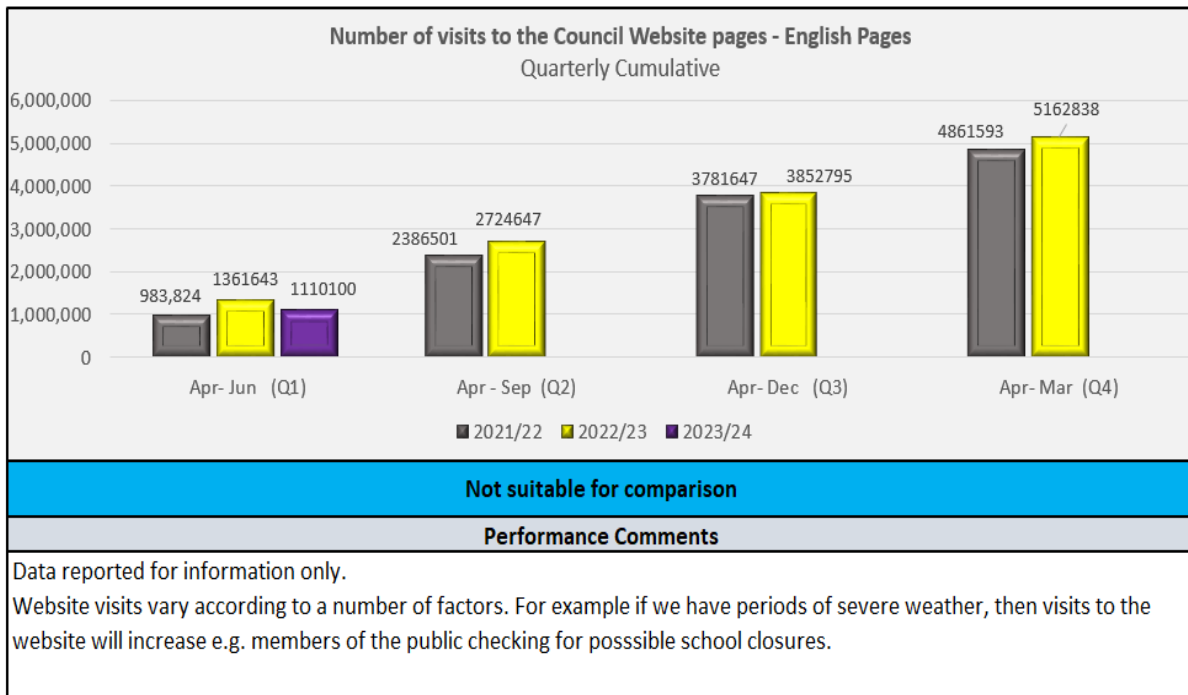
On target /
Achieved
direction of
travel

Well Being Objective 2 - All communities are thriving and sustainable

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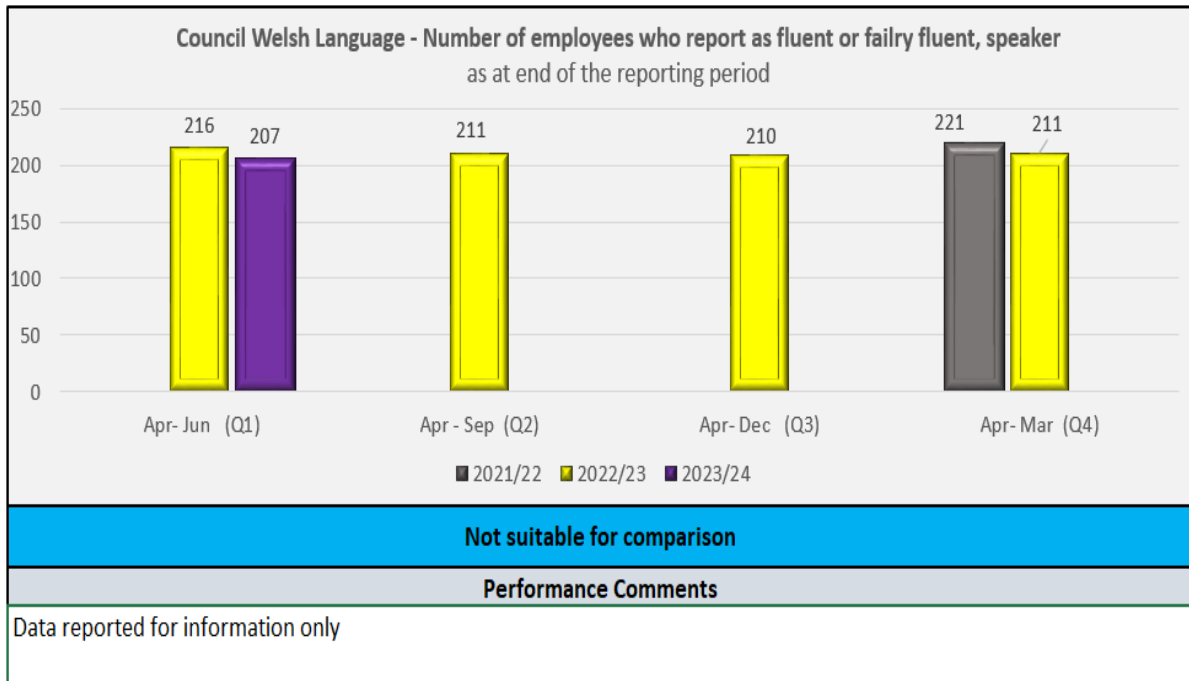


Well Being Objective 3 - Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations

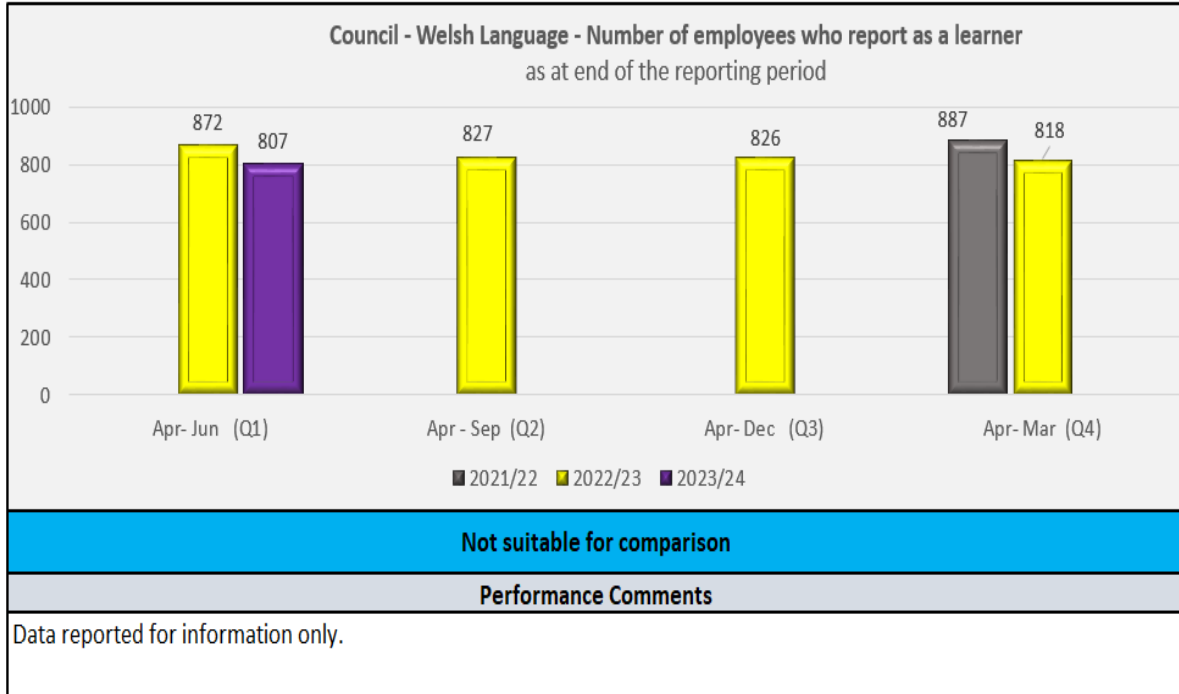
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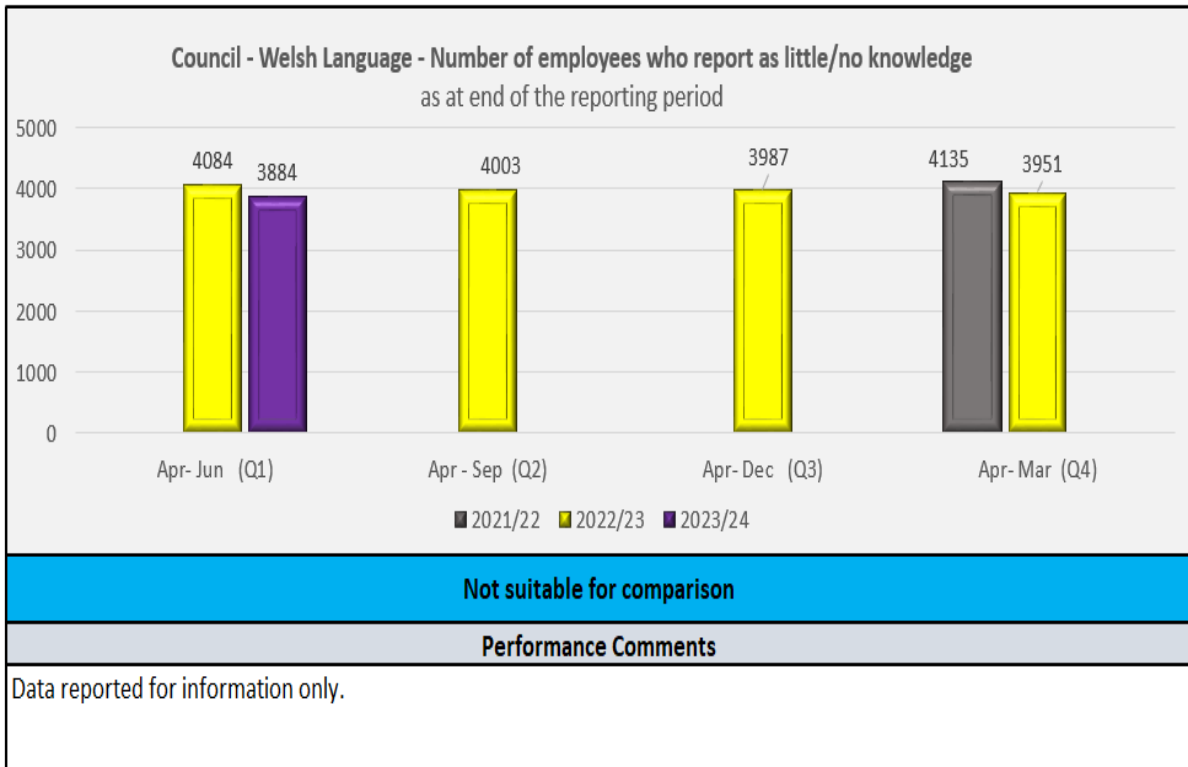
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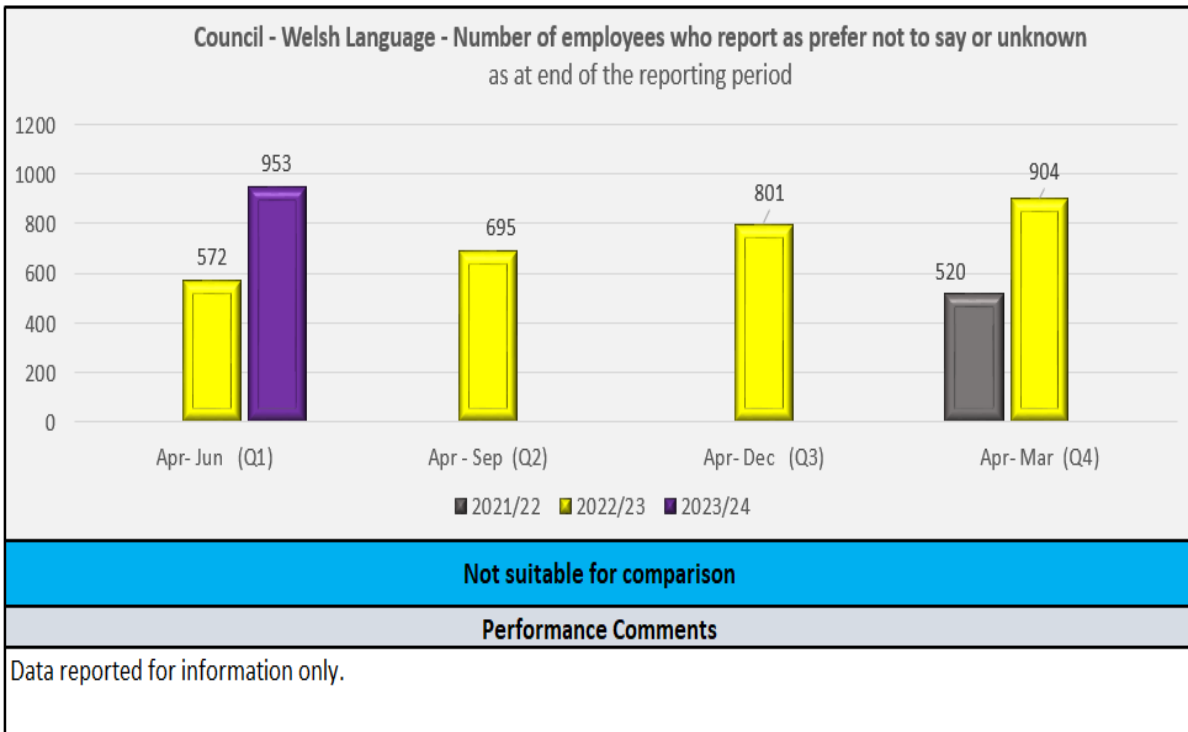
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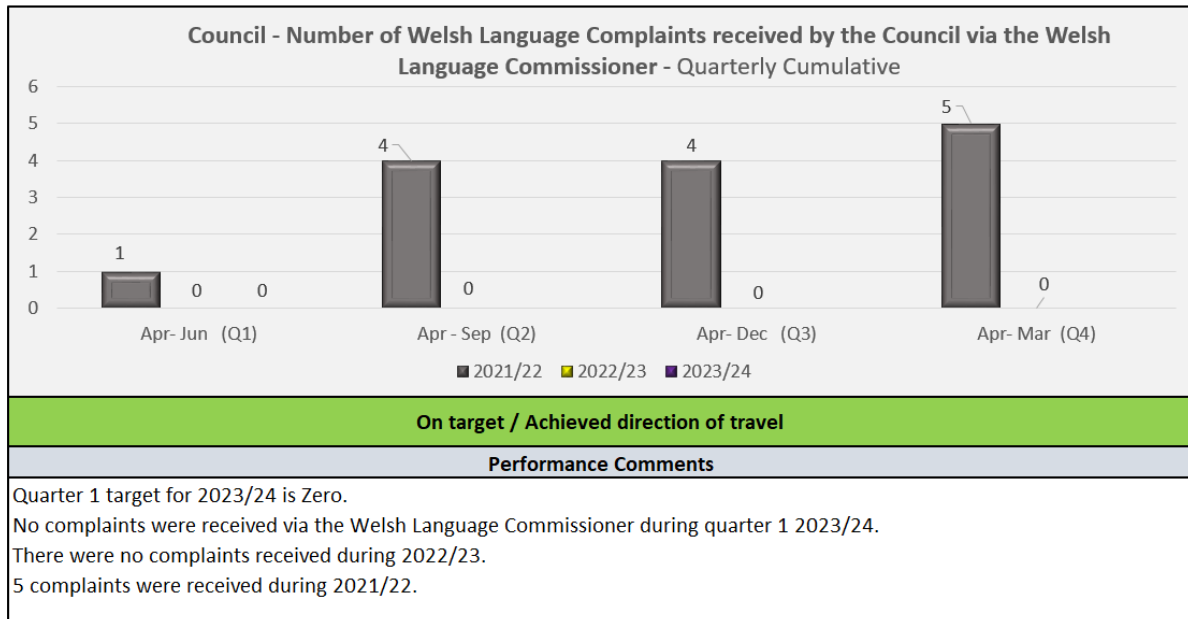
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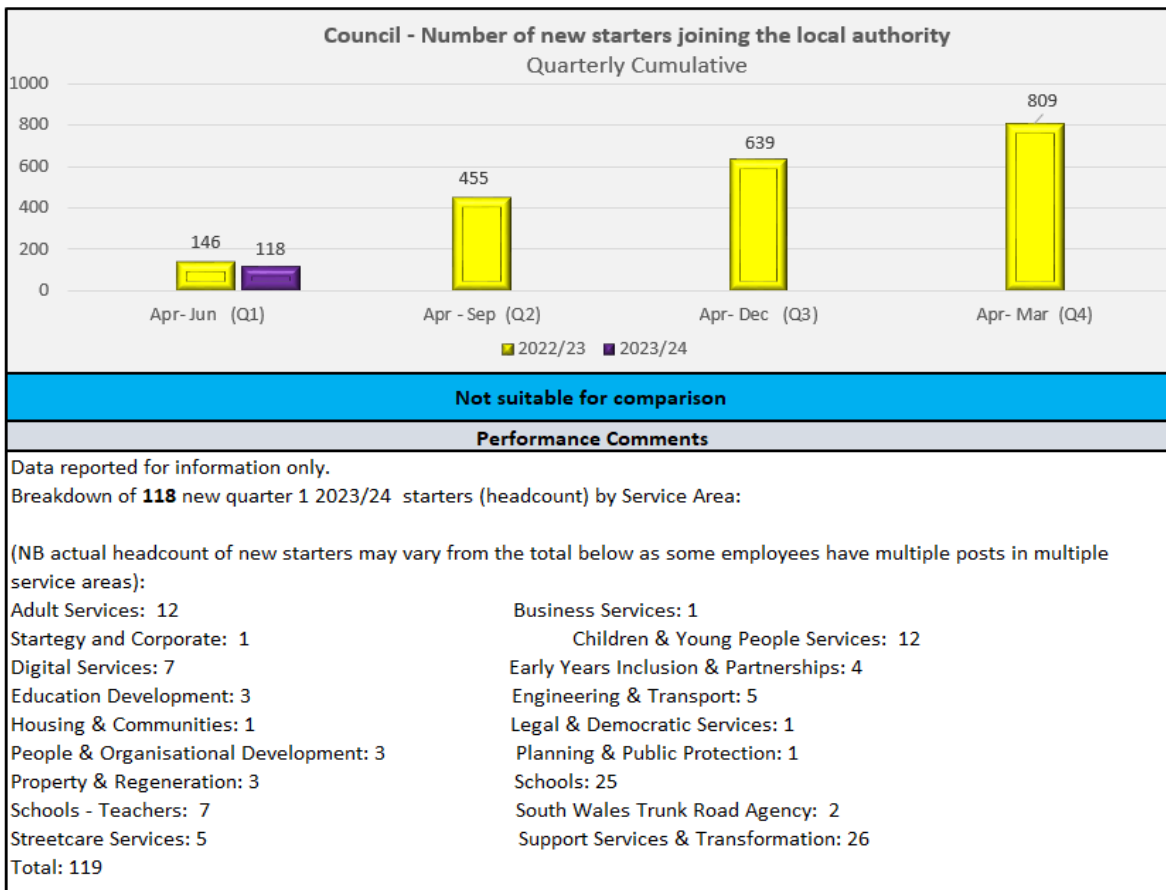


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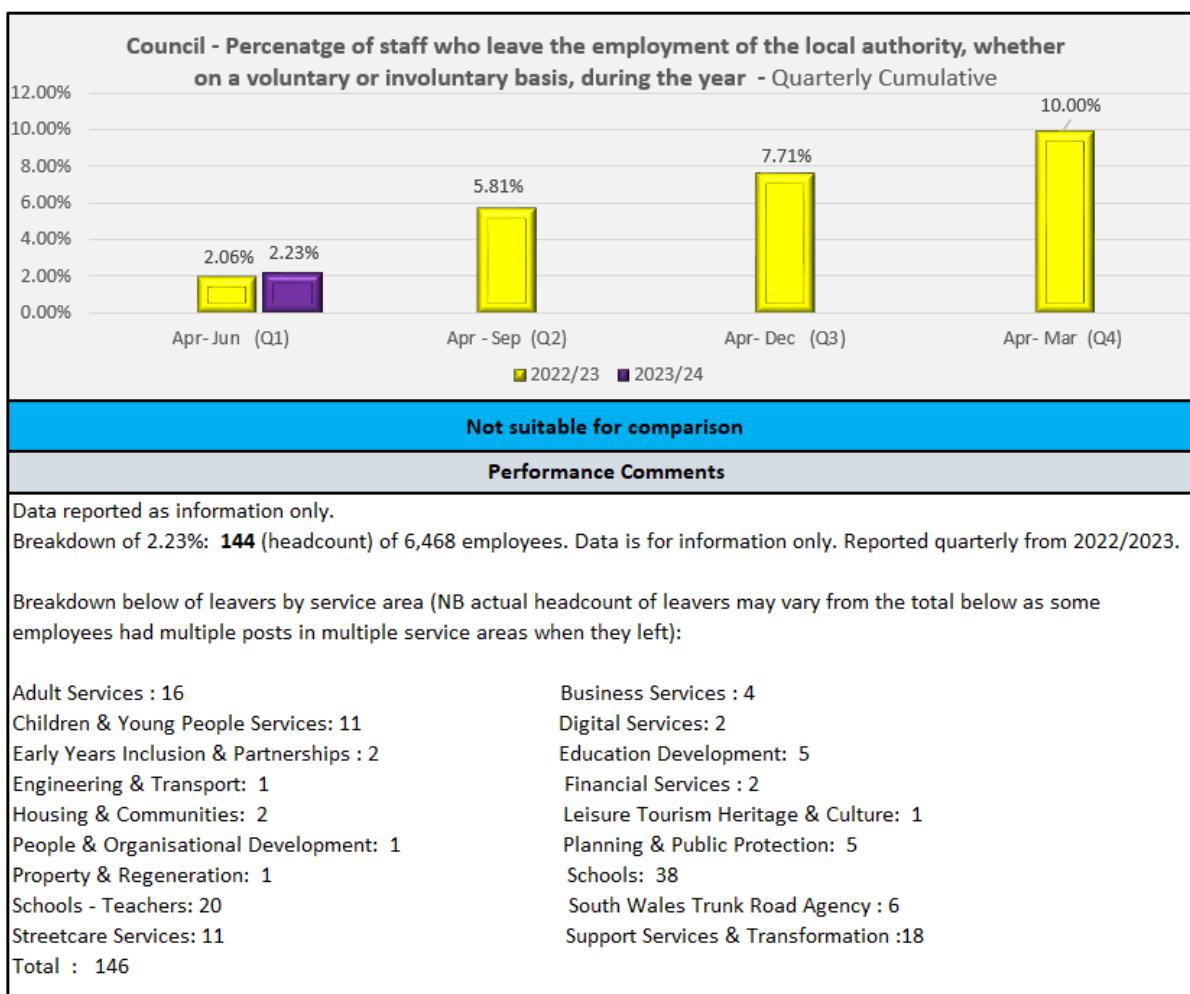


Well Being Objective 4 - Jobs and Skills

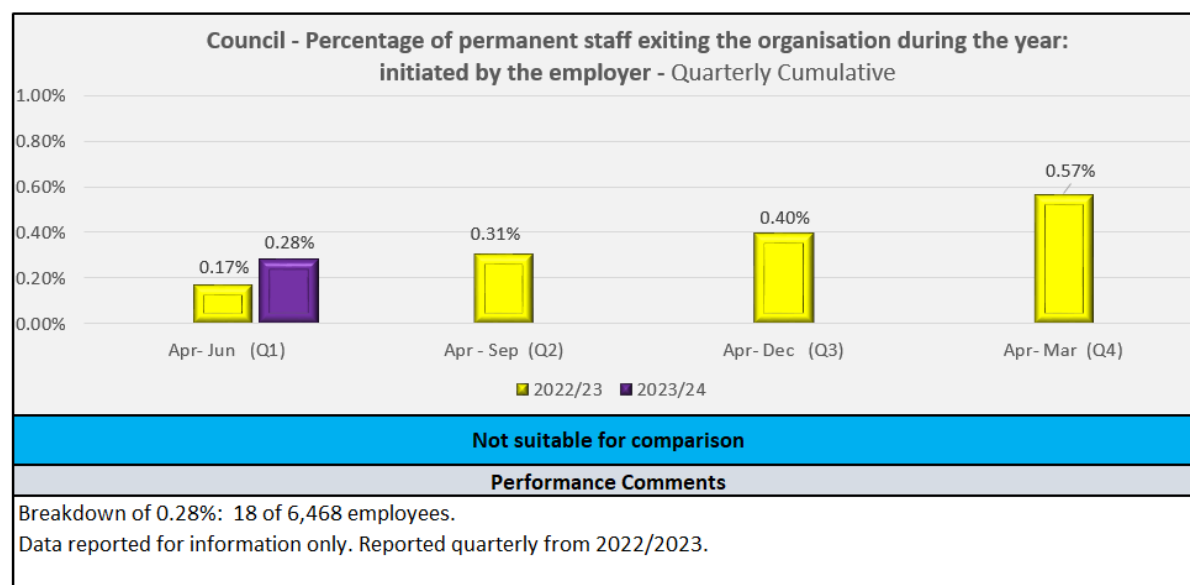
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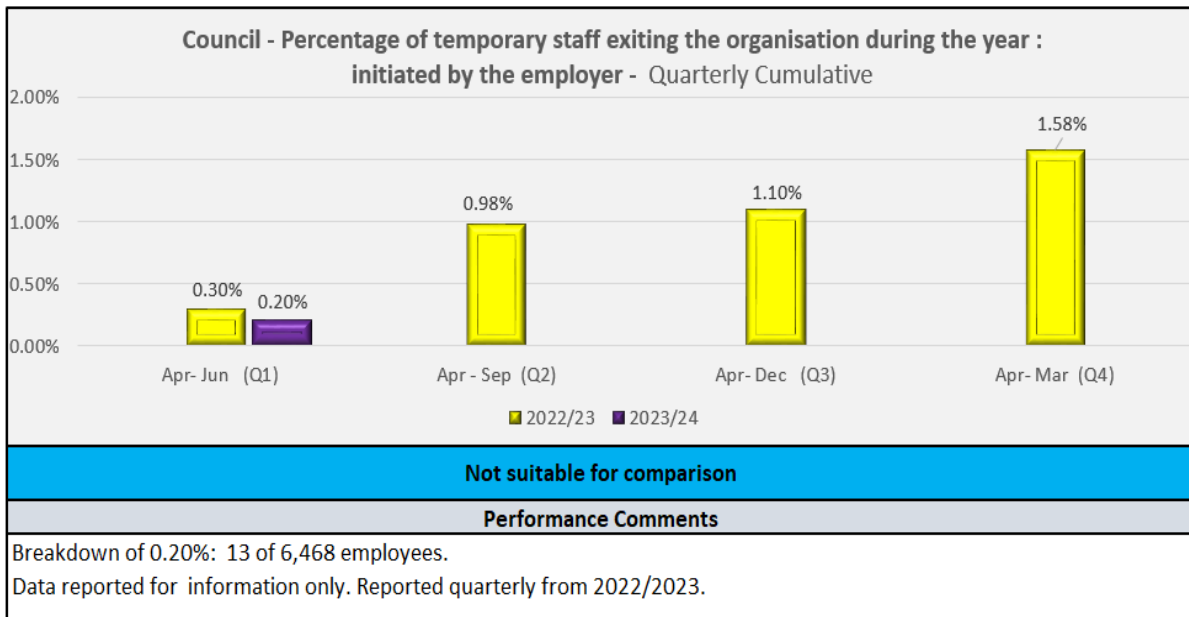
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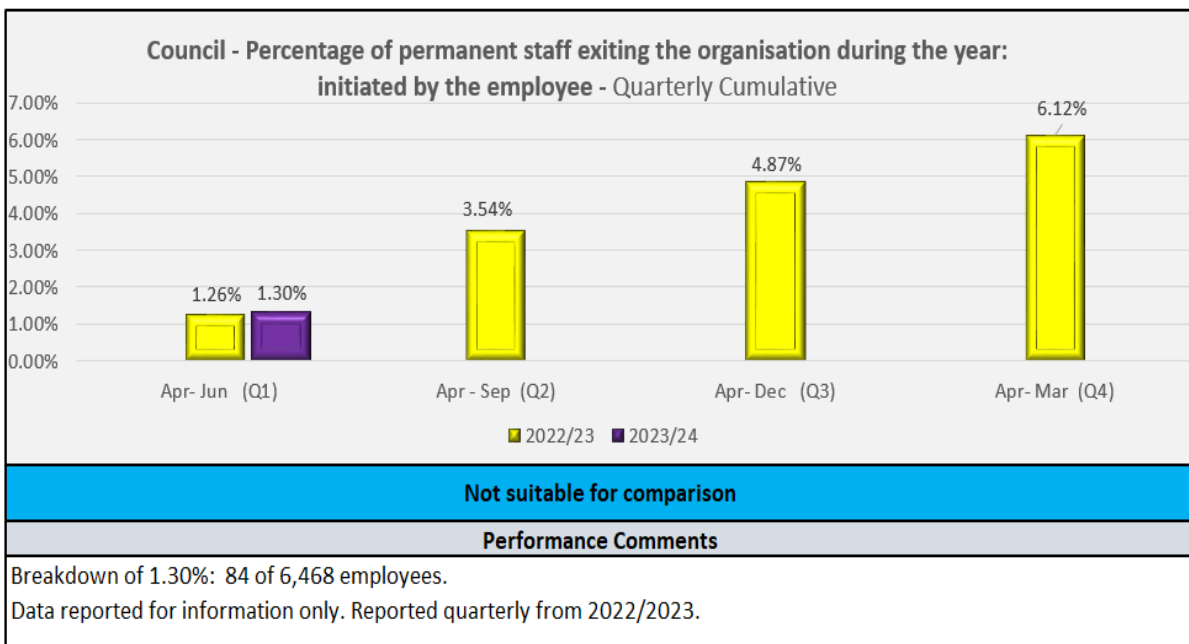
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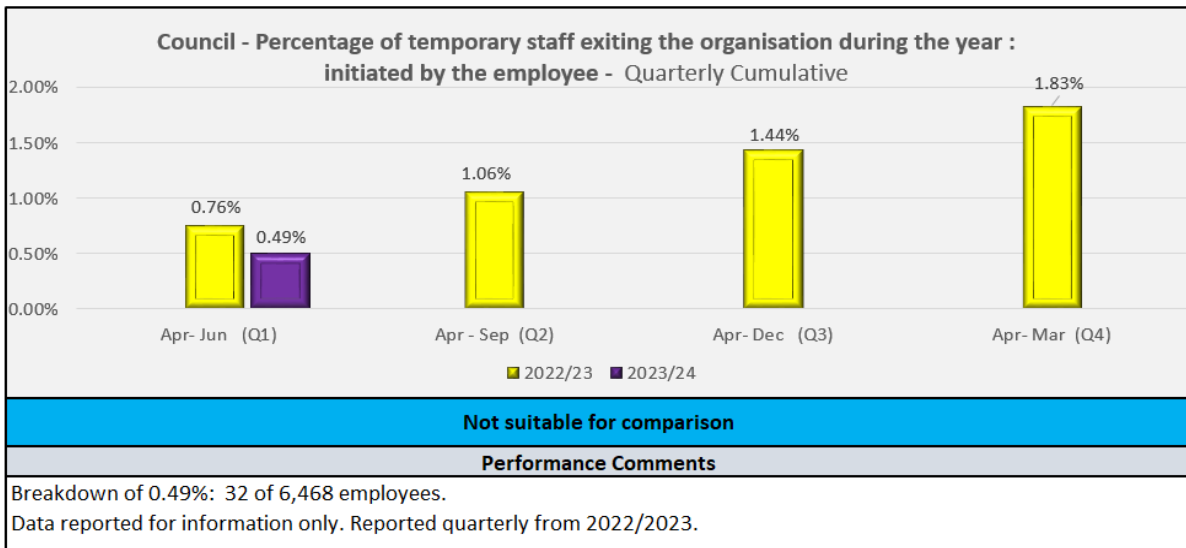
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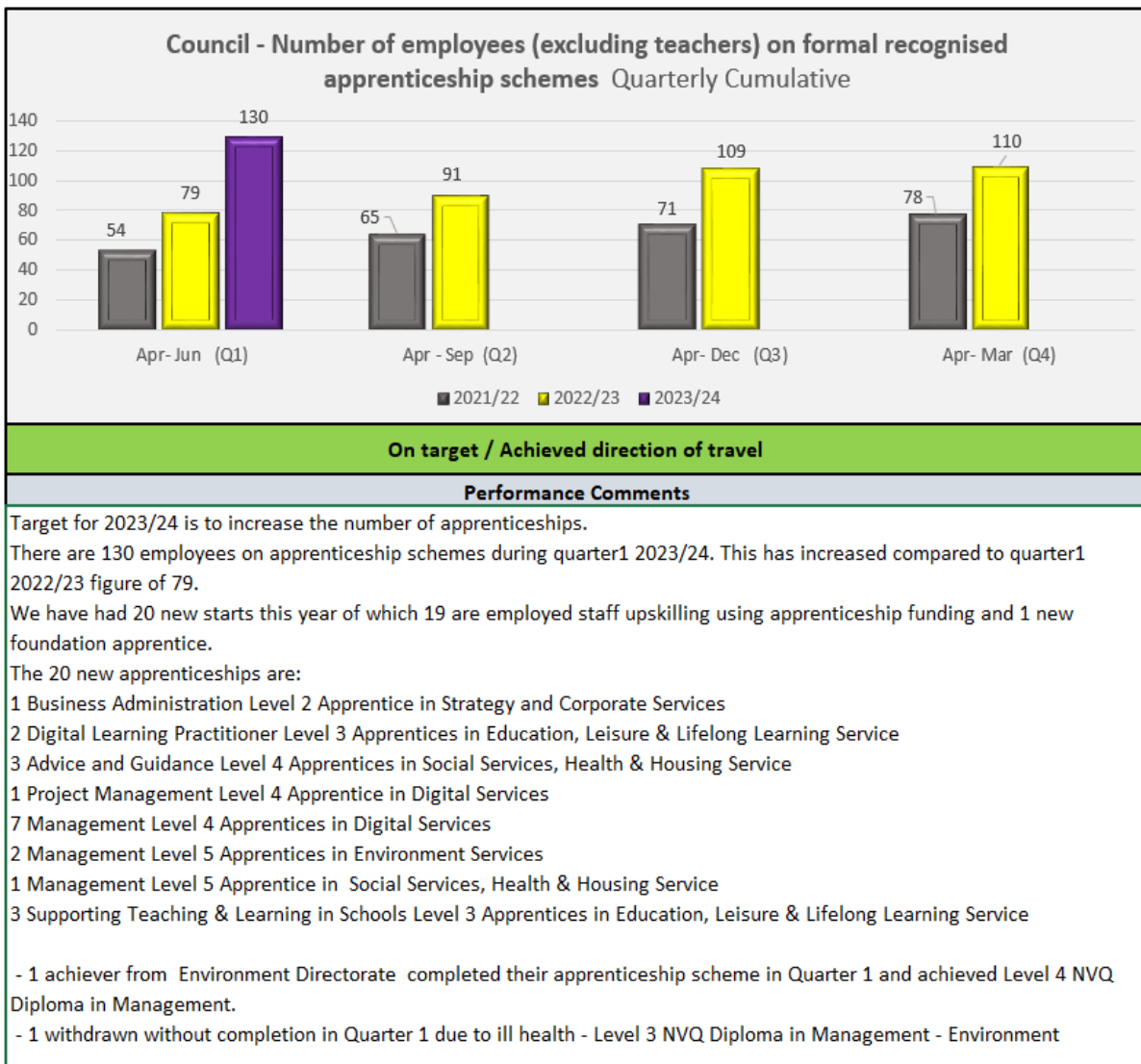
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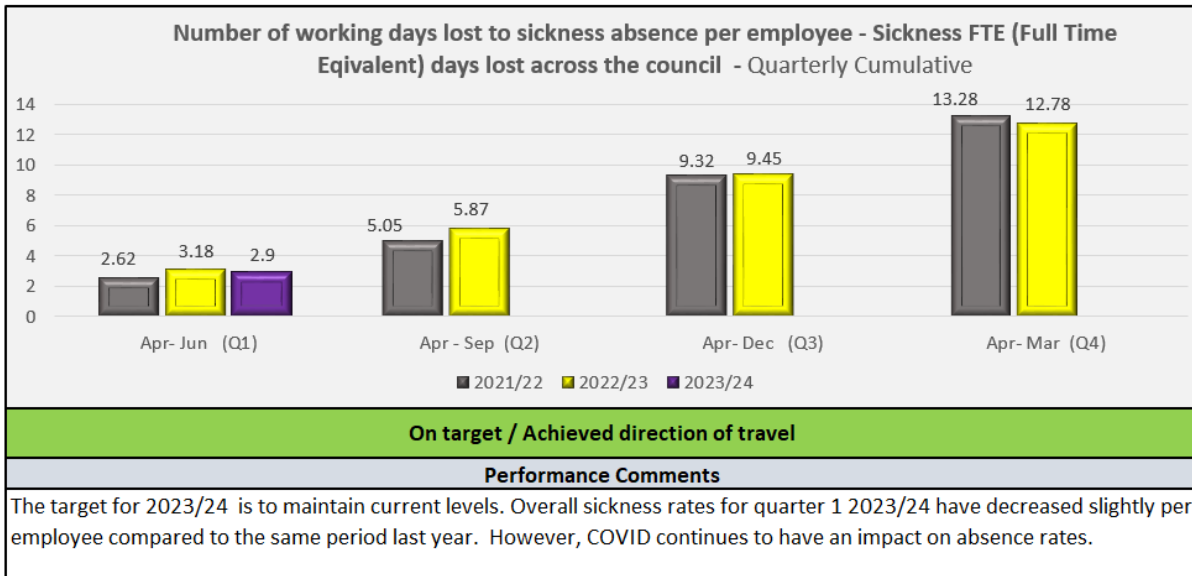
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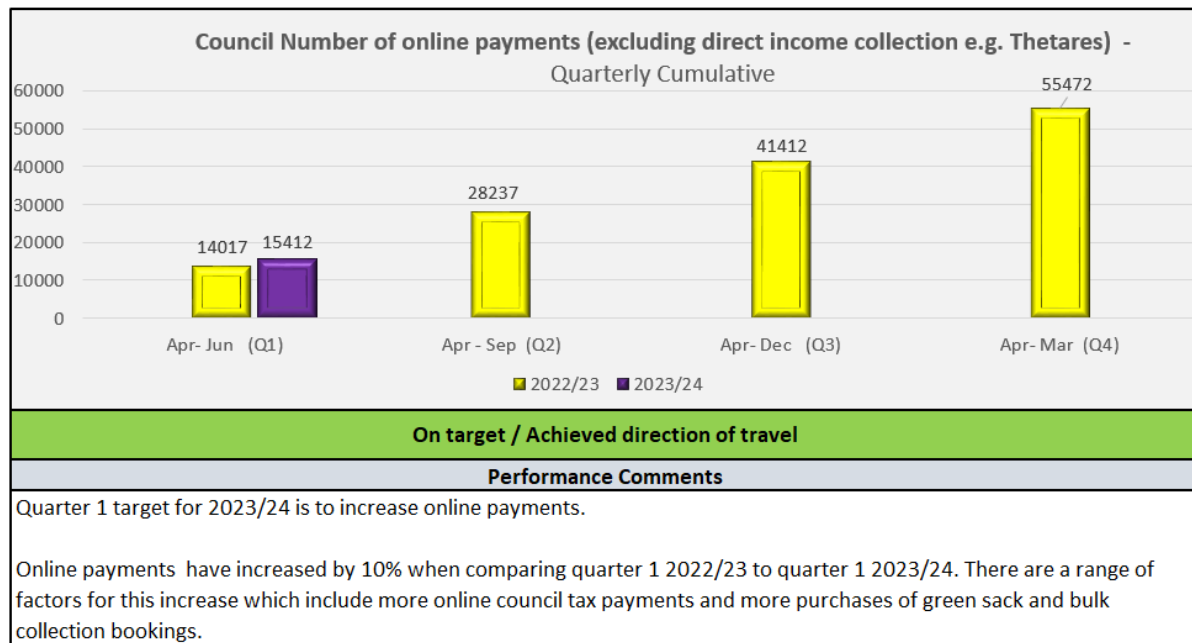
Governance and Resource (cross-cutting)

Including Planning & Performance, Workforce Management, Financial Resources, Democracy, Community Relations, Asset Management and Commissioning & Procurement.

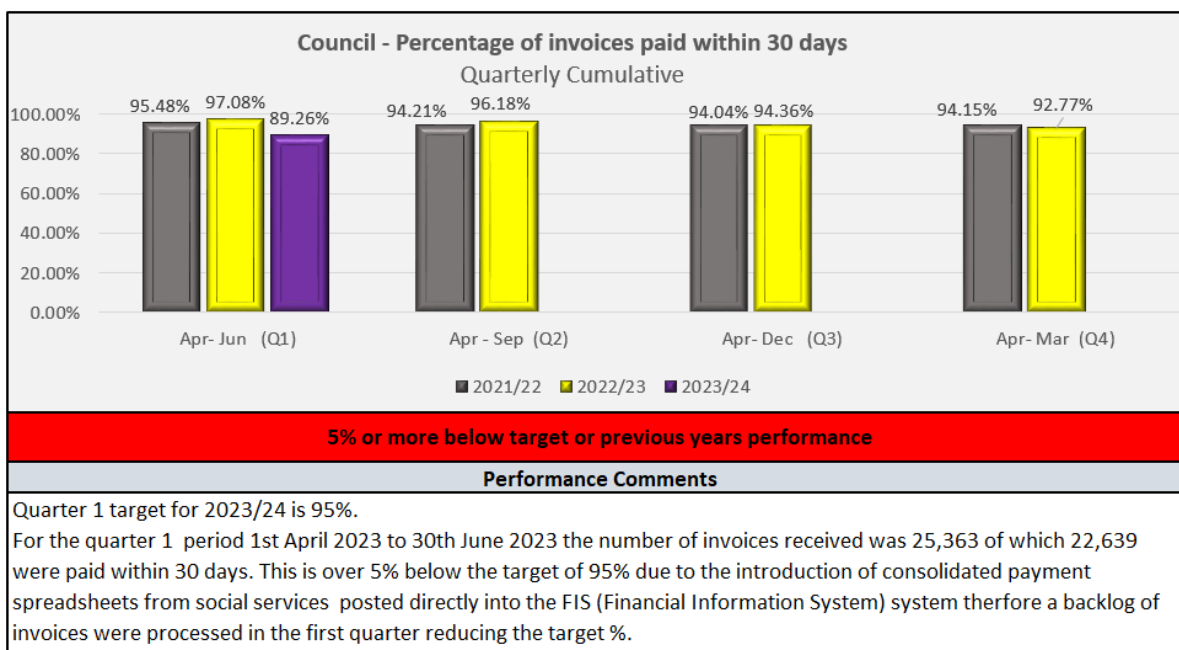
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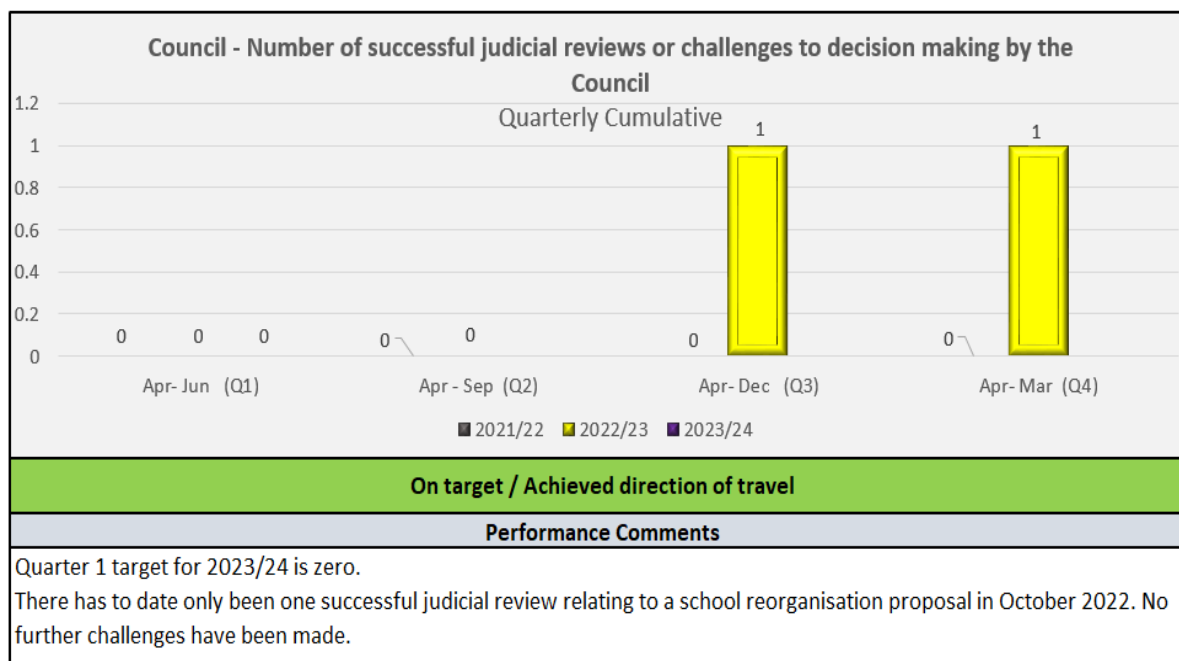
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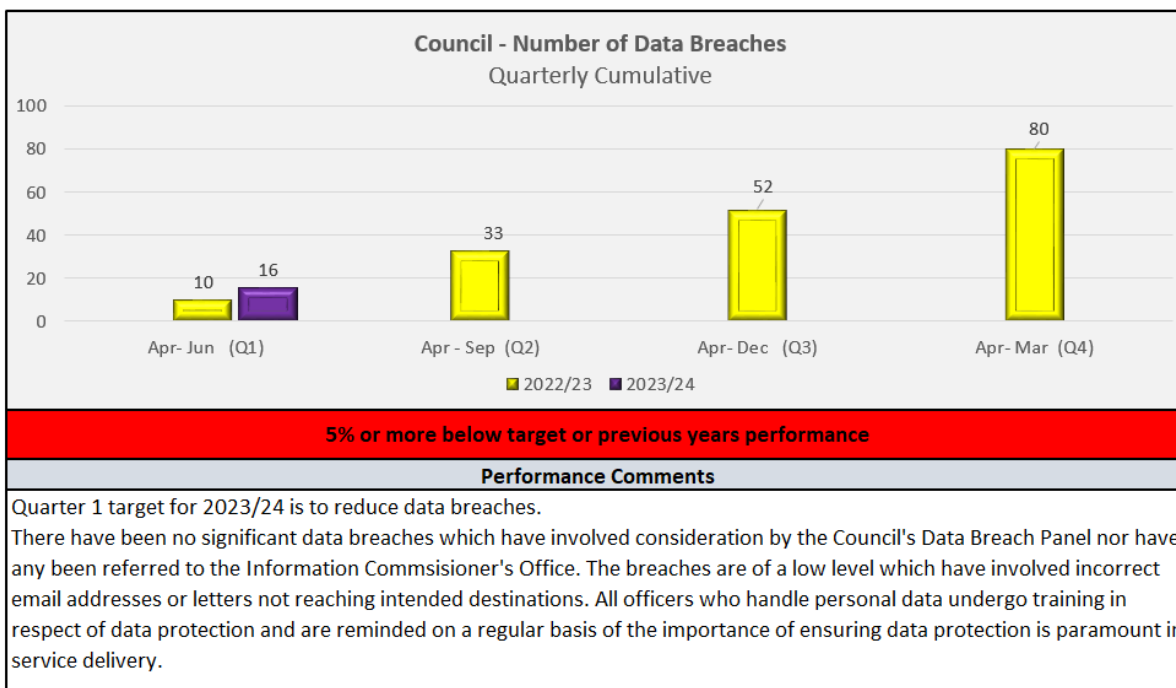
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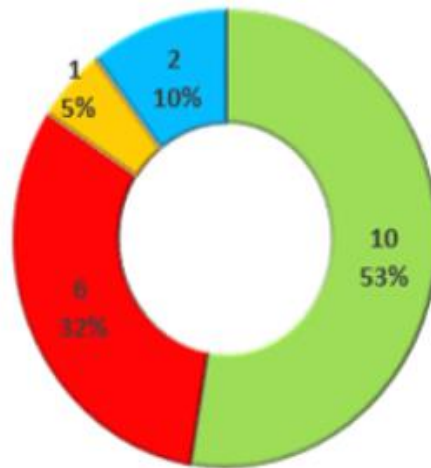


Performance Measures

Appendix 2 - Cabinet – Strategy & Corporate Services Directorate
Service Level Measures

Quarter 1 (1st April - 30th June) - 2023/24

Performance Measures Summary



Performance Key BRAG (Blue, Red, Amber, Green)

Not suitable
for
comparison

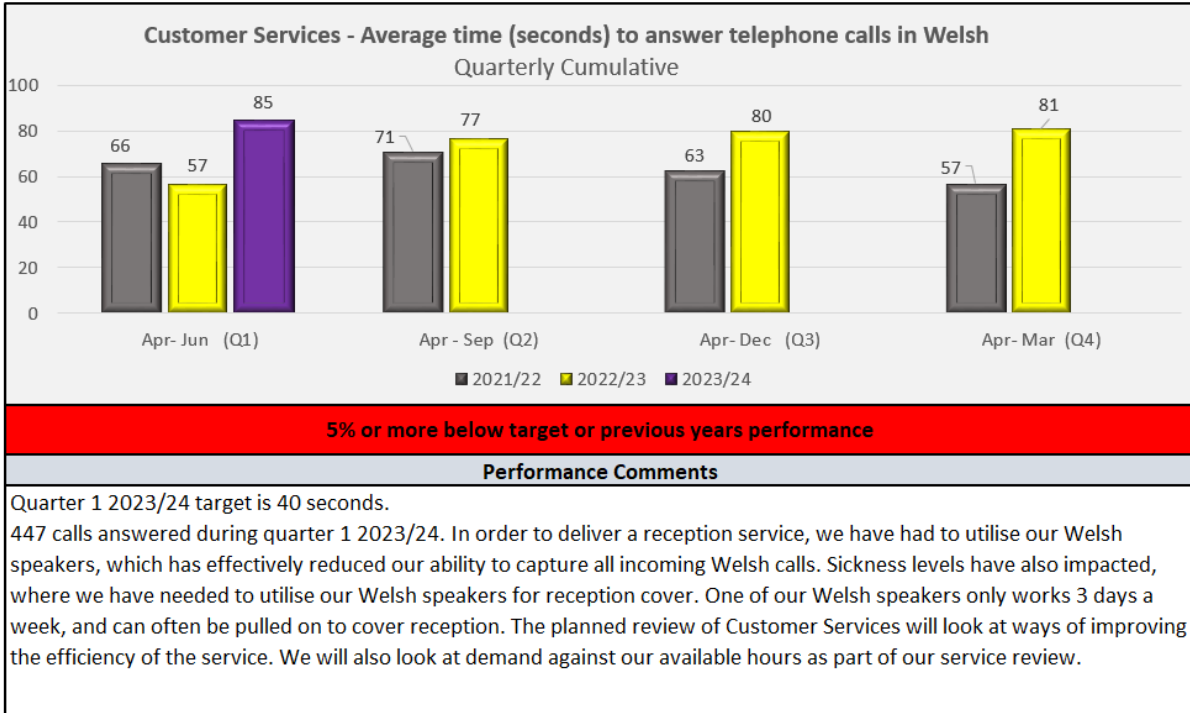
5% or more
below target
or previous
years
performance

Within 5% of
target or
previous
years
performance

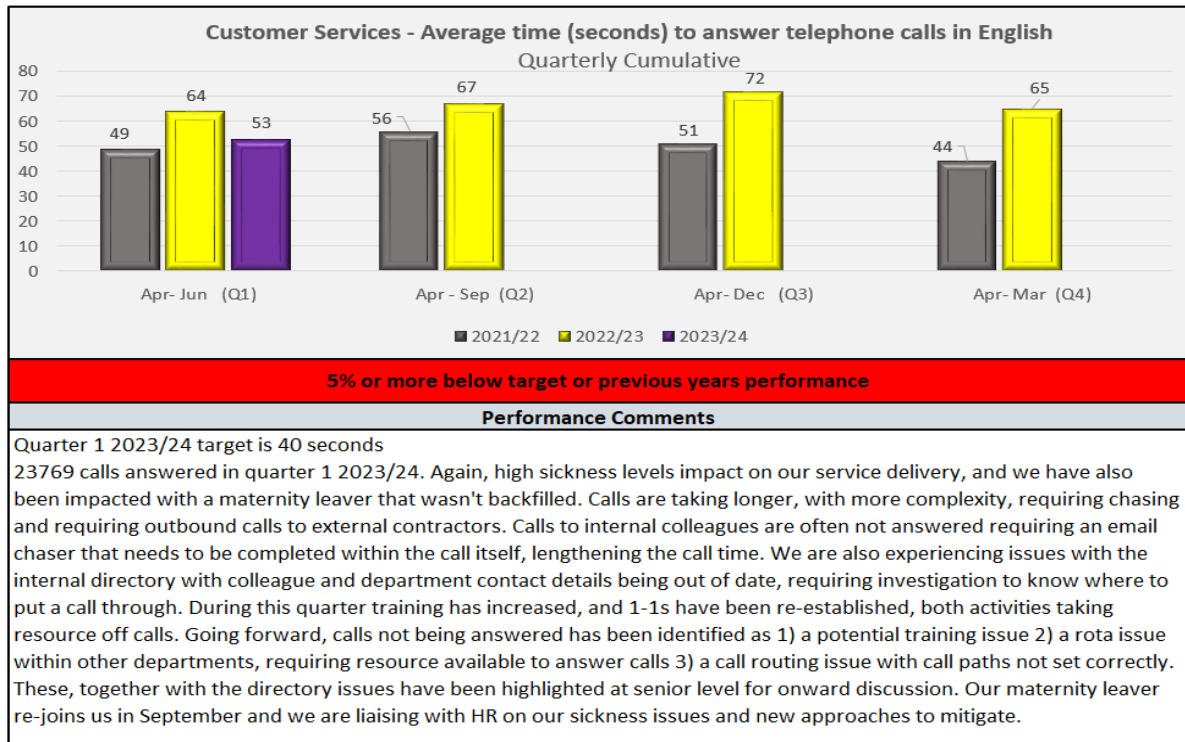
On target /
Achieved
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travel

Well Being Objective 2 - All communities are thriving and sustainable

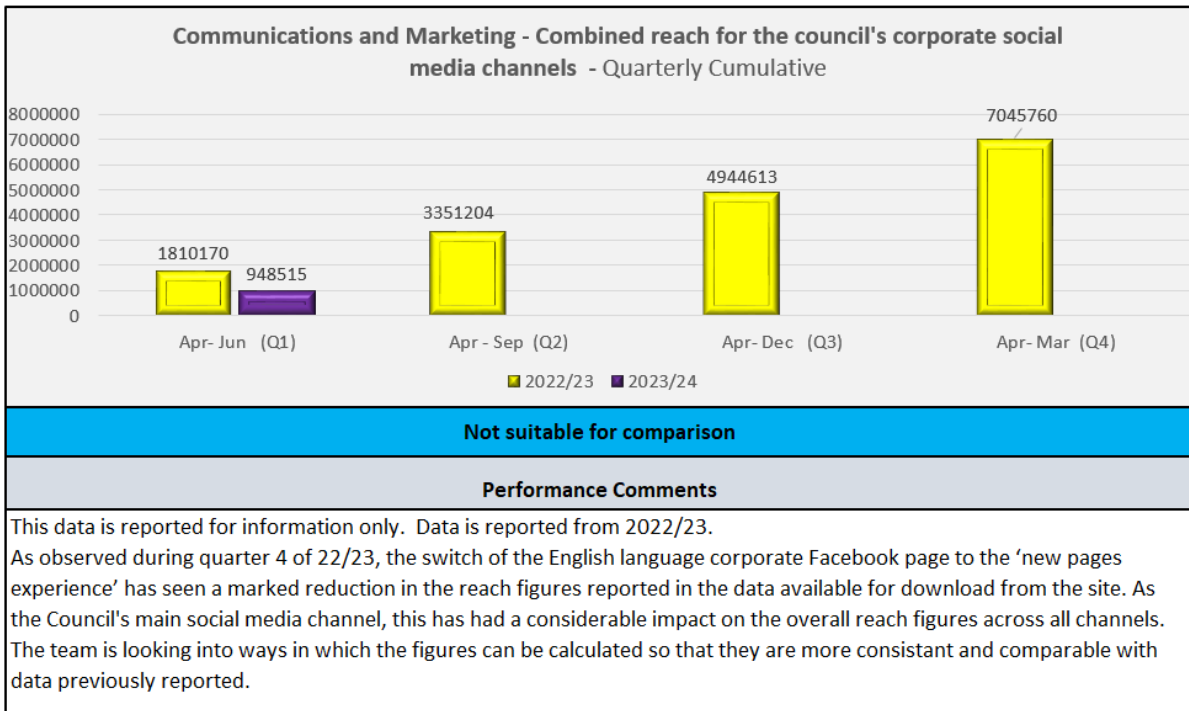
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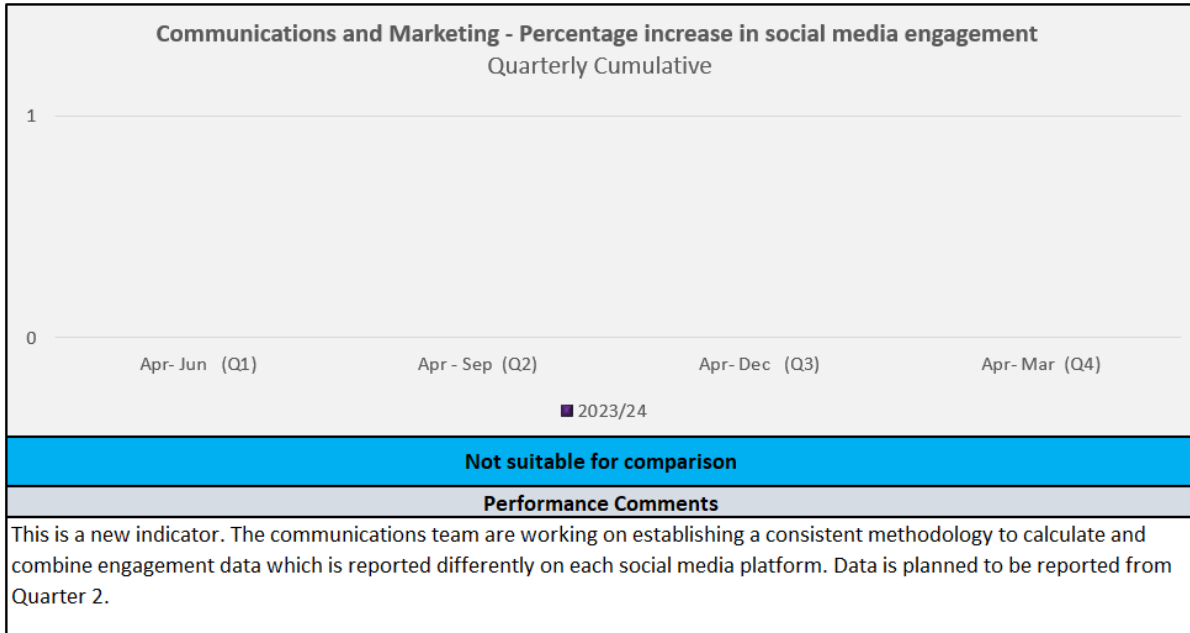
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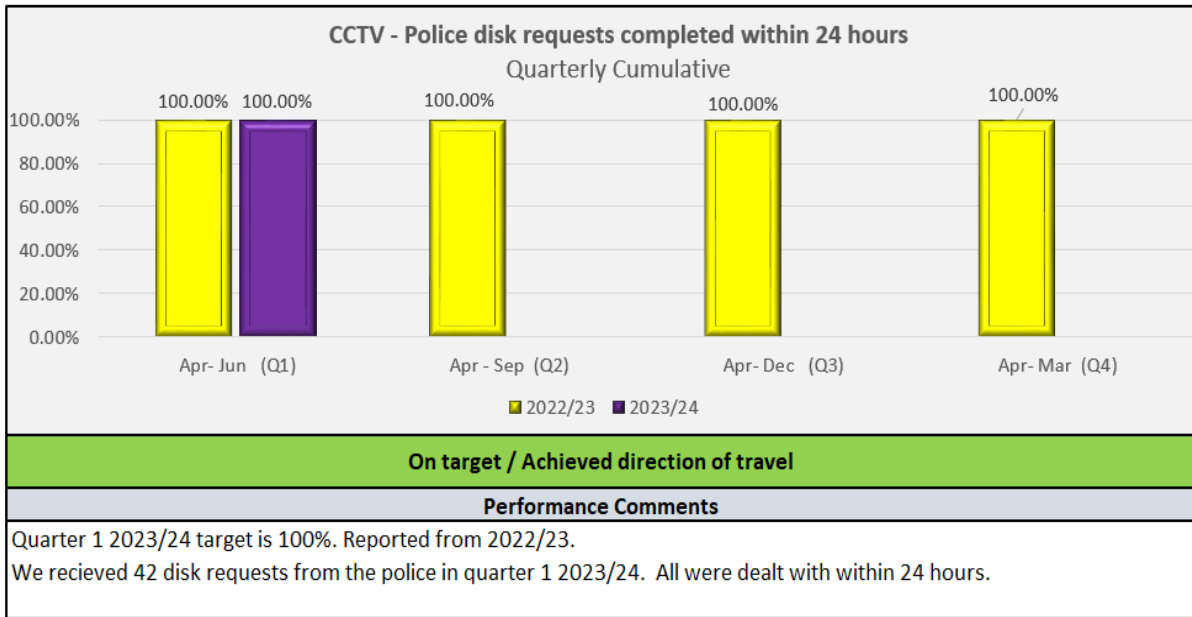
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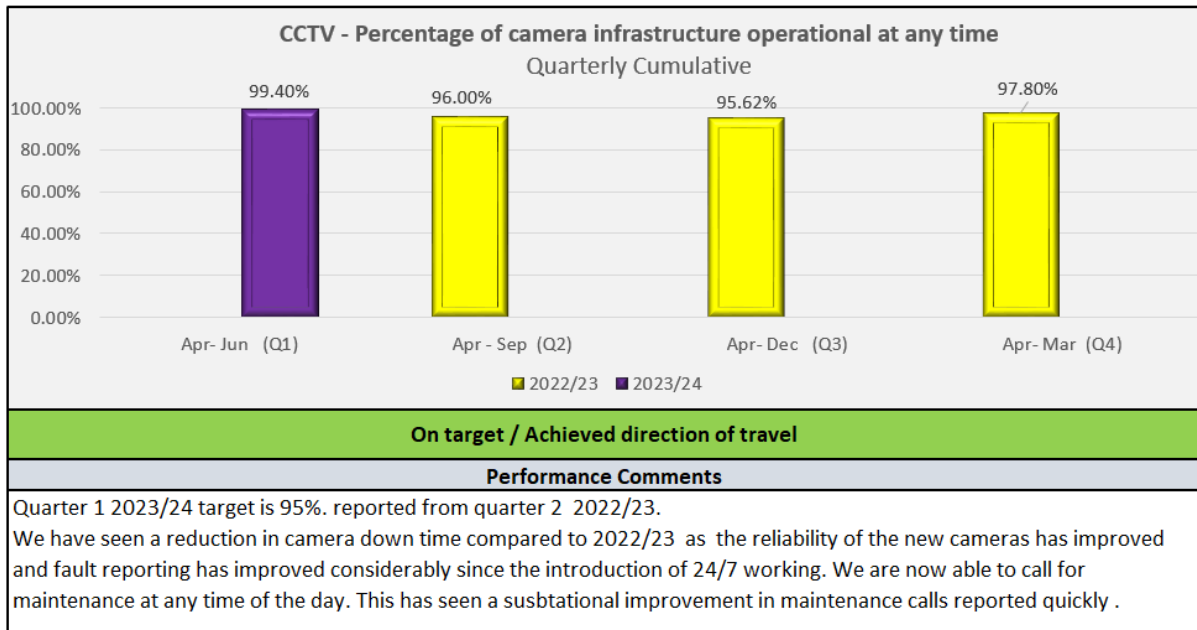
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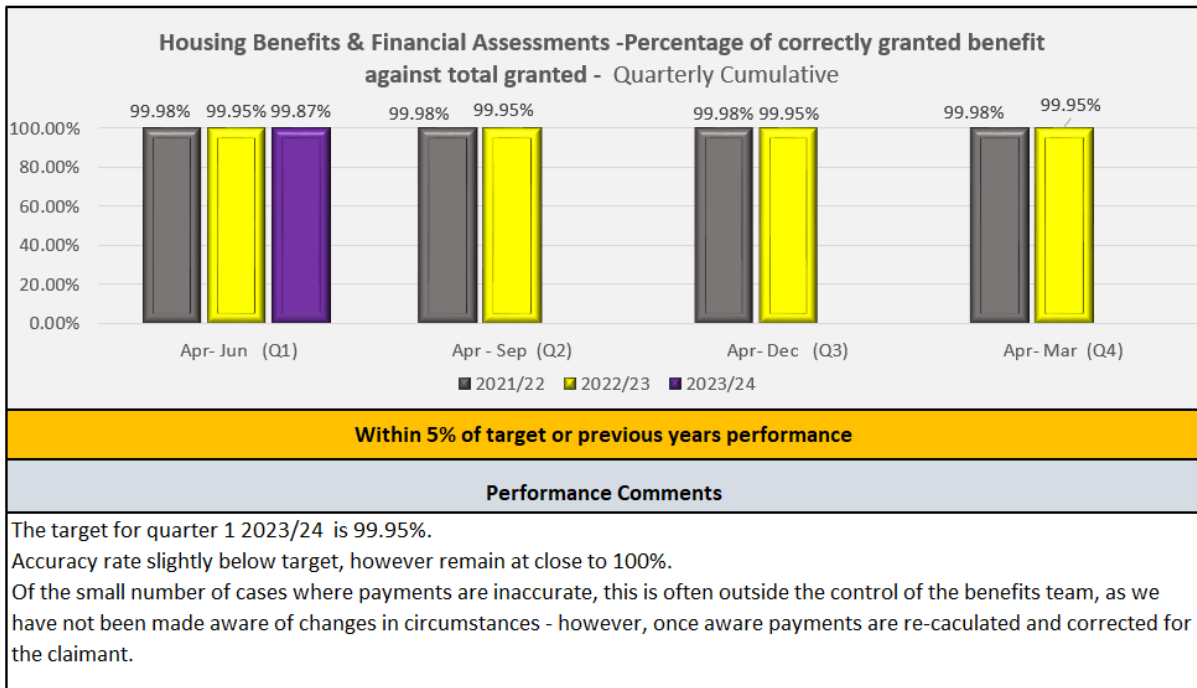
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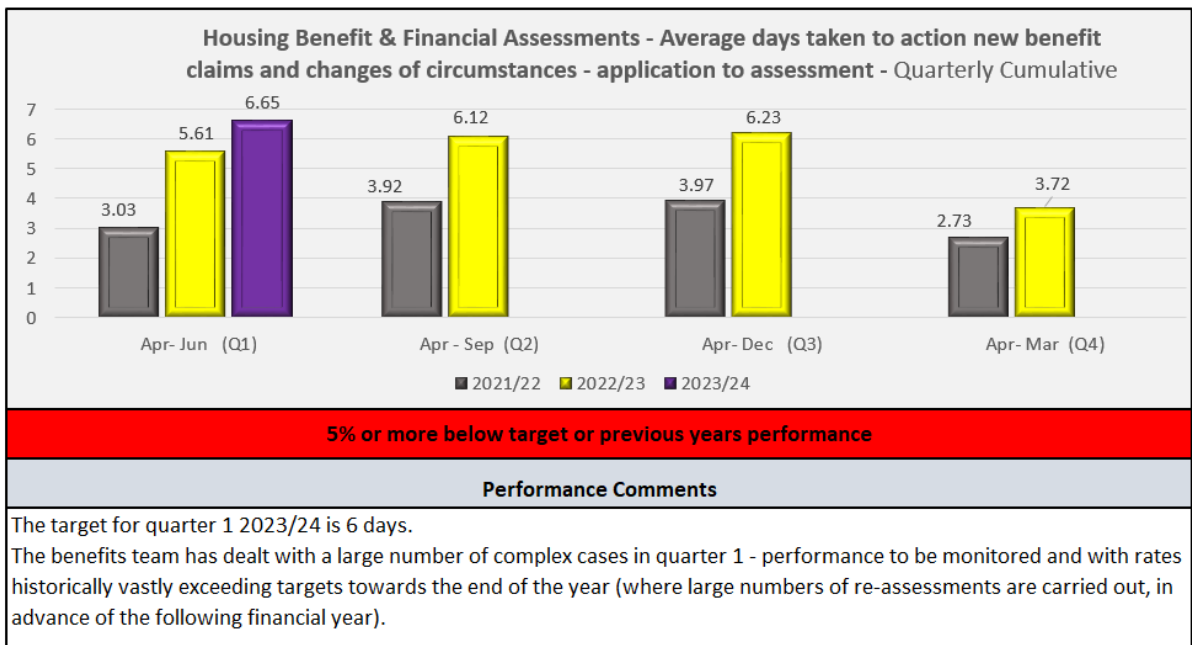
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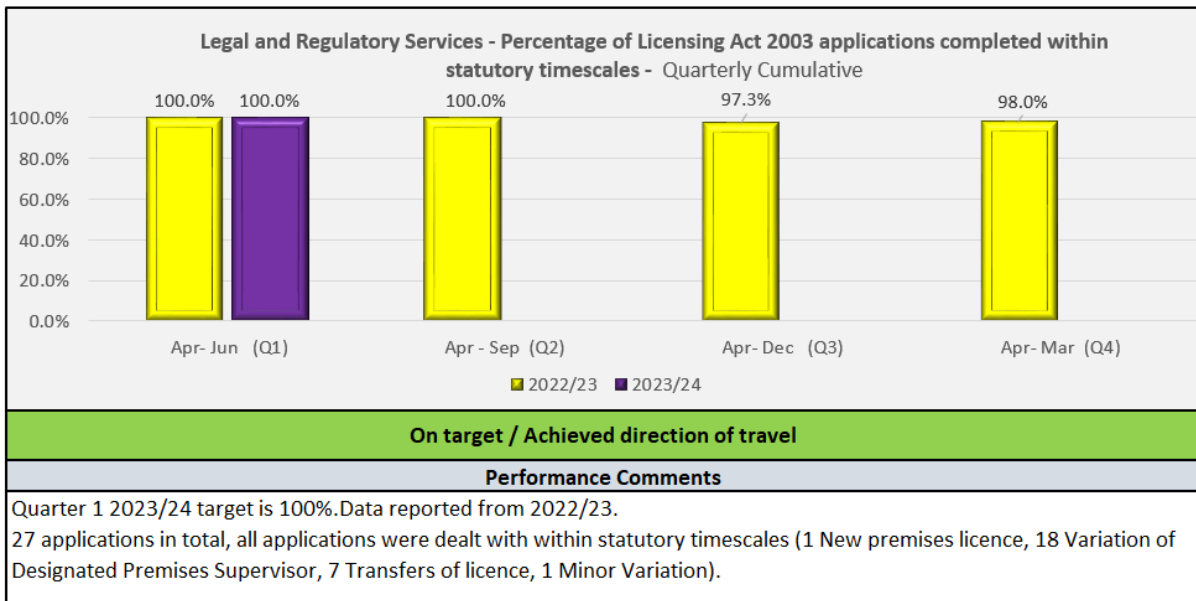
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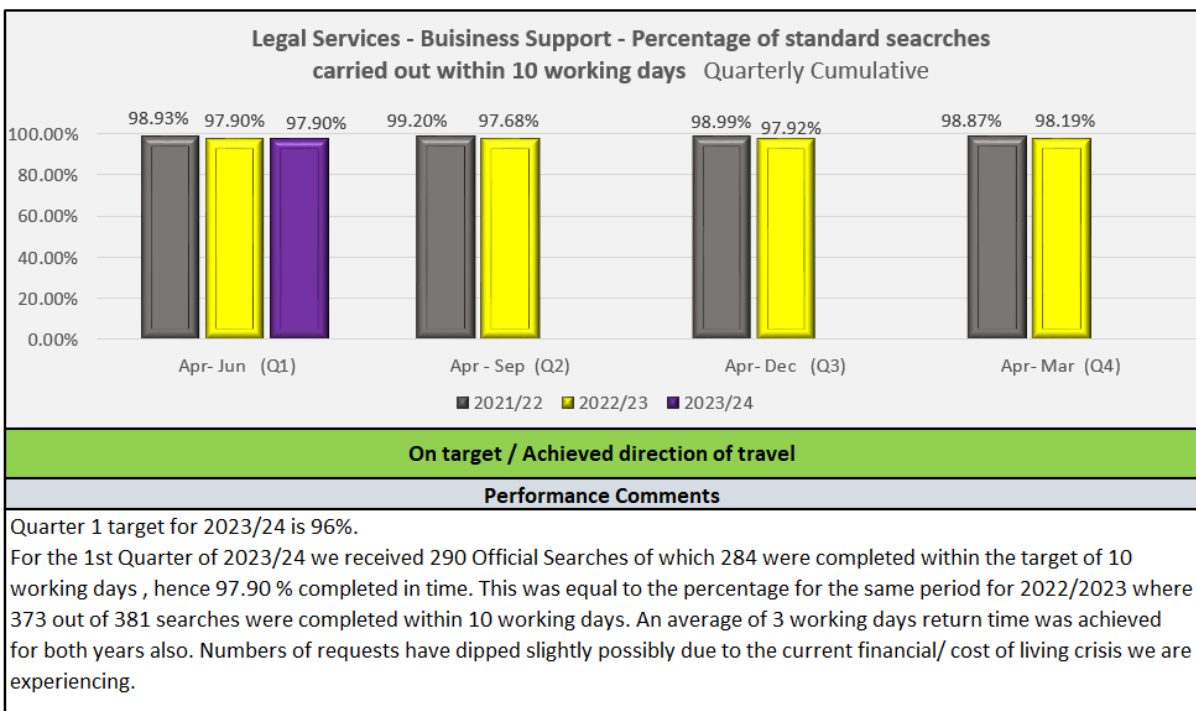
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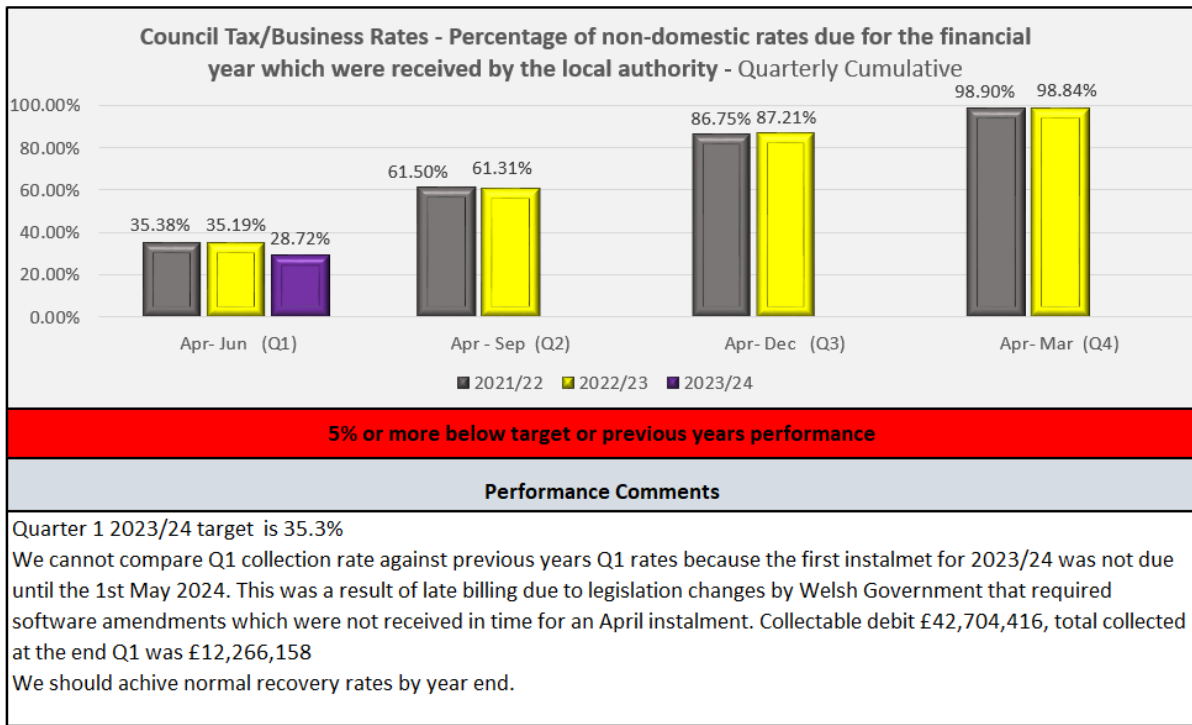
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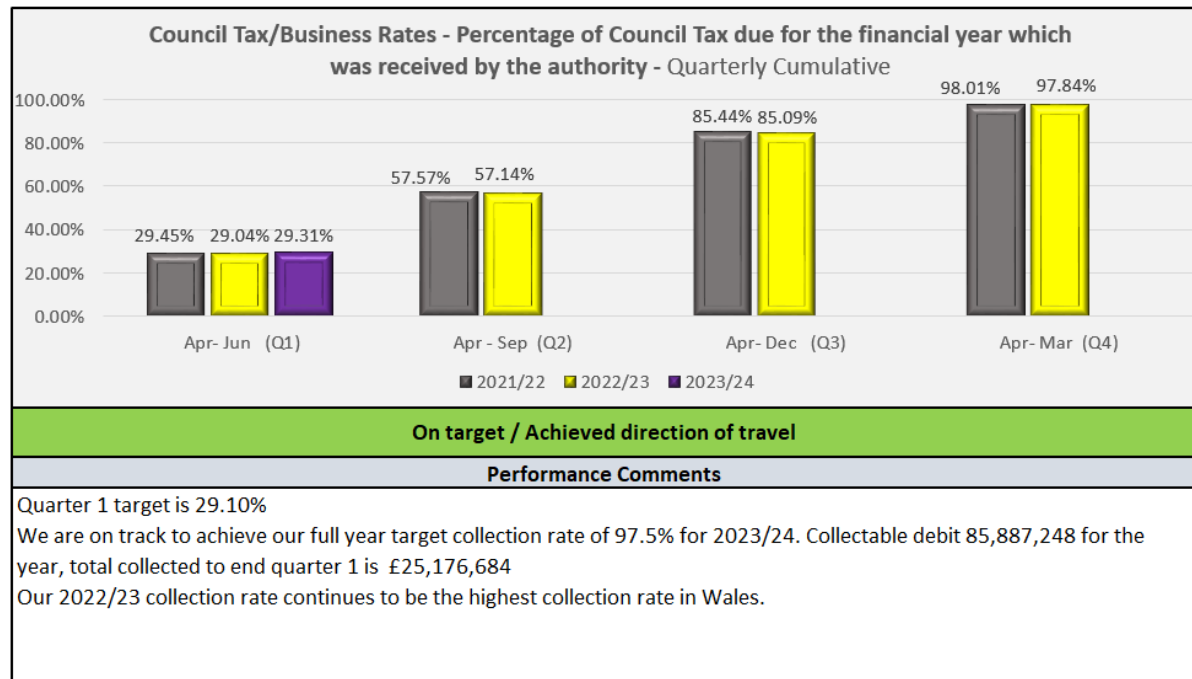
Governance and Resource (cross-cutting)

Including Planning & Performance, Workforce Management, Financial Resources, Democracy, Community Relations, Asset Management and Commissioning & Procurement.

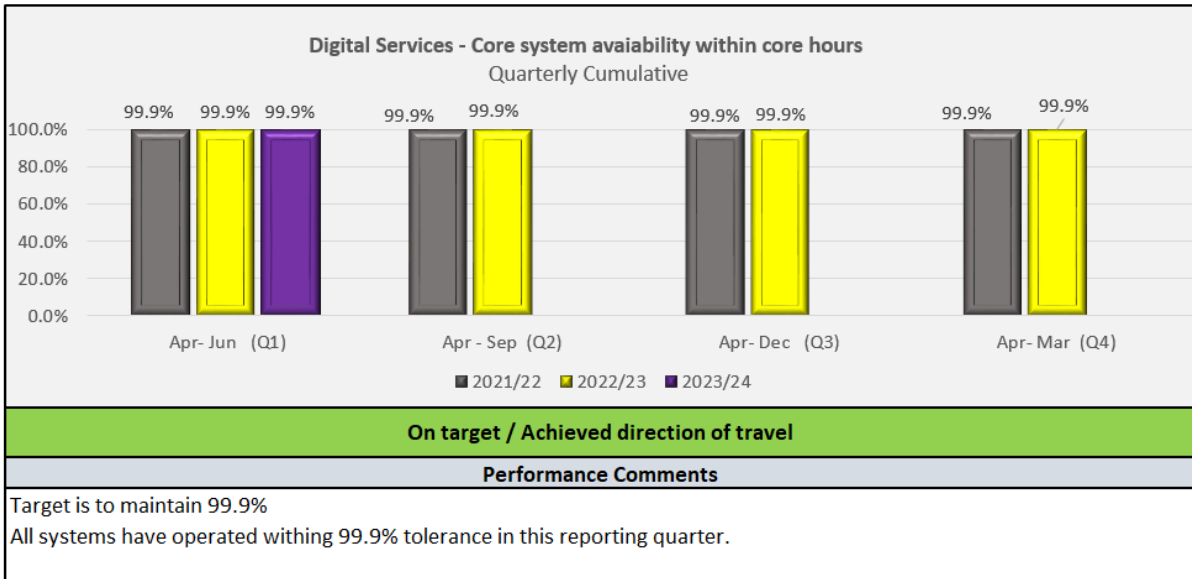
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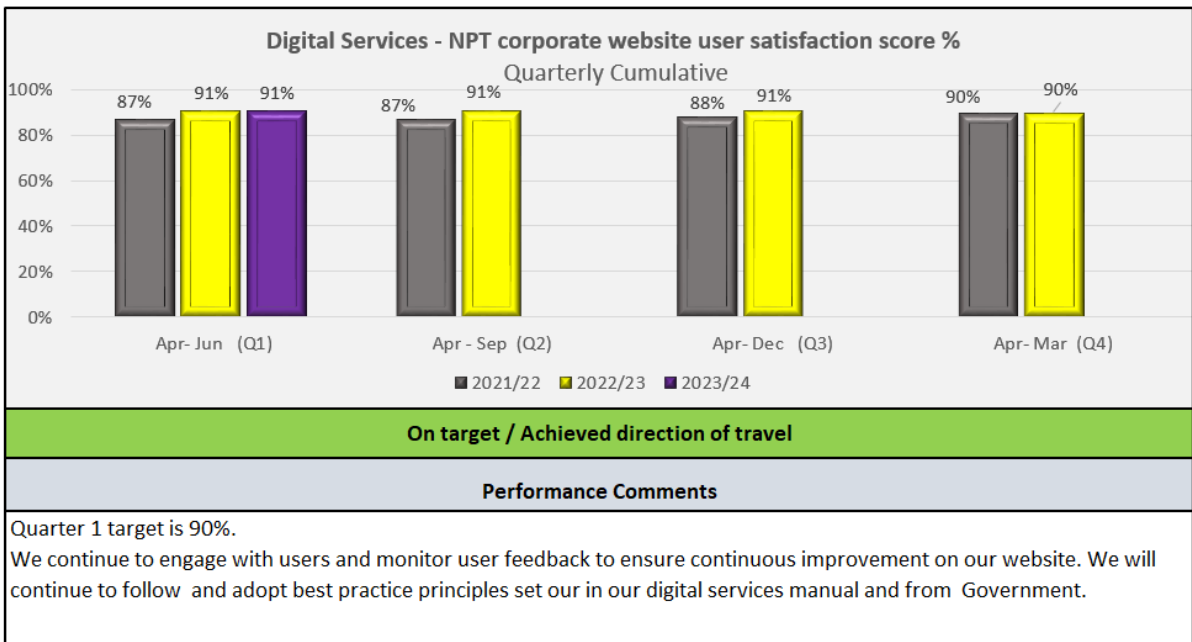
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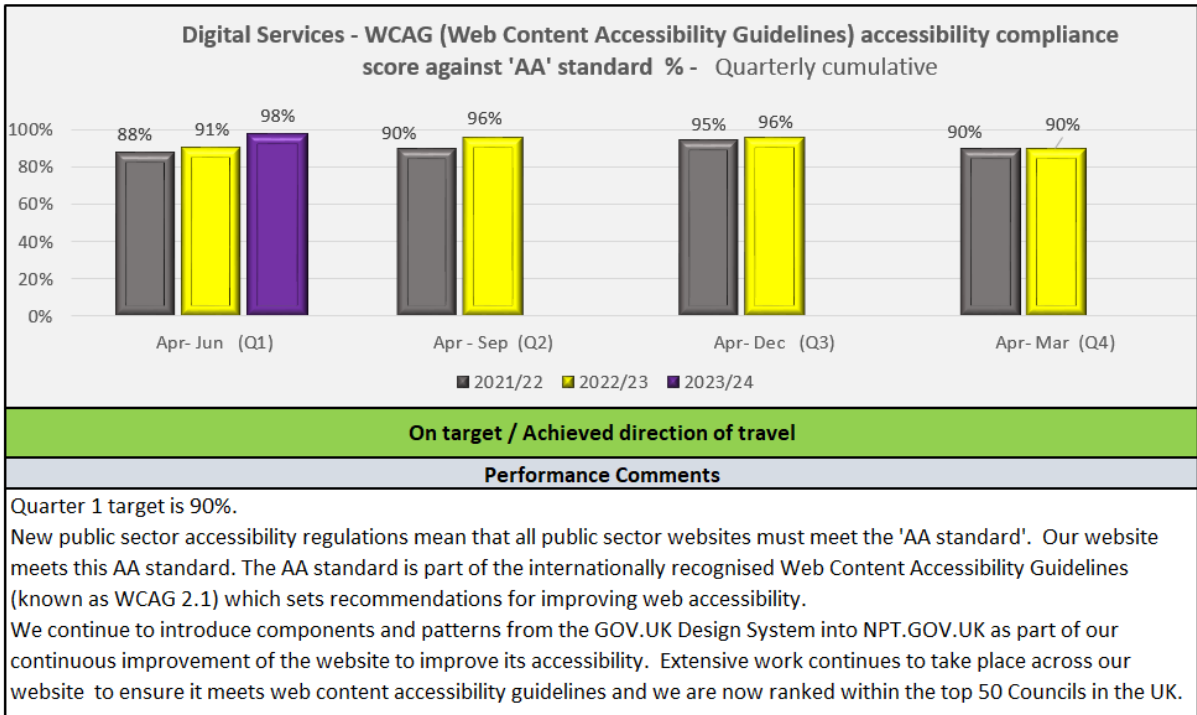
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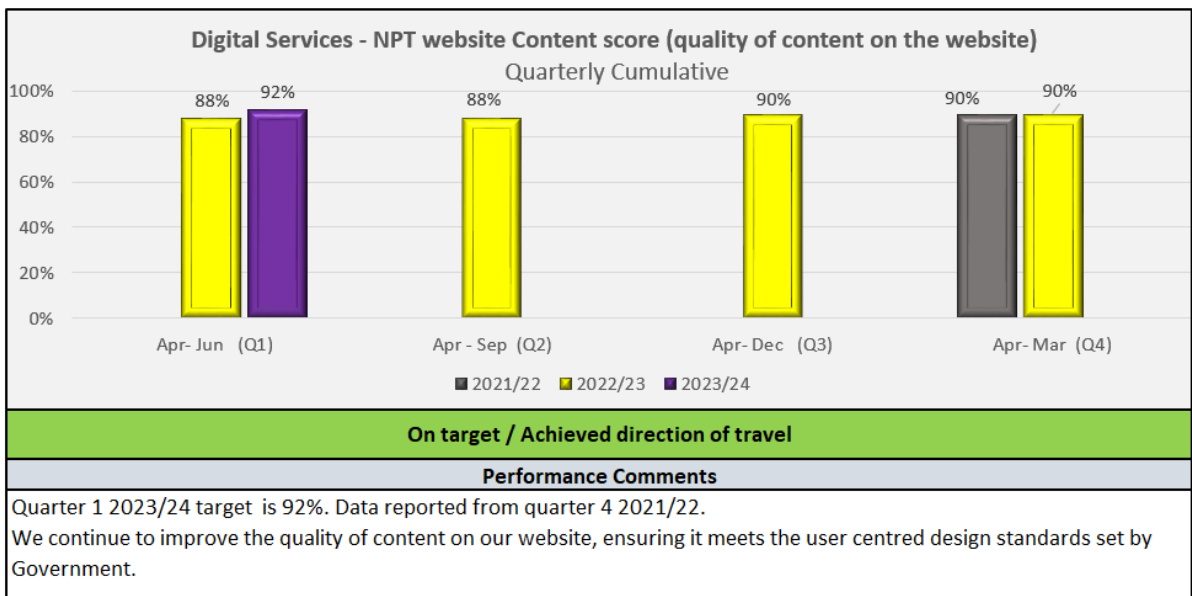
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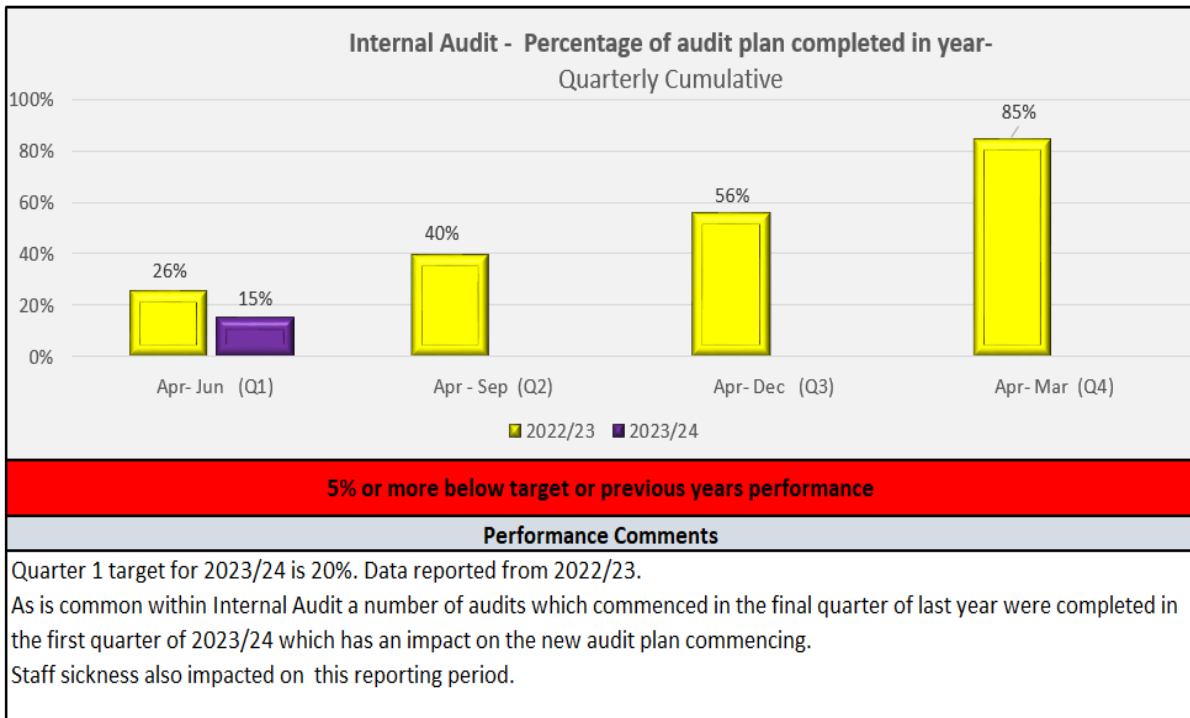
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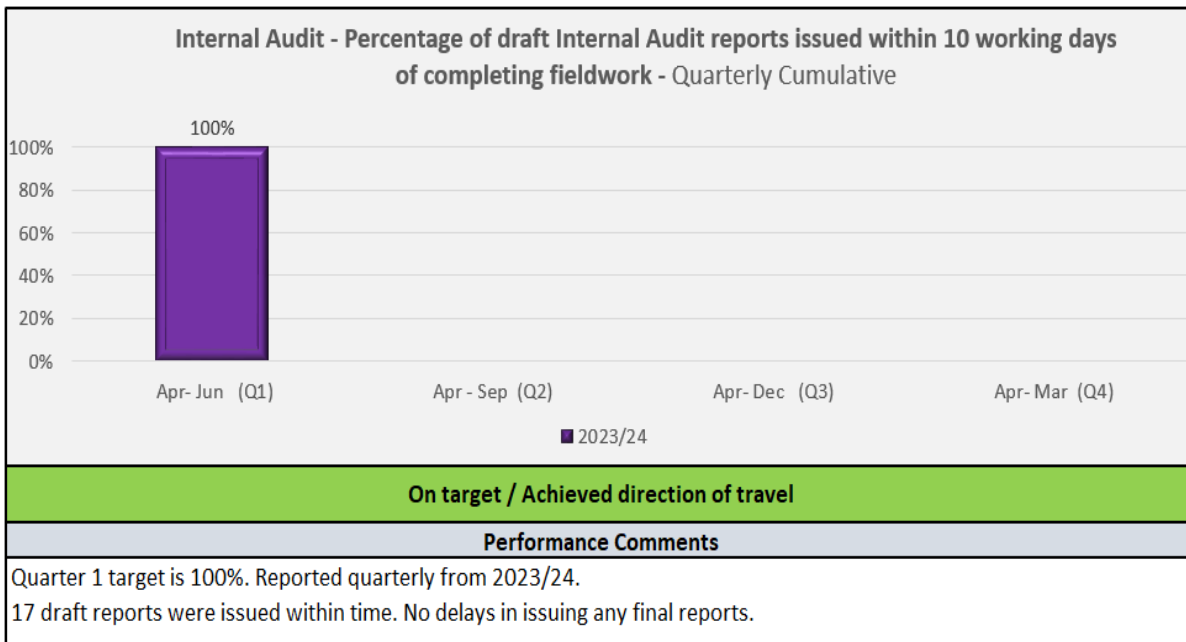
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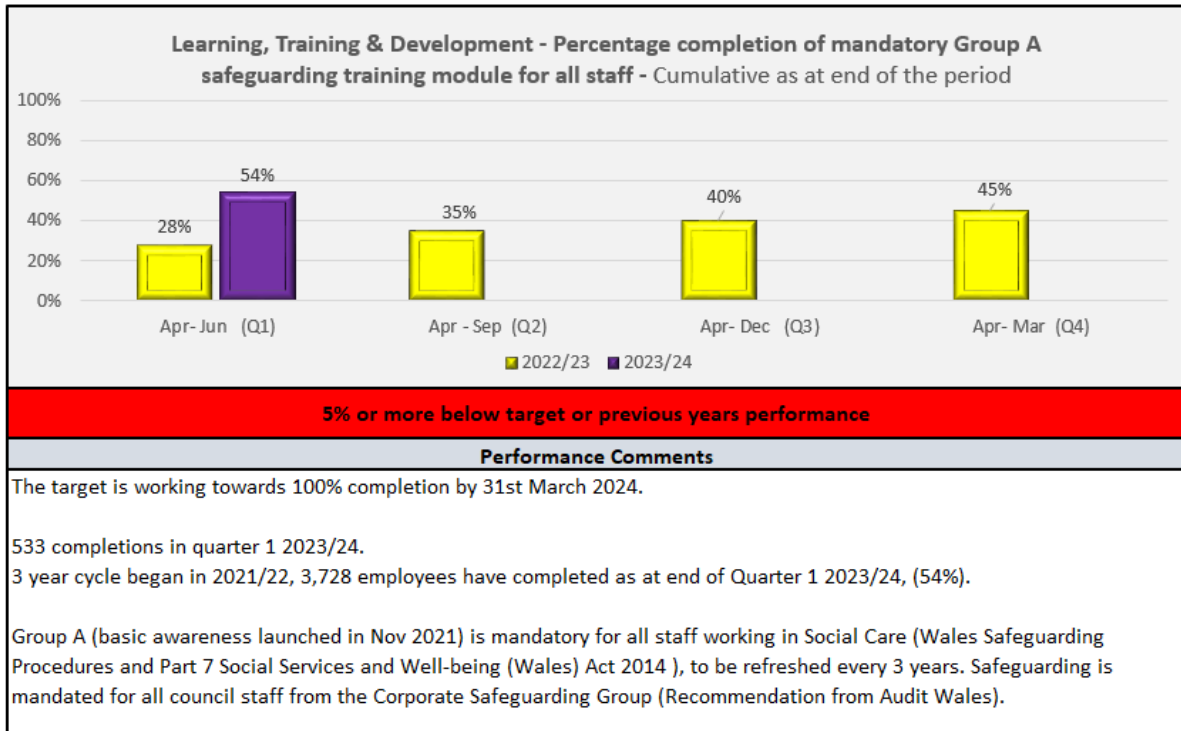
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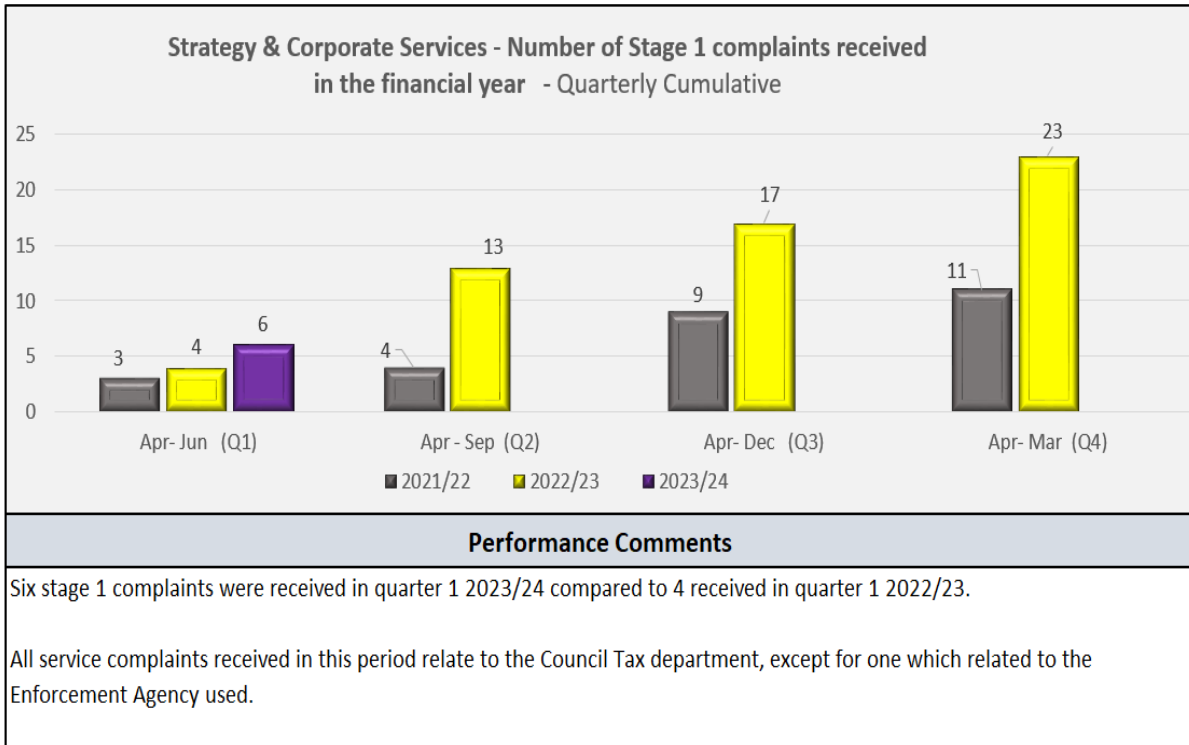


Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

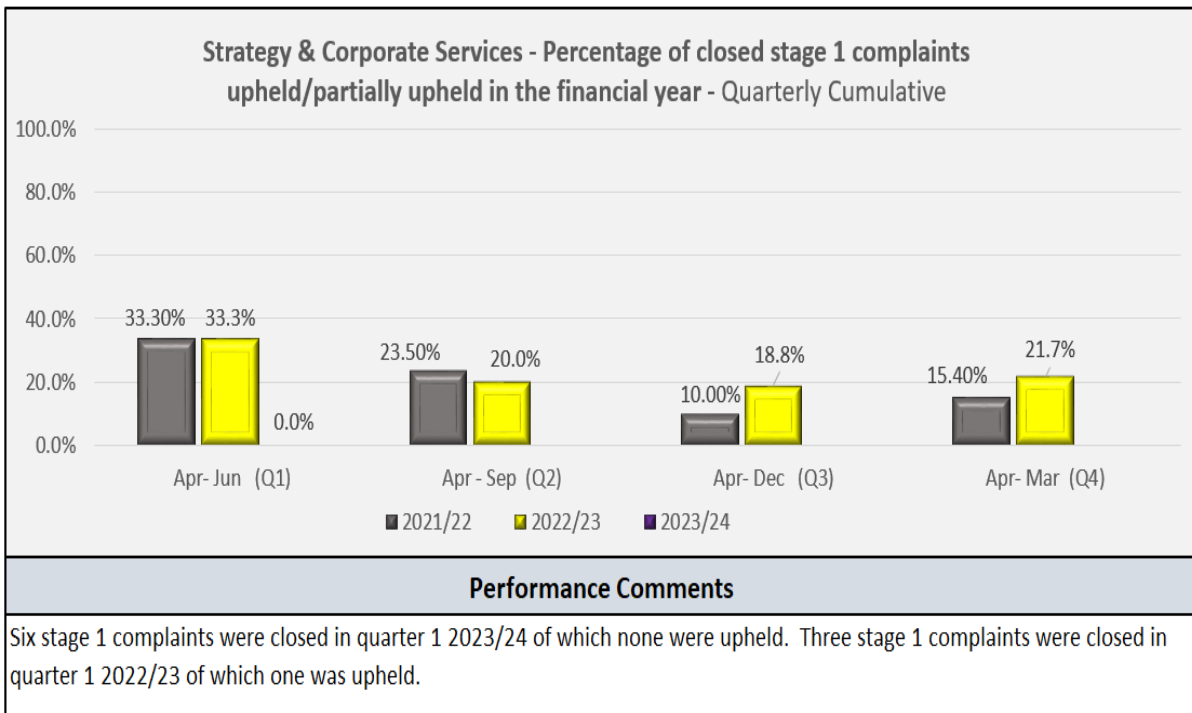
Performance Measures

Appendix 3 - Strategy & Corporate Services –
Compliments and Complaints
Quarter 1 (1st April - 30th June) - 2023/24

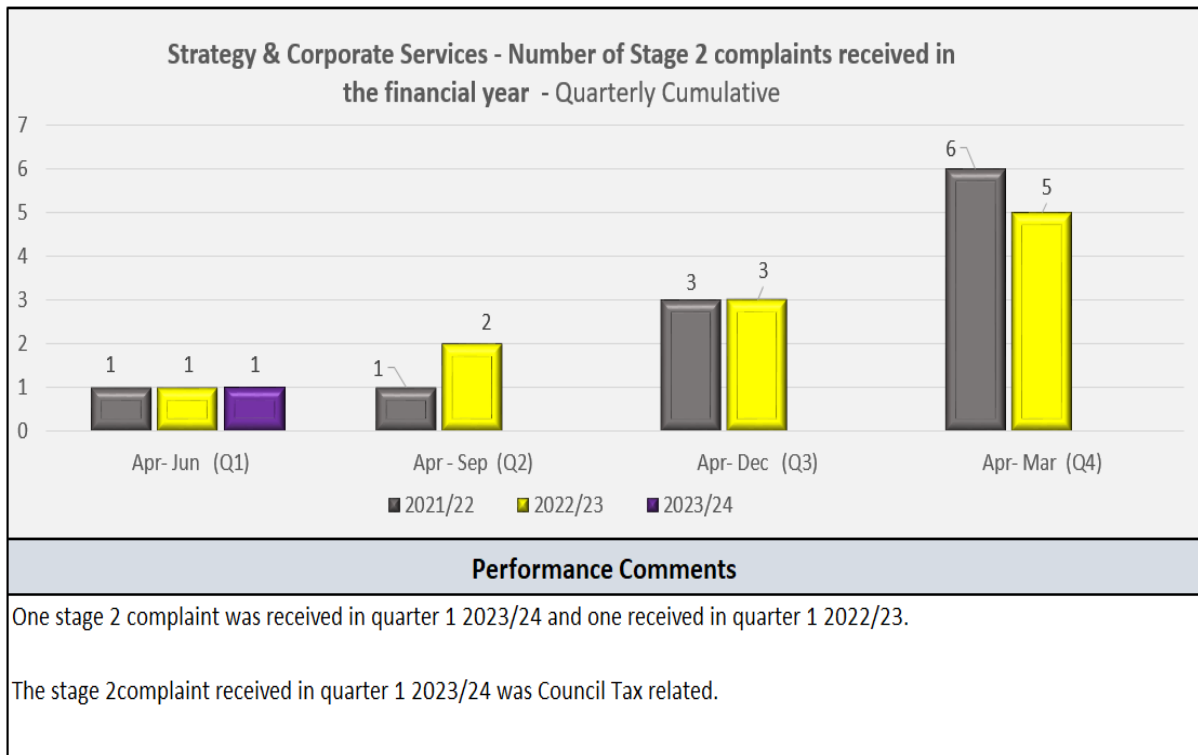
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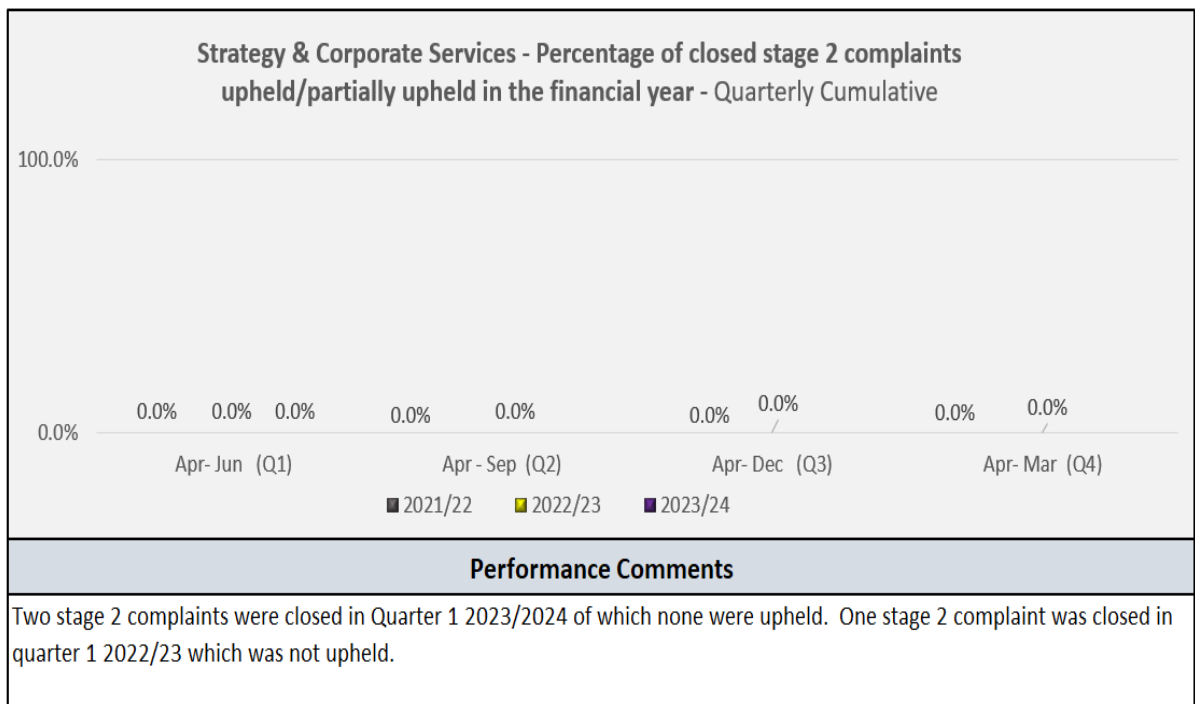
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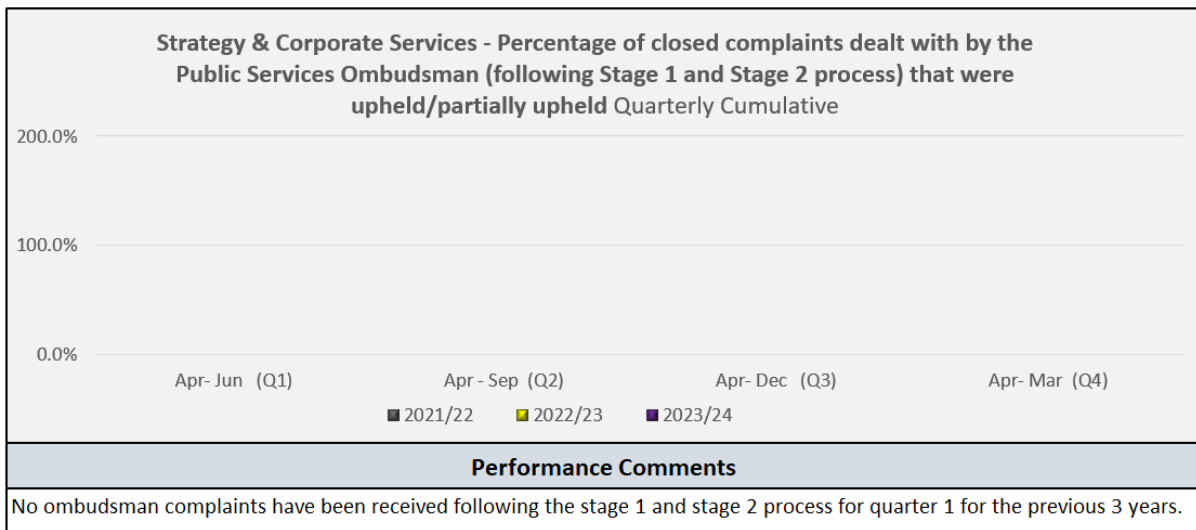
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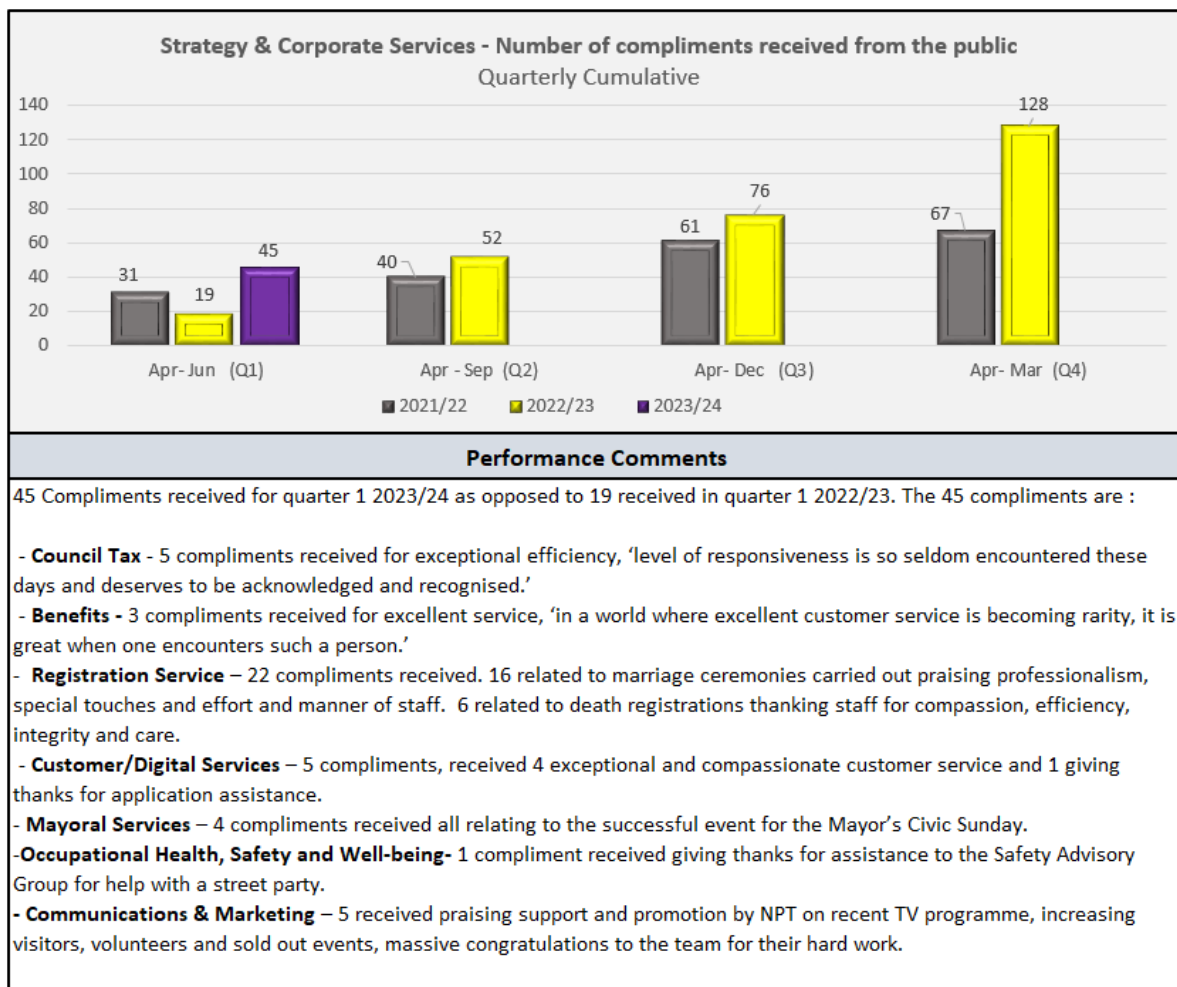
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Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PEOPLE & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

S. REES

20th September 2023

Matter for Monitoring

Wards Affected: All Wards

Compliments and Complaints Annual Report 2022-2023

Purpose of the Report:

1. To provide an overview of the number of compliments and complaints received during the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

Background:

2. Complaints and compliments continue to provide us with valuable information about how we perform as a council and provide us with an insight into what customers think about our services. In many cases people who complain tell us what we have done wrong and how we can do better. We use this feedback to improve our services or processes.

3. Publishing an annual report demonstrates the council's commitment to transparency and a positive approach to acknowledging, investigating, responding to and learning from complaints.
4. The council revised its Comments, Compliments and Complaints Policy in March 2021, which was deemed compliant with the Ombudsman Wales (previously Public Services Ombudsman for Wales) principles and model complaints handling procedure. During this time the reporting of complaints changed in line with the Ombudsman's reporting requirements counting the % of complaints are closed (upheld/not upheld).
5. Figures and further detail for both compliments and complaints on a directorate basis have been reported to the respective Cabinet / Cabinet Boards during 2022-2023.

Summary of Performance 2022-2023

The following provides an overview of the year's performance:

Stage 1 Complaints

6. Complaints that fall into the Stage 1 category are requests for a service that have not been actioned or properly dealt with. These complaints are handled by the staff and/or managers directly responsible for delivering the service, with a response to be provided within 10 working days.
7. There was an increase in the number of Stage 1 complaints received across the council from 111 received in 2021-2022 to 165 received in 2022-2023.
8. However, the percentage upheld/partially upheld during 2022-2023 was 7.27% (12 of 165). This is a reduction on the previous

year. In 2021-2022 the percentage was 19.82% (22 of 111) and in 2019-2020 the percentage was 23.53% (24 of 102).

9. The table below sets out a breakdown of the numbers of Stage 1 complaints received and upheld / partially upheld per Directorate.

Directorate	2022-2023	
	Stage 1	Stage 1 Upheld / Partially Upheld
Chief Executives	23	5
Education, Leisure & Lifelong Learning	11	0
Environment & Regeneration	63	0
Social Services, Health & Housing	68	7

10. No systemic failings could be attributed to a particular service area from the instances reported and investigated. Where the complaint was upheld/partially upheld any lessons learned from the investigation are applied by the relevant service areas to improve service delivery and customer satisfaction going forward.
11. Considering the breadth of dealings across the council, it should be noted that the number of investigated complaints upheld/partially upheld was relatively low with the majority being resolved or not upheld.

Stage 2 Complaints

12. When a complainant is dissatisfied with the outcome of a Stage 1 complaint the complaint falls within this category. The complaint is formally investigated by the designated complaints officer within the relevant directorate and a response provided within 20 working days. This includes a review of all relevant correspondence and often incorporates discussions with both the

complainant and relevant officers from the service department concerned to enable a fuller response to be provided.

13. There was a decrease in the number of Stage 2 complaints received from 25 in 2021-2022 to 22 in 2022-2023.

However, 13.63% (3 of 22) Stage 2 complaints were upheld /partially upheld in 2022-2023, an increase on the figure of 1 upheld/partially upheld in 2021-2022.

14. The table below sets out a breakdown of the numbers of Stage 2 complaints received and upheld / partially upheld per Directorate.

Directorate	2022-2023	
	Stage 2	Stage 2 Upheld / Partially Upheld
Chief Executives	4 (plus 1 carried forward from 2021-2022)	0
Education, Leisure & Lifelong Learning	4	1
Environment & Regeneration	10	0
Social Services, Health & Housing	3	2

15. At the conclusion of Stage 2, the complainant is made aware of the ability to refer their complaint to another organisation for external consideration e.g. Ombudsman Wales. Before agreeing to investigate further, the Ombudsman should normally be satisfied that the matter has already been raised with the council and that the council has had a reasonable opportunity to investigate and respond in accordance with the two stage policy. Where this has not been done, the Ombudsman will usually refer the complaint back to the council to provide an opportunity to attempt to resolve the complainant's concerns through the council's own complaints processes first.

Compliments

16. There has been an increase in the number of compliments received across the council. In 2022-2023, 326 compliments were received, compared to 249 in 2021-2022.
17. The table below sets out a breakdown of the numbers of compliments received per Directorate.

Directorate	Compliments
Chief Executives	128
Education, Leisure & Lifelong Learning	58
Environment & Regeneration	25
Social Services, Health & Housing	115

Reporting Processes

18. Designated complaints officers within each directorate provide advice to their colleagues to ensure appropriate and timely complaint responses. The designated officers collate and submit quarterly information provided to them from service areas.
19. Quarterly compliments and complaints performance reports are produced and reported to Cabinet and Cabinet Boards relating to services within their purview.
20. Since April 2019, the council's quarterly complaints data has been forwarded to the Ombudsman Wales to enable an all Wales comparison and the data for all council's is published on their website for information.

Welsh Language Complaints

21. In line with the Welsh Language Standards the complaint process for Welsh language matters operates differently to the way other complaints are handled – the legislative provision stemming from the 2011 Welsh Language Measure. This includes the need to keep a record in relation to each financial year of the number of complaints received relating to our compliance with the standards.
22. During 2022-2023 there were no complaints made to the Welsh Language Commissioner.

Unreasonable/Unacceptable Customer Behaviour

23. When the actions and behaviour of a few customers are considered unacceptable, these are addressed by the relevant Head of Service. Reviews of unacceptable behaviour result in a contact protocol being implemented in accordance with the Unreasonable/Unacceptable Customer Behaviour Policy, which was approved by Cabinet on 29th May 2019. At the start of 2022-2023 one protocol was in place.

Governance & Audit Committee

24. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 gives the Governance & Audit Committee a defined assurance role around complaints. The Committee will review this Annual Compliments and Complaints report following consideration Cabinet.

Financial Impact

25. There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

Integrated Impact Assessment

26. There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for monitoring purposes.

Valleys Communities Impact

27. No implications.

Workforce Impacts

28. Staff have been subjected to violent, aggressive and unacceptable behaviour on occasion. Line managers undertake risk assessments to help prevent such occurrences and to lower the impact of poor behaviour. Cross departmental information sharing helps to improve communications and preparedness to help frontline staff to anticipate difficult customer queries at the first point of contact.

Legal Impacts

29. This annual report has been produced in line with the council's two stage policy which is reflected in the body of this report.

Risk Management

30. The profile of complaints made during the year, their resolution and lessons learned is taken into account when both the council's Annual Governance Statement and Self-Assessment are prepared. No systemic failings were identified by service areas or the designated complaints officers for complaints that were recorded, investigated and concluded in 2022-2023.

Consultation

31. There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

32. For Members to monitor the performance contained within this report.

List of background papers

33. None

Officer Contact

Mrs Sheenagh Rees, Head of People & Organisational Development
Email s.rees5@npt.gov.uk

Mrs Caryn Furlow-Harris, Strategic Manager – Policy & Executive Support
Email: c.furlow@npt.gov.uk

Mrs Louise McAndrew, Corporate Strategic Planning & Governance Officer
Email: l.mcandrew@npt.gov.uk



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

CABINET

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES – MR CRAIG GRIFFITHS

20th September 2023

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

Public Service Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report 2022/2023

Purpose of the Report:

1. To advise Members of the receipt of the Ombudsman's Annual Report for 2022/2023 in respect of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

Executive Summary:

2. The Public Service Ombudsman for Wales ("the Ombudsman") has two specific roles:
 - (a) To consider complaints about public service providers in Wales; and
 - (b) To consider complaints that members of local authorities or town and community councils have breached their Code of Conduct.
3. The Ombudsman sends letters on an annual basis to county borough councils and local health boards concerning the complaints they have received and considered during the previous financial year. The aim of the Annual Report is to provide the relevant bodies with information to help them improve their complaint handling and the services that they provide.

Background:

4. In recent years the Ombudsman has adopted the practice of sending an annual letter to each local authority which comes within their jurisdiction. A

full copy of the letter and Factsheet is reproduced for Members at Appendix 1.

5. Members should note that this letter relates to the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. Information received during this year will, bring insights on how public services reacted in the face of unprecedented demand and the most difficult of circumstances.
6. Comparatively little commentary is required on the Annual Letter. The number of service complaints received by the Ombudsman is set out in Table A of the Factsheet. This Council received thirty nine (39) complaints – a decrease from forty five (45) in the previous financial year. Therefore, the number of complaints received is slightly less of the national average, compared with what one would expect from the population size of the Council area. However, it should be noted that when considering complaints per 1,000 residents, the Council is ranked 16th out of the 22 local authorities in Wales in the number of complaints.
7. It should be noted that we are no longer a direct provider of general housing – a function which generally attracts some complaints.
8. The mix of complaints is dealt with in Table B of the Factsheet. The numbers in the various categories are similar to the Welsh average overall.
9. The percentage of cases requiring intervention from the Ombudsman is comparatively low (see Table C), with only seven of the thirty eight complaints being marked as early resolution. The intervention provided the opportunity with the Council to look again at the issue and ensure that remedies could be achieved which met the needs of the complainant. In a lot of cases the Council's position did not change but the complainant was satisfied that a fresh view had been taken. The comparison of complaint outcomes with average outcomes is again broadly in line with the national average (as shown in Table D).
10. The number of national Code of Conduct complaints decreased slightly in 2022/2023 in respect of Local Authority elected members. In the Neath Port Talbot locality, the number of Code of Conduct complaints against County Borough Councils is low, there being just five (5) (Table E), and in each case the Ombudsman determined there was no case to answer. In addition, there was a increase in the number of complaints against town and community councils (Table F) (going from 6 to 11), but as can be seen no

further action was taken in respect of these matters and they were either closed after initial consideration, discontinued or withdrawn.

11. Overall, cuts in public expenditure create an environment in which there can be a mismatch between public expectations and the service which can be provided. This will make it even more important to deal promptly with any complaints which arise and look for practical and achievable solutions. The Council continues to work collaboratively with the Ombudsman to resolve any matter that might be referred to them by a member of the public whether that be via an early settlement or to provide clarification and documentation to assist in any investigation being undertaken.
12. The Complaints Standards Body has now implemented a model complaints policy with nearly 50 public bodies, and delivered 140 training sessions, completely free of charge, during the last financial year. The feedback has been excellent, and the training has been very popular and officers of the Council have engaged with this training process and found it extremely beneficial. The model complaints policy has now been adopted by Neath Port Talbot Council
13. Officers will continue improvement work in 2023/2024 and onwards and steps will be taken to try and reduce the number of cases which require intervention by the Ombudsman. This will include:
 - (a) Ensuring officers are aware of their obligations in responding to complaints and how the Council's Complaints Process functions to reduce the prospect of complaints being made to the Ombudsman stemming from process related issues.
 - (b) Ongoing review of the Council complaints process and the guidance provided to the public on how complaints can be made – including an easy read guide will be developed and publicised, with information on such processes in our Participation Strategy.
 - (c) Further facilitating a working group of officers to consider complaints handling and steps that should be taken in responding to complaints and to consider the Ombudsman response to any complaints so that lessons can be learnt. These officers are also involved in Data Protection and Freedom of Information Act responses so training will also be provided in these areas to ensure compliance in those fields. Taking the opportunity to learn from complaints can contribute to the development of services that meet the needs and expectations of our citizens. In this way, citizens can be involved in improving services and ensuring that they meet long term needs and are sustainable. The ability to identify causes of

complaint and service failure can also present an opportunity to design in service features which have a preventative impact.

- (d) Liaising with the Ombudsman to determine whether resources such as training are available from them to assist in complaint handling process.
 - (e) Undertaking further training with Local Authority Elected Members on Code of Conduct matters and in particular the use of social media, which appears to be the source of numerous complaints to the Ombudsman. Training was provided in May 2022 and as part of member induction and will continue to form part of Code of Conduct Training in refresher sessions, with the most recent taking place in June 2023.
 - (f) Specific sessions of training have been undertaken to group leaders in light of the new duties to ensure compliance with the code of conduct within political groups and Group Leaders have attended the Standards Committee to provide an overview of their approach to standards throughout 2022/2023.
 - (g) Continuing our Standards and Code of Conduct forum with Town and Community Council Clerks to ensure that standards and ethics of decision makers is considered actively within that setting and officers of those organisations are aware of key legal obligations.
 - (h) The Standards Committee have implemented a Forward Work Programme (contained in their 2022/2023 Annual Report) to continue to enshrine the importance of the standards regime in the Council
 - (i) Providing opportunities for members of the Standards Committee to attend meetings of Town and Community Councils to observe meetings and feedback any matters relevant to standards
 - (j) A review of the Constitution has recently been concluded (imbedding the Codes of Conduct further into documents) to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place to meet any obligations in respect of complaints and this review will continue in future years via the Democratic Services Committee.
14. It should also be noted that the Ombudsman is now in receipt of a number of additional powers of investigation, recently granted by the Welsh Government. These include the ability to undertake “own initiative” complaints. These investigations are not instigated by a complaint from a resident but may occur where the Ombudsman suspects potential systemic failures of services or where residents feel unable to complain due to the fact that they are dependent on Council services or because they are vulnerable.

Financial Impacts:

15. No implications. Though it should be noted the Ombudsman has legal powers to require the Council to make payments to complainants where they have suffered financial loss or in compensation for “time and trouble”.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

16. An Integrated Impact Assessment is not requirement for this report.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

17. No implications

Workforce Impacts:

18. No implications

Legal Impacts:

19. No implications

Consultation:

20. There is no requirement for external consultation on this item

Recommendations:

21. That Members note the content of the Public Service Ombudsman Annual Report for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for 2022/2023 enclosed at Appendix 1 and the steps that officers will continue to embark on as part of general improvement work.

Appendices:

22. Appendix 1 – Annual Letter of the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

List of Background Papers:

23. None

Officer Contact:

Mr Craig Griffiths
Head of Legal and Democratic Services



**Ombwdsmon
Ombudsman**
Cymru • Wales

Ask for:

Communications



01656 641150



Communications

@ombudsman.wales

Date: 17 August 2023

Cllr. Steve Hunt
Neath Port Talbot Council
By Email only: cllr.s.k.hunt@npt.gov.uk

Annual Letter 2022/23

Dear Councillor Hunt

I am pleased to provide you with the Annual letter (2022/23) for Neath Port Talbot Council which deals with complaints relating to maladministration and service failure, complaints relating to alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct for Councillors and the actions being taken to improve public services.

This letter coincides with my Annual Report – “[A year of change – a year of challenge](#)” – a sentiment which will no doubt resonate with public bodies across Wales. My office has seen another increase in the number of people asking for our help – up 3% overall compared to the previous year, and my office now receives double the number of cases we received a decade ago.

In the last year, I have met with public bodies across Wales – speaking about our casework, our recommendations, and our proactive powers. The current climate will continue to provide challenges for public services, but I am grateful for the positive and productive way in which local authorities continue to engage with my office.

1,020 complaints were referred to us regarding local authorities last year - a reduction of 11% compared to the previous year. During this period, we intervened in (upheld, settled or resolved at an early stage) 13% of local authority complaints.

We received fewer Code of Conduct complaints in 22/23 compared to the previous year, relating to both Principal Councils and Town and Community Councils. My role is such that I do not make final findings about breaches of the Code of Conduct. Instead, where investigations find the most serious concerns, these are referred to the Standards Committee of the relevant local authority, or the

ombwdsmon.cymru
holwch@ombwdsmon.cymru
0300 790 0203
1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae, CF 35 5LJ
Rydym yn hapus i dderbyn ac
ymateb i ohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg.

ombudsman.wales
ask@ombudsman.wales
0300 790 0203
1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae, CF 35 5LJ
We are happy to accept and respond
to correspondence in Welsh.

Adjudication Panel for Wales. In 2022/23, the Ombudsman made 12 such referrals – a welcome reduction from 20 last year.

Supporting improvement of public services

Despite the challenges of last year, we have pushed forward with our proactive improvement work and launched a new Service Quality process to ensure we deliver the standards we expect.

Last year, we began work on our second wider Own Initiative investigation – this time looking into carers assessments within local authorities. This investigation will take place throughout the coming year, and we look forward to sharing our findings with all local authorities – not just those involved in the investigation.

The Complaints Standards Authority (CSA) continued its work with public bodies in Wales last year, with more than 50 public bodies now operating our model policy. We've also now provided more than 400 training sessions since we started, with local authorities, in September 2020.

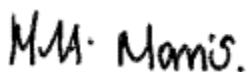
We continued our work to publish complaints statistics into a second year, with data now published twice a year. This data allows us to see information with greater context – for example, last year 20% of Neath Port Talbot Council's complaints were referred to PSOW.

I would encourage Neath Port Talbot Council, and specifically your Audit and Governance Committee, to use this data to better understand your performance on complaints and consider how well good complaints handling is embedded throughout the Authority.

Further to this letter can I ask that your Council takes the following actions:

- Present my Annual Letter to the Cabinet and to the Governance and Audit Committee at the next available opportunity and notify me of when these meetings will take place.
- Continue to engage with our Complaints Standards work, accessing training for your staff, fully implementing the model policy, and providing accurate and timely complaints data.
- Inform me of the outcome of the Council's considerations and proposed actions on the above matters at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,



Michelle Morris
Public Services Ombudsman

cc. Karen Jones, Chief Executive, Neath Port Talbot Council.
By Email only: chiefexecutive@npt.gov.uk



Factsheet

Appendix A - Complaints Received

Local Authority	Complaints Received	Received per 1000 residents
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	16	0.24
Bridgend County Borough Council	55	0.38
Caerphilly County Borough Council	49	0.28
Cardiff Council*	142	0.39
Carmarthenshire County Council	53	0.28
Ceredigion County Council	35	0.49
Conwy County Borough Council	31	0.27
Denbighshire County Council	32	0.33
Flintshire County Council	65	0.42
Cyngor Gwynedd	36	0.31
Isle of Anglesey County Council	25	0.36
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	17	0.29
Monmouthshire County Council	23	0.25
Neath Port Talbot Council	39	0.27
Newport City Council	42	0.26
Pembrokeshire County Council	44	0.36
Powys County Council	38	0.29
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**	54	0.23
Swansea Council	94	0.39
Torfaen County Borough Council	16	0.17
Vale of Glamorgan Council	49	0.37
Wrexham County Borough Council	65	0.48
Total	1020	0.33
* inc 9 Rent Smart Wales		
** inc 2 South Wales Parking Group		



Appendix B - Received by Subject

Neath Port Talbot Council	Complaints Received	% share
Adult Social Services	2	5%
Benefits Administration	0	0%
Children's Social Services	6	15%
Community Facilities, Recreation and Leisure	0	0%
Complaints Handling	12	31%
Covid19	0	0%
Education	0	0%
Environment and Environmental Health	7	18%
Finance and Taxation	1	3%
Housing	0	0%
Licensing	0	0%
Planning and Building Control	6	15%
Roads and Transport	3	8%
Various Other	2	5%
Total	39	



Appendix C - Complaint Outcomes
(* denotes intervention)

Neath Port Talbot Council		% Share
Out of Jurisdiction	4	11%
Premature	13	34%
Other cases closed after initial consideration	14	37%
Early Resolution/ voluntary settlement*	7	18%
Discontinued	0	0%
Other Reports - Not Upheld	0	0%
Other Reports Upheld*	0	0%
Public Interest Reports*	0	0%
Special Interest Reports*	0	0%
Total	38	



Appendix D - Cases with PSOW Intervention

	No. of interventions	No. of closures	% of interventions
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	0	16	0%
Bridgend County Borough Council	5	57	9%
Caerphilly County Borough Council	6	52	12%
Cardiff Council	25	145	17%
Cardiff Council - Rent Smart Wales	1	9	11%
Carmarthenshire County Council	7	60	12%
Ceredigion County Council	13	44	30%
Conwy County Borough Council	5	35	14%
Denbighshire County Council	2	33	6%
Flintshire County Council	5	70	7%
Cyngor Gwynedd	5	33	15%
Isle of Anglesey County Council	5	25	20%
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	1	18	6%
Monmouthshire County Council	1	22	5%
Neath Port Talbot Council	7	38	18%
Newport City Council	8	48	17%
Pembrokeshire County Council	3	45	7%
Powys County Council	8	44	18%
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	2	54	4%
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council - South Wales Parking Group	0	2	0%
Swansea Council	10	99	10%
Torfaen County Borough Council	1	17	6%
Vale of Glamorgan Council	15	53	28%
Wrexham County Borough Council	6	67	9%
Total	141	1086	13%



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Appendix E - Code of Conduct Complaints

Neath Port Talbot Council

Decision not to investigate	0
Discontinued	5
No evidence of breach	0
No action necessary	0
Refer to Adjudication Panel	0
Refer to Standards Committee	0
Total	5

Investigations
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1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae, CF 35 5LJ
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ymateb i ohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg.

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Appendix F - Town/Community Council Code of Complaints

Town/Community Council	Decision not to investigate	Investigations				Total	
		Discontinued	No evidence of breach	No action necessary	Refer to Adjudication Panel		Refer to Standards Committee
Blaengwrach Community Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Briton Ferry Town Council	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Cilybebyll Community Council	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Glynneath Town Council	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Onllwyn Community Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Information Sheet

Appendix A shows the number of complaints received by PSOW for all Local Authorities in 2022/23. These complaints are contextualised by the population of each authority.

Appendix B shows the categorisation of each complaint received, and what proportion of received complaints represents for the Local Authority.

Appendix C shows outcomes of the complaints which PSOW closed for the Local Authority in 2022/23. This table shows both the volume, and the proportion that each outcome represents for the Local Authority.

Appendix D shows Intervention Rates for all Local Authorities in 2022/23. An intervention is categorised by either an upheld complaint (either public interest or non-public interest), an early resolution, or a voluntary settlement.

Appendix E shows the outcomes of Code Of Conduct complaints closed by PSOW related to Local Authority in 2022/23. This table shows both the volume, and the proportion that each outcome represents for the Local Authority.

Appendix F shows the outcomes of Code of Conduct complaints closed by PSOW related to Town and Community Councils in the Local Authority's area in 2022/23. This table shows both the volume, and the proportion that each outcome represents for each Town or Community Council.

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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Cabinet –
Wednesday, 20 September 2023

ACCESS TO MEETINGS/EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Purpose:	To consider whether the Public should be excluded from the following items of business.
Item (s):	Item 20 – UK Shared Prosperity Fund
Recommendation(s):	That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in the Paragraphs listed below of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007 subject to the Public Interest Test (where appropriate) being applied.
Relevant Paragraph(s):	14

1. Purpose of Report

To enable Members to consider whether the public should be excluded from the meeting in relation to the item(s) listed above.

Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales)

Order 2007, allows a Principal Council to pass a resolution excluding the public from a meeting during an item of business.

Such a resolution is dependent on whether it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the public were present during that item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information, as defined in section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972.

2. Exclusion of the Public/Public Interest Test

In order to comply with the above mentioned legislation, Members will be requested to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the item(s) of business identified in the recommendation(s) to the report on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in the Exclusion Paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.

Information which falls within paragraphs 12 to 15, 17 and 18 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended is exempt information if and so long as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The specific Exclusion Paragraphs and the Public Interest Tests to be applied are listed in Appendix A.

Where paragraph 16 of the Schedule 12A applies there is no public interest test. Members are able to consider whether they wish to waive their legal privilege in the information, however, given that this may place the Council in a position of risk, it is not something that should be done as a matter of routine.

3. Financial Implications

Not applicable

4. Integrated Impact Assessment

Not applicable

5. Valleys Communities Impact

Not applicable

6. Workforce Impact

Not applicable.

7. Legal Implications

The legislative provisions are set out in the report.

Members must consider with regard to each item of business the following matters.

- (a) Whether in relation to that item of business the information is capable of being exempt information, because it falls into one of the paragraphs set out in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended and reproduced in Appendix A to this report.

and either

- (b) If the information does fall within one or more of paragraphs 12 to 15, 17 and 18 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, the public interest test in maintaining the

exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information; or

- (c) if the information falls within the paragraph 16 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 in considering whether to exclude the public members are not required to apply the public interest test by must consider whether they wish to waive their privilege in relation to that item for any reason.

8. Risk Management

To allow Members to consider risk associated with exempt information.

9. Recommendation(s)

As detailed at the start of the report.

10. Reason for Proposed Decision(s):

To ensure that all items are considered in the appropriate manner.

11. Implementation of Decision(s):

The decision(s) will be implemented immediately.

12. List of Background Papers:

Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

13. Appendices:

Appendix A – List of Exemptions

Appendix A

NO	Relevant Paragraphs in Schedule 12A
12	Information relating to a particular individual
13	Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
14	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
15	Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority
16	Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
17	Information which reveals that the authority proposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person, or • To make an order or direction under any enactment.
18	Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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