CORPORATE PLAN 2024/2027 6 MONTHLY UPDATE 2024/2025 April - September 2024



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot Neath Port Talbot Council

Since the approval of Corporate Plan 2024/2027: *Working towards a more prosperous, fairer and greener NPT*, and the setting of the strategic priorities, work continues across Neath Port Talbot Council to deliver a wide range of statutory and discretionary services.

Nine transformation programmes have been interwoven into the council's four well-being objectives and three year aims. This framework supports transformation across directorates in an effort to minimise impact of budget challenges. In total we have 48 strategic priorities and 76 qualitative and quantitative performance measures. At this half year point of the 2024/2025 Corporate Plan delivery we are on track to achieve our strategic priorities.

The following pages provide a progress update on each of the well-being objectives.

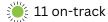
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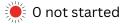


Well-being Objective 1 All children have the best in life

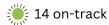
Total Number of Strategic Priorities: 12

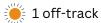


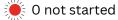
🎽 1 off-track

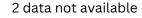


Total Number of Performance Measures: 17











Well-being Objective 2 All communities are thriving and sustainable

Total Number of Strategic Priorities: 12

- 12 on-track
- 🌔 0 off-track
- 💓 0 not started

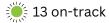
Total Number of Performance Measures: 25

- 🗧 24 on-track
- 0 off-track
- Ě 1 not started



Well-being Objective 3 Our local environment, culture and heritage can be enjoyed by future generations

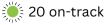
Total Number of Strategic Priorities: 13

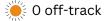


美 0 off-track

🜔 0 not started

Total Number of Performance Measures: 20



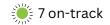


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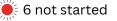


Well-being Objective 4 Local people are skilled and access, high quality, green jobs





1 off-track



Well-being Objective 1 All children have the best start in life

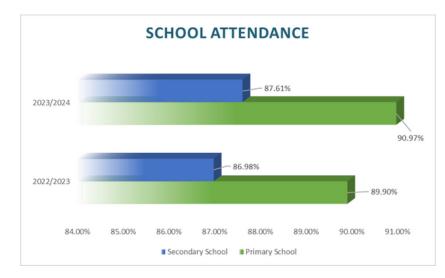
The progress made across the council, during the first half of 2024/2025, has been highlighted over the following pages, to ensure we continue to give children the best start in life.

With 12 strategic priorities spanning a number of services, the interventions implemented to help support and develop children and young people in their most formative years is evident through 11 of 12 strategic priorities being ontrack, and 15 of our 17 performance measures also being on-track for delivery.

2 performance measures will be updated at the end of the year due to project timescales, or due to data being released on an annual basis.

Our work across Children's Services strives to support not only children and young people but also those leaving care. The decision to bring the Supported Lodgings Service "inhouse" was completed and approved in June 2024, ensuring a sustainable range of good quality services are available to 16-24 year olds.

The number of provisions available to encourage more children and families to learn and benefit from the medium of Welsh are constantly increasing, supporting the delivery of our Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. There has been a focus on early intervention and prevention especially across our schools, which has improved school attendance figures, but we acknowledge there is still work to be done in comparison to other authorities across Wales. The graph below shows how improvement on the previous academic year.



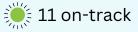
Corporate Plan 2024/2027 - 3 Year Aims

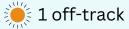
Each of the strategic priorities are cross-cutting against our Corporate Plan medium-term aims - where we want Neath Port Talbot to be by 2027.

There are 14 aims under Well-being Objective 1, which are set out the following page, showing the link to the transformation programmes. By working collaboratively across the council each of these aims are on-track to achieve these aims by 2027.



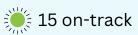
Total Number of Strategic Priorities: 12

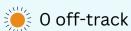


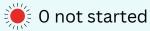


💓 0 not started

Total Number of Performance Measures: 17







2 data not available

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All children have the best start in me	Half Year		Trans	sform	ation	Prog	ramn	ne		
Corporate Plan 2024/2027 - 3 Year Aims	Progress	TP 1	TP 2	TP 3	TP 4	TP 5	TP 6	TP 7	TP 8	TP 9
More Work with our partners to ensure our youngest children are better prepared for the transition into education	On-track	\checkmark								
Progress our strategic schools improvement programme to develop our learning and teaching environments	On-track	\checkmark								
Continue roll out of educational reform to support all pupils, including Additional Learning Needs legislation and the Curriculum for Wales to raise standards across our schools for all learners	On-track	\checkmark								
Provide opportunities for all to benefit from the opportunity to learn, appreciate and shape their lives through the medium of Welsh	On-track	\checkmark								
Provide high quality support for teaching that supports the evolution of pedagogy and how to plan for progression in the Curriculum for Wales	On-track	\checkmark								
Provide high quality responsive support for leadership at all levels including induction, support staff, leadership training etc	On-track	\checkmark								
Support schools to secure an improvement in pupil attendance rates across all NPT schools	On-track	\checkmark								
Support schools to reduce the number of pupils subject to an exclusion (both fixed-term and permanent)	On-track	\checkmark								
Work with Sports Wales to ensure a smooth transition for the Physical Activity Sport Service (PASS) to the regional partnership model	On-track	\checkmark						\checkmark		
Enable our young people to develop independent, safe travel skills	On-track	\checkmark								
Expand the foster care provision, supporting children with the most complex needs	On-track		\checkmark							
Support young carers, those leaving care and minority groups to access opportunities	On-track		\checkmark							
Enhanced facilities, improved play and leisure services for children and young people	On-track	\checkmark				\checkmark				
Develop a co-ordinated approach to meet the well-being needs of our children and young people and ensure there are strong safeguarding and support procedures in place.	On-track	\checkmark	\checkmark							5

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
More children are better prepared for school.	On-track	 Families First & Flying Start Over 300 parents/carers have accessed support, including Play and Stay sessions, Family Links Nurture support sessions, and Baby Massage. Nearly all feedback from families is positive and demonstrates a positive impact in relation to the support received. An additional 208 two-year-olds have accessed Flying Start funded childcare, with 69 of these places being offered through the expansion element of the programme. 1252 children have been approved and are able to access the Childcare Offer for Wales in NPT. 28 parents accessed Elkan Training 'Let's Talk with your Baby' courses, 61 childcare professionals accessed 'Talks with Me' training; and 72 Speech Language and Communication targeted referrals received from a range of professionals, this is on a par with the equivalent period during 2023/2024. All Flying Start settings are moving towards implementing the use of the Early Years Passport during the academic year. 	TP 1	Education, Skills & Well-being
We will have increased the number of 21st Century learning and teaching environments	On-track	 NPT Sustainable Communities for Learning received Welsh Government approval for: The Strategic Outline Plan in August 2024; and Llangatwg Comprehensive's new build Strategic Outline Case in September 2024. 		

Strategic	Half Year	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation	Scrutiny
Priorities	Progress		Programme	Committee
Education reforms related to the curriculum and support for pupils with Additional Learning Needs are embedded and these changes will raise standards across our education system	On-track	 We have developed a vision for curriculum in NPT and continued to support schools to develop their curriculum in line with the local authority's vision, and interpretation of the principles of the Curriculum for Wales. Headteachers value the way the local authority supports clusters of schools to engage in discussions about curriculum design and progression and we are continuing to provide schools with a range of professional learning, including for governors. Education Support Officers are a valued support to headteachers to discuss curriculum approaches and welcome that officers are research-informed and allow each headteacher to plan their own approach. Since its implementation, 559 children have been discussed at an Early Years Multi Agency Panel and all have been provided with a level of support. 147 of those discussed have also been provided with a local authority maintained individual development plans. To date, there has been no appeal lodged to the Education Tribunal Wales for pre-school children therefore highlighting that the decision making process EYMAP performs is robust and the plans produced are of high quality. Additional Learning Needs Support Service (ALNSS) officers have supported 172 children to transition into school. They facilitate early years multi agency 'school starters' cluster planning meetings, which have been discussed. 97% of schools have also reported they found the sessions have assisted the school with planning for transition and provision. The development of council maintained Individual Development Plans within the reduced 12 week timescale remains an area for development. During the academic year 2023/2024, there were 229 pupils in the mandated cohorts that required their Statements of Special Educational Needs converted to Individual Development Plans. To date, 46% have an Individual Development Plan in place. Looking ahead to the current academic year 2024/2025, it has been identified that there are 496 pupils	TP 1	Education, Skills & Well-being

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Education reforms related to the curriculum and support for pupils with Additional Learning Needs are embedded	On-track	 Performance indicators for the Additional Learning Needs Support Service for the period 1st January 2024 – 18th September 2024 highlights that where there were no 'exceptions', 100% of Individual Development Plans were produced within the statutory timescale. However, with exceptions, 25.68% of Individual Development Plans were prepared within the specified 12 week timescale, which is a significant increase from the 1.82% of Individual Development Plans that were prepared at the end of the January – September 2023 reporting period. 		
and these changes will raise standards across our education system, continuted		• Headteachers value the way the local authority supports clusters of schools to engage in discussions about curriculum design and progression and we are continuing to provide schools with a range of professional learning, including for governors. Education Support Officers are a valued support to headteachers to discuss curriculum approaches and welcome that officers are research-informed and allow each headteacher to plan their own approach.	TP 1	Education, Skills & Well-being
Attendance across all school settings will have improved.		• The work of council officers and schools was praised recently following an extended Local Authority Link Inspector visit by Estyn. Whilst pupil attendance recovery rates is increasing year on year the recovery rate at NPT is not accelerating at the same rate as a number of other councils across Wales.		
nave improved.	On-track	• Families First and Early Help services have supported children and young people with low school attendance through addressing issues that impact on their ability to attend school, particularly in relation to emotional wellbeing. Our Community Counsellor offers counselling and therapy to children and young people to engage or re-engage in education, working closely with schools, the family and other agencies who are supporting the child. Parenting services are working with parentings in in groups and on a 1:1 basis to provide advice and guidance on building routines, boundaries and relationships, which, in turn, supports children with their school attendance.		

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
The number of children and young people excluded from school will have reduced.	On-track	The number of permanent exclusions across NPT schools has successfully fallen over the past two years.		
More pupils are educated in Welsh medium schools and more learners, families and carers are able to engage and benefit from the medium of Welsh;	On-track	 Welsh and Bilingual childcare spaces have increased to 287 spaces over 11 childcare providers, with 134 placements available for Flying Start childcare. A promotional campaign is under development in line with WESP to showcase Welsh Medium opportunities for families, children and young people, including website development and promotional videos detailing the benefits of bilingualism, and the broad range of childcare, schools and family support services available within NPT. Additional Welsh or bilingual settings are due to open within 2024/25: Canolfan Plant Gerddi Victoria – Neath Central (Tender about to be released) Relocation and increase in registered numbers for Cylch Blaendulais - new build due to complete July 2025. Cylch Trebannws – YGG Trebannws opened in September 2024. Discussions are on-going with the existing provider at Aberavon ICC to reintroduce Welsh medium provision within their setting from September 2024. Gofal Plant Tregeles is exploring use of a larger space within Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tregeles to support increasing registered spaces. An additional space for childcare is being explored in Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Ystalyfera. The space will be made CIW compliant, before identifying a suitable Welsh language provider. 	TP 1	Education, Skills & Well-being

Strategic	Half Year	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation	Scrutiny
Priorities	Progress		Programme	Committee
More pupils are educated in Welsh medium schools and more learners, families and carers are able to engage and benefit from the medium of Welsh; continued	On-track	 Tregeles, Pontardawe, Ystalyfera and Rhosafan Ti a Fi sessions are successful with good engagement and parents/carers are building links with the schools and childcare providers. The Early Years Flying Start Transition Officer has been attending groups from September and discussed transition into childcare with families, offering support where needed. Childcare settings are working to improve their offer of the Welsh language through an award based Welsh Language quality assurance scheme the "Welsh in Childcare Award", which includes support, access to training and drop-in Welsh language acquisition sessions. The change in categories may mean over time a move from category 1 English language settings to category 2 English / Welsh language settings. Other activities are delivered to increase the take up of Welsh childcare and Welsh medium school places: Song & Rhyme sessions for early year's families. Early Years and Flying Start Welsh Fun Day held on 15th September 2024, promoted Welsh language childcare and Welsh language in the early years and beyond. Welsh medium staff from the Flying Start team attending stay and play to carry out Welsh song & rhyme sessions. Promoting the benefits of bilingualism via social media platforms with the support of the NPT Family. Parent Nurture and Talking Teens parenting groups are delivered within Welsh medium schools, encouraging parents to engage and communicate with the school setting. 	TP 1	Education, Skills & Well-being

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Home to school transport is remodelled with an emphasis on helping young people to develop independent, safe travel skills;	Off-track	Routes were retendered but unfortunately the exercise did not return the desired savings and has instead resulted in an overall increase in the cost of these routes. Work is ongoing to review the work undertaken to date and agree the next steps and strategies needed to attain and re-profile the essential savings required.		
All young people will progress to work, further education or training at the end of their statutory education;	On-track	Through our Families First programme we fund NPT Youth Service to deliver School and Transition Project aimed at those most at risk of becoming NEET. The project supports pupils in Year 11 through a combination of group work and one to one support within schools, and projects in the local community. The aim of the project is to prepare and support young people into a positive post-16 destination, such as college, work-based learning etc. Examples of the interventions include classroom support, home visits, partnership work with the education welfare officers, teachers, Careers Wales, and work-based learning providers.	TP 1	Education, Skills & Well-being
All young people leaving care will have access to sustainable and appropriate accommodation;	On-track	 Bringing Supported Lodgings Service Inhouse (Family based model of supported accommodation) - The business case to bring the Supported Lodgings Service "in-house" completed and approved by the Children's Services Management Group in June 2024. Au undertaken with Llamau with regards to a review of the service being undertaken. This proposal is currently out for consultation. Care Leavers Project - We have worked closely with commissioning to identify a suitable home for care leavers 18 years of age and above. This will support them and help care leaver onto independent living. Projected date for opening the provision is December 202 		

There will be a wider range of foster carer placements of the property of the	Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Available which will include opportunities for paid carers to support children with the most complex needs;Development of Foster Plus Step Down Carers - Since the commencement of the project earlier this year, as of Sept 2024, two step down carers are currently being assessed. Assessments have commenced and are on track to be completed this Autumn. The increase in our recruitment both in the community and via our social media presence has continued to increase general interest in fostering. This has resulted in two new mainstream fostering households being approved at fostering panel, with a further eight assessments being actively progressed.Social 	wider range of foster carer placements available which will include opportunities for paid carers to support children with the most	On-track	 senior management for agreement and is due to be presented to Members imminently. Consideration is being given to whether we want to build a 3 or 4 bed home, cost savings will vary dependent on this decision. Development of Foster Plus Step Down Carers - Since the commencement of the project earlier this year, as of Sept 2024, two step down carers are currently being assessed. Assessments have commenced and are on track to be completed this Autumn. The increase in our recruitment both in the community and via our social media presence has continued to increase general interest in fostering. This has resulted in two new mainstream fostering households being approved at fostering panel, with a further eight assessments being actively progressed. During Sept 2024, we have also seen the numbers of young people placed in residential care reduce in number by two, with the two young people being rehabilitated home to the care of their parents with support plans in place. Further discussions took place with partner Agencies to promote Foster Plus in May 2024. Foster Care Fortnight in May 2024 provided further opportunities for media campaigns. Launch of the Business Event in May 2024 promoted partnership working which has raised the profile of fostering. Services for Children with Disabilities - The Business Case was completed and approved by the Children's Services Management Group in June 2024. This project will be considered in 	TP 2	Services, Housing & Community

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Young people identified as needing support to transition to adulthood will be supported appropriately.	On-track	 Local and Regional Workstreams - Active workstreams both regionally and locally looking at scoping transitional pathways. A set of principles have been agreed in relation to transition with clearer processes. Review of Supported Accommodations - There is currently a working group between Children's Services, Adults Services, Housing and Commissioning reviewing all supported housing provisions for young people in the NPT. 	TP 2	Social Services, Housing &
All children and young people will be safeguarded effectively.	On-track	Risk Outside the Home - Currently in the process of revising its response to Risk Outside the Home, from prevention through to high risk cases Family Support Services - Review of Family Support Services to consider the current service demands and gaps in services. Review will consider efficiencies and how we can most appropriately and effectively meet the needs of our families, in order to safeguard Children and Young People. We will continue to invest in early intervention and prevention, to ensure we are supporting families at the right time and preventing cases from escalating into more costly packages of care.		Community Safety

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Performance Measures	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	2023/ 2024	2024/ 2025	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
£350k savings on home to school transport in 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 (£750k in total);	Off-track	Medium Term Financial Plan saving target of £350k which was to be achieved by a retendering exercise. £4.5m worth of routes were retendered but unfortunately the exercise did not return the desired savings and has instead resulted in an overall increase in the cost of these routes to the value of £260k for the period September 2024 to March 2025.	N/A	Data not yet available		
Deliver a new school for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhosafan by end 2026. We will also deliver the actions set out in our Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP);	On-track	Rhosafan is on track for being delivered in 2026. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan targets are reported annually to Members in a separate report, in the autumn term.	N/A	Data not yet available	TP 1	Education, Skills & Well-being
Progress proposals to build additional capacity to support young people with complex needs; develop a skills based vocational skills provision; further progress the proposal to build a new English medium primary school in the Swansea Valley; progress a replacement facility for Llangatwg Comprehensive School; progress a replacement for Tywyn Primary School, incorporating a 48 place facility for young people with severe learning difficulties; further develop proposals for a new Welsh medium primary school in the east of the county borough; progress proposals to develop a St Joseph's 7-18 Middle School;	On-track	These projects are part of a 9 year rolling programme, we have recently received Outline Business Case funding approval from Welsh Government for Llangatwg Comprehensive and the Vocational Centre.	N/A	N/A		

Performance Measures		2023/2024	2024/2025	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Increase attendance level over the next 3 years	On-track	Primary - 90.97% Secondary - 87.61% 2023/2024 academic year	2024/2025 academic year data not yet available		
Reduce exclusions levels	On-track	Fixed - 717 Permanent - 37 2023/2024 academic year	2024/2025 academic year data not yet available		
Education Support Officers will monitor schools through regular evaluation processes and support visits, these visits are logged and reviewed	On-track	N/A	Completed	TP 1	Education, Skills & Well-being
% year 11 leavers who are NEET	Data not available	1.3%	Not available until April 2025		
Percentage of care leavers provided with appropriate accommodation	On-track	93%	94.1%		
Percentage of young adults who have transitioned appropriately	On-track	100%	100%		
Number of children in residential care	On-track	20	17		Social
Number of children who are in the care of Neath Port Talbot Council	On-track	249	247	TP 2	Services, Housing & Community
Number of children stepped down to professional foster carers from residential care	On-track	0	To follow		Safety
Number of professional foster carers recruited	On-track	0	0		

Performance Measures	Half Year Progress	2023/2024	2024/2025	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Number of mainstream foster carers recruited	On-track	1	3		
Number of children with a disability who have received residential respite	On-track	34	32	TP 2	Social Services, Housing &
Number of children deregistered from the Child Protection register	On-track	109	31	11 2	Community Safety
Number of children re-registered within 1 year	On-track	0	1		

Our community, whilst facing challenges, is also also thriving and sustainable. Investment has been made into our physical infrastructure through both UK and Welsh government funding. This funding has also enabled a significant number of projects to take place which have aided our residents of all ages. Investment has been made to strengthen both the Housing Strategy and Housing Options teams. The teams play a pivotal role in supporting the delivery of the council's Housing and Homelessness Strategy. In addition, invest to save projects have been financed to allow us to support our most vulnerable and aging adults to ensure services are accessible and inclusive.

During the first quarter of 2024/2025 we rolled out the 24/7 mobile response service designed to enhance the support available to users of our Lifeline service. The introduction of the mobile response service aims to ensure people can get the right help quickly when needed, particularly in addressing non-medical emergencies. By addressing urgent situations at home, this service enhances safety and security, and supports continued independence for people at home.

Mobile Response Highlights (May - September 2024)

 call outs **157** falls responded to calls escalated (6%) 86 no responses attended other non-medical emergencies

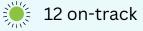
Response Times

- **71%** 45 mins or under
- 96% 46-60 mins
- **40 mins** average response
- 70 mins longest response
- 4 mins fastest response





Total Number of Strategic Priorities: 12

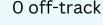


0 off-track

0 not started

Total Number of Performance Measures: 25





📜 1 not started

to be delivered.

Each of the strategic priorities are woven into our Corporate Plan medium-term aims - where we want Neath Port Talbot to be by 2027. There are 10 aims under Well-being Objective 2, which are set out the following page, showing the link to the transformation programmes. There are two aims which do not feature within the transformation programmes, and update on these are provided below the table. We are on-track to achieve these aims by 2027.

There are 12 strategic priorities covering the well-being objective from supporting the unique needs of people with disabilities and complex to further developing our Active Travel network. 12 of 12 strategic priorities are on-track

Well-being Objective 2 All communities are thriving and sustainable

All communities are thriving and sustainable	Half Year	Transformation Programme			
Corporate Plan 2024/2027 - 3 Year Aims	Progress	TP1 TP2 TP3 TP4 TP5 TP5 TP5 TP7			
Work to ensure residents have access to high quality sustainable housing and prevent homelessness;	On-track	\checkmark			
Support our communities who are at risk, or living in poverty	On-track	*Update provided below			
Improve the range and quality of informal and formal support for elderly and vulnerable residents, including unpaid carers;	On-track	\checkmark			
Ensure there is a wide range of community services for residents with disabilities and complex needs;	On-track	\checkmark			
Ensure that we support our communities to develop and give residents a voice to be involved in community life and decision making;	On-track	\checkmark			
Further develop our valleys, villages and towns and progress our regeneration vision linked to funding and investment opportunities;	On-track	\checkmark			
Support the development of community groups, community hubs and access to volunteering opportunities	On-track	\checkmark			
Secure funding to further develop our access to walking and cycling routes as part of our active travel network;	On-track	\checkmark			
Reduce carbon outputs and meet statutory recycling and waste targets.	On-track	\checkmark			
Effectively manage drainage networks, surface water and ordinary watercourses. Protect property from flooding by constructing new defences and maintaining existing defences. Promote wider catchment approaches to managing flood risk, including cross border and multi-agency working.	On-track	\checkmark			

*Cost of living - Good progress continued to be made in respect of the LIFT database (targeted benefits campaigns), most notably in relation to increasing the uptake of Pension Credit and promoting the Childcare Offer for Wales. A Cost of Living Update Report was presented to Corporate Directors Group (Sep 2024), reflecting on the drivers of the crisis and the impacts to council and partners services, while highlighting some of the work being done to tackle poverty in NPT.

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
We will have strengthened our partnerships with housing developers and those arrangements are delivering more quality, affordable and low carbon housing	On-track	The Housing Strategy Team is now established and includes a number of Strategic and Project officers, this will enable resources to be aligned with key strategic priorities. A current example of us delivering low carbon affordable housing is an established development with Pobl, at Pearson Way, Neath. A local developer is using Hemp building material with the project delivering a number of low carbon homes built from locally sourced, natural materials. A recent site visit with the developer, Pobl and local members has taken place and positive discussions held. Phase 1 of the development is due for completion November 2026, and a further phase is under discussion.		Social Services,
More people are prevented from becoming homeless and fewer people are living in emergency and temporary accommodation;	On-track	The restructure of the Housing Options Service was implemented on the 8th August 2024. The majority of posts are now filled with the remainder in the process of recruitment. Following a period of shadowing and training the additional prevention staff will implement processes to widen the scope of their prevention work by taking a proactive and non- reactive approach to prevention work. They will develop on existing relationships with landlords, both social and private, to ensure prevention work starts at the earliest possible opportunity. The additional resource in Temporary Accommodation (TA) will also contribute to reducing the time a resident spends in TA. They will now have the capacity to support residents on a much more intensive level and will work alongside additional posts such as the Move-on Officer to ensure the right move is being considered at the right time. This, along with the resettlement support provided by the Rapid Rehousing Workers, will also reduce the likelihood of a repeat presentation in the future.	TP 3	Housing & Community Safety

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Empty properties have been brought back into use through the Empty Property Grant, helping to address the demand for housing.	On-track	The Empty Property Grant Scheme has been very popular, there has been 166 applications, with 43 applications formally approved, 38 currently being processed and 10 have been completed on site. To date the amount of grant that has been awarded is £184,460.	TP 3	
More people feel that they are involved in decision making and are empowered to develop local solutions that address issues that affect them locally;	On-track	Commencement of Afan Valley Place based project established in partnership with Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Services aiming to empower and develop local solutions for the community.	TP 4	Social Services, Housing & Community
There is a wider range of community services able to support the unique needs of people with disabilities and complex needs which draw on a range of community resources and which enables them to enjoy and contribute to community life;	On-track	Aling up of Fy Mywed Pilot Project providing an additional fixed term strengths sed 1:1 support to individuals to enable them to build capacity and resilience and al confident to enjoy and contribute in their local community. The prove capacity within B'spoked to meet expected future demand. This will include ew Prevention and Early Intervention service pathway to aid individuals' ogression, increasing their independence, and maximising number of people who in benefit from the service. Total works project in place to improve the environment to meet service needs d increase space and therefore numbers of individuals able to attend B'spoked.		Safety

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
The needs of adults of working age with accommodation, care and support needs are being met in more appropriate ways through a wider range of housing and housing support services.	On-track	TI Commencement of Afan Valley Place based Project commenced in partnership with NPTCVS aiming to empower and develop local solutions for the community.		Social Services, Housing & Community
Partnership relationships between the council and the third sector are benefitting from a refreshed partnership agreement.	On-track			Safety
Our public realm will be cleaner and better cared for through improvements delivered through our Clean Up and Green Up programme;	On-track	Out of a total of £4.247m capital programme, £1.5m was designated for a 'Clean up and Green up' initiative. Programme largely delivered: The purchase of new vehicles including JCB Pot-Hole Pro Machine and sweeping vehicles, playground improvements, works to fences and paths in parks, additional tree maintenance, improved bus shelters, improvements to public toilets. Items still to be delivered and deadlines agreed for further work i.e. 40 bus shelters and Aberavon Seafront playground.	TP 5	Environment, Regeneration &
A growing number of places will be seeing regeneration that has been developed with local people and stakeholders;		Workshops taken place for towns prior to the finalised Place Plans being presented to Council in the next few months. Consultations took place on the Aberavon Seafront Masterplan, and public drop-in sessions were held during October, along with an online survey. Results from consultation events will be analysed and presented before a final Masterplan is prepared by 11th December 2024.		Streetscene Services

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
The regeneration ambitions for the county borough as a whole will be set out with supporting visions of how towns, valleys and villages will be regenerated. This will be clearly linked to funding and investment opportunities;	On-track	Working with consultants to deliver a holistic borough wide Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy, to reflect the current economic circumstances and opportunities, such as the TATA Transition, Freeports and FLOW initiatives. Consultation process has started, and it is proposed to bring the final draft to Cabinet in the New Year.		Environment, Regeneration & Streetscene Services
The county borough will be benefiting from better digital connectivity and fewer people will be digitally excluded;	On-track	 Connectivity - 99% of residents can now access superfast speeds of 30Mb/s+, 75% of residents can access ultrafast speeds of 300Mb/s+. NPT Broadband Engagement officer, has regular engagement with the broadband operators. Leaflets and posters also distributed to capture those that are not already online. Digital Exclusion - Between October 2023 and 2024 - supported just under 500 older and/or disabled adults (including carers) and 47 young people to get on line safely and develop digital skills. 179 visitors (individuals, staff and carers) to the Digital Solutions Suite at Cimla where people experience and explore how mainstream technology can support independent living at home. Development is in progress of a virtual tour of the digital solutions suite at Cimla, delivery period extended from end December 2024 to end February 2025. Digital Inclusion: Currently holding 13 Digital Inclusion drop in sessions across NPT. Face to face Digital Inclusion sessions offered and support on Digital Devices/Kit. Digital Inclusion Ambassador has engaged with 21 additional community groups/events since April 2024 and engaged/ informed over 1500 people within them. 	TP 5	Community, Finance and Strategic Leadership

Strategic	Half Year	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation	Scrutiny
Priorities	Progress		Programme	Committee
Secure funding to further develop, improve and maintain the active travel and rights of way network to create high quality sustainable infrastructure which will be promoted to encourage people to walk and cycle regularly;	On-track	 Active travel - development and improvement We received funding through the Active Travel Act Fund to undertake the following works in 2024/2025: Sandfields Masterplan / Neath to Cimla route / Neath Town Centre Masterplan / Taibach to Goytre Links / A48 Link to NCN47 / Accessibility Improvements / Improvements to NCN4 Taibach / Facilities Upgrades / Active Travel Network Map Development / Monitoring and evaluation Public Rights of Way (PROW) - development and improvement Grant to undertake the following works in 2024/2025: Byway 37 (Glyncorrwg) / Sarn Helen Byway (Onllwyn) We received funding through the Wales Coast Path (WCP) Maintenance Grant to undertake the following works in 2024/2025: Footpath 119 (Port Talbot): We have created the first "linked in" route to the WCP that enables the community of Cwmavon to access this National Trail. Maintenance - The two-man Countryside Access Team continue to target necessary maintenance of the Public Rights of Way network on an annual basis as this is a statutory duty'. This involves an Annual Vegetation Clearance program during Spring/Summer with assistance from a Contractor and four Community Councils. Repair works or projects are generally completed during Autumn/Winter on a reactive basis. 	TP 5	Environment, Regeneration & Streetscene Services

Performance Measures	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	2023/2024	2024/2025 (April - Sept 2024)	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Number of new affordable housing properties funded in the year	On-track	Breakdown of 2023/2024 figure available on request	214	Data not yet available		
40% of people owed a statutory homelessness duty who are prevented from becoming homeless	On-track	N/A	61%	72%		
Number of people living in temporary accommodation	On-track	N/A	229	229		Social Services,
Length of time people are staying in temporary accommodation;	On-track	N/A	118 Days	104 Days	TP 3	Housing & Community Safety
Decrease in the number of families staying in Bed & Breakfasts;	On-track	N/A	8	6		
Decrease in the number of people staying in Bed & Breakfasts.	On-track	N/A	149	143		
Number of empty properties brought back into use via Empty Property Grant.	On-track	N/A	2	11 completions / 38 currently being processed		

Performance Measures	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	2023/2024	2024/2025 (April - Sept 2024)	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Number of adults aged 65+ per 10,000 population supported in the community (plus separate figure for care homes)	On-track	N/A	1,964 in the community; 636.67 per 10,000 - 961 in Res/nursing homes 311.53 per 10,000	1,111 In the community 360.15 per 10,000 - 651 in Res /nursing Homes 211.03 per 10,000		
% of people with reduced / no care package following reablement	On-track	N/A	19% with a reduced POC No further package – 67.8%	12.44% with a reduced POC No further package – 77.51%	TP 4	Social Services, Housing & Community
Number of working age adults with accommodation, care and support needs moved back into county	Not started	N/A	Data not yet available	Data not yet available		Safety
Number of working age adults with accommodation, care and support needs living in their own homes with their own tenancies.	On-track	N/A	579	Data not yet available		

Performance Measures	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	2023/2024	2024/2025 (April - Sept 2024)	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Supporting carers: Number of unpaid carers assessments undertaken	On-track	Significant work has been undertaken to review the process and delivery of carers assessment. This has led to a change in approach, focussed on strengthening the triage, proportionality and timeliness of our response, with the introduction of two additional WTE Carers Development Officers coming into post on 1st July 2024 ensuring all three geographic networks have a dedicated staff member to support carers assessments. Currently all individuals awaiting assessment have been triaged and assessments are planned where appropriate. There has been a spike in Quarter 2, as the waiting list was worked through.	304	248	TP 4	Social Services, Housing & Community Safety
Number of people accessing respite and average days per year	On-track	N/A	278 clients 30.01 days average	251 clients 11.47 days average		

Performance Measures	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	2023/2024	2024/2025 (April - Sept 2024)	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Number of volunteers and hours provided	On-track	N/A	Hours: 2279	Hours: 1407 (April-June 2024) Volunteers: 49		
Number of people supported by Prevention and Early Intervention services;	On-track	N/A	3192	2964		
Number of people who are digitally enabled to remain independent at home (Digital Enablement)	On-track	Exceeding project progress	34 (October - March 2024)	284		Social Services, Housing & Community Safety
Number of people supported to remain at home following a non- critical emergency (Mobile Response Service)	On-track	N/A	No baseline data available yet	235	TP 4	
Number of new housing units developed to meet the needs of people with accommodation, care and support needs	On-track	N/A	6 units (3 schemes)	3 (April - September 2024)		
Completed and signed off our review of our partnership agreement with the third sector.	On-track	Good progress has been made in reviewing the Compact between the council and the Voluntary and Community Sector. The review has been undertaken in collaboration with the 3rd sector and a draft revised Compact has been developed.	N/A	N/A		Community, Finance & Strategic Leadership

Performance Measures	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	2023/ 2024	2024/ 2025 (April - Sept 2024)	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Place Plans approved, adopted and in delivery as part of the Regeneration Programme;	On-track	 Port Talbot, Neath & Pontardawe -The Urbanists led on workshops, which took place with key internal stakeholders, local members, wider businesses & residential groups. Summaries were received and discussed internally on the 9th July. Ystalyfera & Briton Ferry - The Urbanists are due to submit amended versions of the place plans for Briton Ferry & Ystalyfera. Glynneath - A procurement exercise took place to procure a consultant to undertake a place plan for Glynneath. Four tenders were received and 'The Urbanists' won the contract. 	N/A	N/A	TP 5	Environment, Regeneration & Streetscene Services
Regeneration Strategy to be published by end 2024/2025, with priorities reflected in 2025/2026 & 2026/2027 Corporate Plan;	On-track	First draft to go to Cabinet early in the New Year.	N/A	N/A		
Funding secured to further develop the Active Travel network;	On-track	See strategic priority above on Active Travel network.	N/A	N/A		

Performance Measures	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	2023/ 2024	2024/ 2025 (April - Sept 2024)	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Deliver £750,000 investment per year for Catch up, Clean up for the neighbourhood management budget;	On-track	N/A	N/A	N/A	TP 5	Environment, Regeneration & Streetscene
% of people satisfied with the local area as a place to live	On-track	Data obtained from Stats Wales - 80% (2021/2022)	Data not available	Data not available		Services
Increase the number of premises across Neath Port Talbot that are able to obtain high-speed fibre broadband	On-track	N/A	99%	Data not available		Community, Finance & Strategic Leadership

Improving and managing our local environment, culture and visitor economy has been further boosted as a result of financial investment from UK Government and Welsh Government funding. Promotion of the Dramatic Heart of Wales campaign has reach over 8 million people, raising the profile of county borough as a destination for visitors and overnight stays.

Improving and managing our local environment, culture and visitor economy has been further boosted as a result of financial investment from UK Government and Welsh Government funding. The impact of this investment can already be seen as work for begins on developments across Neath Port Talbot, including Gnoll Country Park, Aberavon Seafront and Pontardawe Arts Centre.

As part of our commitment to climate change and nature emergency officers across the council are being engaged to gather views around decarbonisation activities and where we can work smarter to make an impact. The establishment of the Decarbonisation, Energy & Climate Change team will drive forward the changes needed to reduce carbon emissions in Neath Port Talbot with the aim of becoming a Net Zero council.

There are 13 strategic priorities covering Well-being Objective 3 with 11 on track. Whilst one of the priorities has not yet started this is in relation to the collection of data sets, our heritage, sport and culture offer contributes to the economy and wellbeing across the county borough.

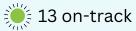


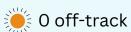


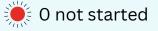
A combined total cost saving of has been achieved as a result of energy management and contract renewal.



Total Number of Strategic Priorities: 13



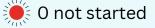




Total Number of Performance Measures: 20

20 on-track

0 off-track



Corporate Plan 2024/2027 - 3 Year Aims

Each of the strategic priorities cross-cut against out Corporate Plan medium-term aims - where we want Neath Port Talbot to be by 2027.

There are 8 aims under Well-being Objective 3, which are set out in the table below, showing the link to the transformation programmes. We are on-track to achieve these aims by 2027.

tink to the transformation programmes. We are on track to achieve these arms by 2027.		Transformation Programme							
Corporate Plan 2024/2027 - 3 Year Aims			TP 2	TP 3	TP 4	TP 5	TP 6	TP 7) -
Implement our culture, leisure and heritage strategies alongside our destination management plan and raise the profile of NPT as a visitor destination;	On-track							\checkmark	
Have a strong approach to high quality leisure and recreation activities;	On-track								
Work with communities and partners to engender a greater sense of stewardship, encouraging them to take a more active role in the ongoing management and improvement of their local environment;	On-track						\checkmark		
Embed the history of the local environment, heritage and nature into the curriculum and ensure all schools have access to environmental and outdoor learning opportunities;	On-track								
Strengthen our approach to decarbonisation of fleet and assets, alongside a robust policy and supporting strategies to respond to climate change and nature emergency, highlighting where we have a part to play;	On-track						\checkmark		
Secure funding to further develop and promote our active travel network and improved public rights of way to encourage more people to walk and cycle	On-track				•	\checkmark			
Work to help nature recover and to improve the quality of and access to our natural environment.	On-track						•	\checkmark	
Encourage people to speak, and enjoy the Welsh language.	On-track	\checkmark							

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress		Scrutiny Committee
The council will have reduced its carbon footprint through the decarbonisation of its vehicle fleet, property assets and through behaviour change;	On-track	 Energy Saving The cost savings achieved through energy management and optimisation actions across the highest energy using sites within the council portfolio during 2023/24 totalled £457k. Cost savings achieved through the centralised energy contract for the energy price renewals on 1st April 2024 will total £1,252k for 2024/2025. Investigated electricity metering issue at YGG GCG resulted in saving the school £18,000. Identified gas meter discrepancy at YG Ystalyfera which resulted in a rebate of approximately £55,000 refunded to the school. Investigated billing error at the Gnoll Country Park - Visitor Centre resulting in the removal of £74,000 of electricity billing costs. Council Buildings & Fleet In conjunction with Corporate Facilities completed LED lighting upgrade projects at the Quays, SRC and Neath Civic Centre. Increased gas automatic meter reading provision across the operational buildings to 98. Completed the signing of the Energy Sparks contract and will implement this across the schools building portfolio in 2 tranches, first commencing September and second in Jan/Feb 2025. Undertaken controls and BMS reviews/surveys across the highest using buildings within the operational portfolio will be reengaging the sites prior to the commencement of the heating season. Electric vehicles purchased in place of diesel vehicles to help reduce carbon footprint. Plan is to look at hydrogen powered vehicles as well Work is still on going for the recycling fleet procurement and option will be considered for EV depending on budget. 	TP 6	Environment, Regeneration & Streetscene Services

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee	
The council will have reduced its carbon footprint through the decarbonisation of its vehicle fleet, property assets and through behaviour change continued		 Funding Opportunities Wrote net zero energy/carbon design brief, part of Education's Skills Centre & Vocational Hub at Velindre £9M funding bid to Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning funding stream. Secured £282k Sports Wales funding and progressed LED lighting upgrade projects within the following Celtic Leisure buildings, Neath Sports Centre, Pontardawe Leisure Centre and Vale of Neath Leisure Centre. Submitted second energy/carbon reduction £214k funding bid to Sports Wales for energy/carbon reduction projects throughout the Celtic Leisure Trust portfolio. 	TP 6		
We will have published a strengthened policy and supporting strategies to respond to climate change;	On-track	 The foundation for this activity is fed by the work being undertaken by the Carbon Trust and policies will be developed later in 2024. Currently supporting the work of the NPT Public Services Board sub group on climate change and nature emergency and working with Public Health Wales on shaping places to feed into these new strategies. Undertaking heat pump feasibility studies on schools with oil fired boilers. Five schools have been considered which included: Crynallt Infants; YGG Cwmllynfell; YGG Trebannws; Tywyn Yr Hydd; and YGG Pontardawe. Out of those, Crynallt Infants or YGG Cwmllynfell are the best options to consider for the grant. 		Community, Finance & Strategic Leadership	

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April Contombox 2021 Summary of Drodroco		Scrutiny Committee
We will have extended our work to help nature recover and the quality of and access to the natural environment will have improved, guided by our biodiversity action plan;	On-track	 Since April 2024, the Countryside and Wildlife Team has: Actively managed over 35 sites for nature across the county, as well as 67 NPT Bee Friendly sites in conjunction with Streetcare Continued to expand the NPT Bee Friendly scheme, adding an additional 7 Sites to the scheme for this year or next, including a number of schools. Multiple grant-funded projects are taking place all helping nature to recover and engage local people including (but not limited to); Local Places for Nature / Lost Peatlands / Green Infrastructure projects / Coastal Connections Delivered circa 25 events engaging people with nature, with many more planned for the summer months (<u>listed here</u>) Reviews of NPTC-owned buildings and parks underway to determine opportunities for nature recovery projects. 	TP 6	Environment, Regeneration & Streetscene
More people in our community and wider partners have developed a greater sense of stewardship, actively working to manage and improve their local environment;	On-track	 In partnership with the Carbon Trust a series of focussed workshops took place to obtain people's views around decarbonisation activities. The aim of these workshops was to discuss carbon reduction across all areas of the council to better understand what actions have already been implemented and planned, where the gaps exist and what the priority initiatives should be moving forwards, with an idea of cost and funding sources for each action. Carbon Trust created a staff travel survey (online) for all directly employed council staff. This involved 4,580 staff (excluding school staff), 522 staff responded to the survey. Response rate was 11.39%. 		Services

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - Soptombor 2024 Summary of Brodrocc		Scrutiny Committee
Greater numbers of households and businesses will be participating in our recycling and reuse programmes.	On-track	 Recycling Officer delivering the following are some of works/activities organised to promote recycling and reuse: Running Recycle4NPT social media account with regular messages posted offering collection advice, how to recycle correctly etc. Visiting schools and scout groups, with recycling promotion (packs); Delivering a programme of school visits with the Council's first electric recycling vehicle 'TREV' (The Recycling Electric Vehicle) together with Green Bob recycling mascot; Running school visits to the Transfer Station in Crymlyn Burrows to see the processing of recycling in operation, with engaging activities to and promote recycling (visits currently on hold during site construction work); Public Consultation on potential service changes to help increase recycling performance in Neath Port Talbot has been undertaken and been reported to Cabinet 	TP 6	Environment, Regeneration & Streetscene Services
The Dramatic Heart of Wales campaign will have raised the profile of Neath Port Talbot as a destination for visitors and more people will be staying overnight to enjoy what our area has to offer.	On-track	 UK Government's Shared Prosperity Funded Dramatic Heart of Wales visitor focused campaign is proceeding at pace. Since the launch in August 2023 up to the end of September 2024 the following outputs have been achieved. 8.9 million people reached through campaign activity (against a target of 1 million in total) 265 tourism businesses/ stakeholders engaged in campaign activity. 	TP 7	Education, Skills & Well-being

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
We will have reset our strategic approach to leisure and recreation ensuring high quality leisure and recreational activities for our residents.	On-track	This priority has been completed following the decision taken to contract with Celtic Leisure for a further 5 years.		
Our heritage, sport and culture offer will be making an increased contribution to economic growth and well-being across the county borough.	On-track	This requires some form of data set / study which is yet to be commissioned.		
We will have formed a new strategic partnership involving community and wider stakeholders to deliver our culture and heritage objectives. This partnership will be securing additional investment to extend our work to conserve and promote heritage and culture;	On-track	Heritage partnership and strategic board now formed and first meetings completed. Draft Terms of Reference being prepared for a 'compact'. Chair agreed, nominations form PSB coming through and a first meeting scheduled for February 2025	TP 7	Education, Skills & Well-being
We will have established new masterplans for Aberavon Seafront and the Afan Valley and will be working with partners to deliver those plans;	On-track	 Aberavon Seafront masterplan well advanced and scheduled for Cabinet in January. Afan Valley masterplan has stalled and being reviewed following a recent meeting with NRW. 		

Well-being Objective 3 Our local environment, culture & heritage can be enjoyed by future generations

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Pontardawe Arts Centre will be home to a new cinema complex and this will have strengthened the role of the Centre as an important community hub;	On-track	Budget agreed, additional grant funding achieved and work commenced on site. Café due to be completed by the autumn with the cinema due to open in the spring.		
We will have developed a heritage corridor through the Vale of Neath and refurbished the Princess Royal Theatre and surrounding public realm in Port Talbot – these developments are being enjoyed by local people but also helping to grow our local economy, particularly the visitor economy.	On-track	 Gnoll Country Park project site works due to commence and due for completion in Summer 2025. Pontneddfechan works delayed due to ongoing negotiations relating to land acquisition. This is not currently affecting the deliverability of the project. Princess Royal works on-track to commence in February 2025. 	TP 7	Education, Skills & Well-being
We will complete and publish a feasibility study to replace Pontardawe Swimming Pool	On-track	Procurement commenced for a partner to deliver the feasibility report. Report due for completion in March 2025.		

Well-being Objective 3

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

Performance Measures	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	2023/ 2024	2024/ 2025 (April - Sept 2024)	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee	
New DARE strategy published end 2024/2025	On-track	Net Zero strategy and action plan being prepared by Carbon Trust and due in Nov/Dec 2024. This will be an addendum and form part of the new DARE strategy. Updated strategy due at end of 2024/2025	N/A	N/A		Community, Finance & Strategic Leadership	
Establish a Decarbonisation team within Neath Port Talbot Council by December 2024	On-track	Decarbonisation Strategy Manager in post (April 2024) Communications & Engagement Business Partner (July 2024) Two posts to be filled, aim to have these in post early 2025.	N/A	N/A			
Establish our carbon baseline and set net zero 2030 implementation plan by March 2025.	On-track	The carbon footprint in 2022/2023 was 35,537tCO2e.	30,371tCO2e	Annual Data	TP 6	Environment, Regeneration & Streetscene Services	
Make progress towards the actions set out within the Biodiversity Duty Plan.	On-track	Of the 40 actions in the BDP, progress has been made against 39 of these. These will be reported as part of the Biodiversity Delivery Plan annual report.	N/A	N/A			
% of waste reused, recycled or composted	On-track	The statutory Welsh Government target for recycling performance is currently 64%, increasing to 70% at the end of 2024/2025	67.72%	68.22%			

Well-being Objective 3

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

Performance Measures	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	2023/2024	2024/2025 (April - Sept 2024)	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Delivery of 70% of the culture strategy action plan targets;	On-track	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Number of overnight stays in Neath Port Talbot;	On-track	Data is reported annually. Likely to decrease in 2024 as a result of loss of occupancy due to TATA transition.	395,000 (2023 calendar year)	Data to be added end 2024/2025		
Investment delivered in visitor infrastructure and product development.	On-track	£825,605 of the 2023/2024 figure includes projects to be delivered in 2024/2025.	£850,605		TP 7	Education, Skills & Well-being
Indoor leisure Business plan published by March 2025	On-track	N/A	N/A	N/A		
New partnership compact to be developed by end 2024/2025	On-track	N/A	N/A	N/A		
External grant funding attracted across the whole area (not just NPT council)	On-track	N/A	No data at present	No data at present		

Well-being Objective 3

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

Performance Measures	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	2023/2024	2024/2025 (April - Sept 2024)	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Margam Castle National Lottery Heritage Fund bid successful	On-track	Bid successful	N/A	N/A	TP 7	
Aberavon Seafront masterplan to be adopted by end of 2024	On-track	N/A	N/A	N/A	TP 7	
Pontardawe Cinema to be open by April 2025	On-track	N/A	N/A	N/A	TP 7	
Budget targets met for Pontardawe Arts Centre	On-track	Being reviewed with the impact of the building works	N/A	N/A	TP 7	
NPT Museum Feasibility complete by Dec 2024	On-track	N/A	N/A	N/A	TP 7	Education, Skills & Well-being
Achieve museum accreditation by 2027	On-track	N/A	N/A	N/A	TP 7	
Library strategy adopted by March 2025	On-track	N/A	N/A	N/A	TP 7	
Events strategy adopted by March 2025	On-track	N/A	N/A	N/A	TP 7	
Pontardawe Swimming Pool feasibility study complete	On-track	On-track for end of 2024/2025	N/A	N/A	TP 7	

Well-being Objective 4 Jobs & Skills

The range of projects being delivered as a result of UK Government and Welsh Government funding spans all four well-being objectives. The Business Anchor project, funding by Shared Prosperity fund has provided the opportunity to work closer with our local businesses, finding out what really matters to then.

With the announcement in 2023, by Tata Steel UK of their decarbonisation transition, we have worked closely with partners to help mitigate the impact across the county borough. Support to residents and local businesses will be reflected in quarter 3 reporting.

As a council we continue to work with partners to deliver Celtic Freeport, Swansea Bay City Deal and Corporate Joint Committee projects, demonstrating our commitment to regional working.

There are 11 strategic priorities covering Well-being Objective 4 with 10 on track. The one priority which is currently offtrack relates to a skills and employability strategy which has been postponed until 2025, which will also for streamlining of actions with other key developments.

Corporate Plan 2024/2027 - 3 Year Aims

Each of the strategic priorities are woven into our Corporate Plan medium-term aims - where we want Neath Port Talbot to be by 2027.

There are 9 aims under Well-being Objective 4, which are set out in the table below, showing the link to the transformation programmes. We are on-track to achieve these aims by 2027.



Between April and September 2024, the Business Growth Fund, which has been support through UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund has:

Approved **92** applications from **73** existing businesses, &

19 new start--ups

Grant offers made to the applications total

£1,173,524m

to support new investment across NPT of

£2,955,420m





Total Number of Strategic Priorities: 11

10 on-track

1 off-track

0 not started

Total Number of Performance Measures: 14

7 on-track
1 off-track
6 not started

		Transformation Programme								
Corporate Plan 2024/2027 - 3 Year Aims	Progress	TP 1	TP 2	TP 3	TP 4	TP 5	TP 6	TP 7	TP 8	TP 9
Establish the Celtic Freeport across Neath Port Talbot and Pembrokeshire, attracting investment and creating sustainable jobs across the green economy.	On-track								~	
Complete the significant programme of work via the UK Government's Levelling Up and Shared Prosperity Funds, benefiting locals and visitors alike	On-track							\checkmark	\checkmark	
Support those impacted by the decarbonisation of Tata Steel UK	On-track								\checkmark	
Take forward major development and investment opportunities and activities linked to the council's Decarbonisation and Renewable Energy Strategy with a range of partners, and developed more green opportunities	On-track						~			
Work to maximise Social Value Developed transport plans in partnership with Welsh Government and Transport for Wales to support access to work, reduce emissions and serve the needs of residents, businesses and visitors	On-track					√.	\checkmark			
Secure funding to establish a strong gateway to business support to help diversify the local economy and increase its resilience to future economic shocks by helping existing businesses to grow, establishing new enterprises, attracting new investment and delivering targeted programmes that enable local people to benefit from the employment created through new investment	On-track								~	
Maximise Social Value and Community Benefits opportunities across the council's procurement activities and with key private sector partners/investors to achieve economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits for local residents, businesses and communities	On-track								~	
Maintain a strong employability focus to support those needing help to find work, including those who are hardest to reach, this support will be accessible for all	On-track									\checkmark
Continue to strengthen partnership working to upskill those already in work or who wish to return to work; more local people will hold qualifications	On-track									\checkmark

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Working with our partners we will have fully established the Celtic Freeport, and continued the delivery of Swansea Bay City Deal projects, attracting new investment to the area, including the creation of sustainable jobs in floating off-shore wind, biofuels, high value manufacturing and the wider green economy;	On-track	 Celtic Freeport – The four founding partners prepared and submitted the Full Business Case (FBC) to Government in September, and are currently dealing with a small number of critical issues for which we have a deadline of the mid November 2024. Swansea Bay City Deal – Both projects being led by NPT are on track to deliver. Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth projects and all are in delivery, with the exception of the Advanced Manufacturing and Production facility and associated skills academy. Homes as Power Stations – project is currently exceeding the benefits it is modelled to achieve at this stage. 	F TP 8	Environment, Regeneration &
Where funding from Welsh Government allows we will have delivered a range of transport schemes that enable better integration across different modes of transport and we will have ensured that the transport needs of the county borough are fully reflected in the regional transport plan prepared by the Corporate Joint Committee for South West Wales;	On-track	 Transport Improvements - successful in receiving funding through the Local Transport Grants to progress the designs of Neath Transport Hub and Cymmer Carriageway Improvements. Neath Transport Hub - working with a consultant to develop the design of the proposed facility and have already started to engage with landowners. Cymmer carriageway improvements - outline design for the scheme has been completed and most of the land required to construct the scheme has been secured. Public and stakeholder engagement on the proposals will be undertaken early 2025. 	IP 0	Streetscene Services

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Where funding from Welsh Government allows we will have delivered a range of transport schemes that enable better integration across different modes of transport and we will have ensured that the transport needs of the county borough are fully reflected in the regional transport plan prepared by the Corporate Joint Committee for South West Wales; continued		 Bus Franchising - The works will be developed over the next few months. A report outlining the proposed network and progress made to date including stakeholder/public engagement and decision making will be reported to cabinet on the 13th November 2024. Regional Transport Plan (RTP) - Public and stakeholder engagement completed August 2024. Welsh Government awarded £100k in 2024/2025 for development of the RTP. 	TP 8	Environment, Regeneration & Streetscene Services
We will have delivered a range of positive outcomes across the county borough from the Shared Prosperity Programme, contributing to economic growth, the improvement of the public realm and the reduction of inequalities;	On-track	All funding has been allocated, with monitoring and claims processes in place to capture outputs / outcomes. Confirmation provided as part of the Autumn Budget that there will be a transition year for UK Shared Prosperity Fund for 2025/2026 with no details on allocations or delivery model as yet. All underspend will be returned to UK Government if not spent by 31/03/2025.		

Well-being Objective 4 Jobs & Skills

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
We will have helped to mitigate the impact of decarbonisation at Tata Steel UK Ltd through action to help people into alternative employment and to help local businesses to diversify. We will have secured governmental support to create replacement jobs in the local economy;	On-track	The Local Economic Action Plan (LEAP) was endorsed by the Tata Transition Board in May 2024. Two officers have been dedicated from NPT to lead on the revenue and the capital projects. A shortlist of capital regeneration projects will be submitted to the Tata Transition Board on 14th November. Work has commenced on developing the Short Form Delivery Plans (SFDPs) for these projects. These will be determined by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local (MHCLG). Two SFDPs approved by MHCLG for Supply Chain Transition Flexible Fund and Job Matching, Outplacement and Skills, both funds now live. These have also been endorsed by the Tata Steel Transition Board. A further SFDP around business growth is being developed. The SFDPs include suggested high-level funding allocations for capital and revenue. These funding schemes were announced by the Secretary of State for Wales on 15th August 2024.	TP 8	Environment, Regeneration &
We will be in the final phases of delivering our City Deal programmes and these will have created new jobs and infrastructure that are enabling the further green and sustainable growth of our local economy.	On-track	 Homes As Power Stations (HAPS) - The Financial Incentives Scheme first phase of projects have been approved and are in delivery. Cardiff University have been procured to carry out the technical monitoring of technologies. Supply Chain Fund is at scoping stage to be launched in Autumn 2024. Private and public sector leverage is on target Supporting Innovation & Low Carbon Growth (SILCG) – Projects are at different stages of delivery. SWITCH project is delayed due to a number of reasons including agreeing Heads of Terms and Agreement for Lease with Swansea University and ensuring the facility meets the needs of industrial decarbonisation. The Advanced Manufacturing Production Facility and Skills Centre of Excellence projects delayed due to a number of reasons including land negotiations and ensuring alignment to existing and pipeline investment on Harbourside and ensuring the facility meets the needs of industry to ensure progress is made on 		Streetscene Services

delivering these strategic projects.

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
We will have further strengthened our links with academia and the wider innovation sector. We are seeking more investment in research and development flowing from these activities and this in turn is creating more investor interest;	On-track	Secured £7.5m from Innovate UK as part of the South West Wales Net Zero Launchpad which provides funding to SME's across the region (1 of only 10 across the UK). Delivered by Net Zero Industry Wales with NPTCBC as a lead partner. In partnership with Swansea University, Cardiff University, University of South Wales from UKRI - £5m as part of the Place Based Impact Accelerator Account 'SWITCH to Net Zero Buildings' NPT is working with a wide range of academic partners and industry partners to secure a national innovation centre to support the opportunities associated with Floating Offshore Wind.	TP 8	Environment,
Town centres are demonstrating resilience and a new town centre offer is emerging which is distinctive to each place;	On-track	Town centre management team currently undertaking an exercise to collect and collate data from as many of our town centre businesses as possible. This will provide the team reciprocal intelligence via surveys and questionnaires and will improve their ability to engage with those businesses in the future. The annual Neath Food & Drink Festival was once again a great success with members of the public and traders. VIVA Port Talbot will be going to ballot in December 2024 to seek endorsement for a further 5 years as the town's BID.		Regeneration & Streetscene Services

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
We have secured funding to strengthen the delivery of activities that support businesses operating within the foundational economy and, in particular those within our valley communities including the embedding of circular economy principles	On-track	 SPF Business Anchor Project has delivered 16 Let's Talk Business events, attended by 373 businesses/residents and are followed up with fortnightly drop-in sessions. 13 drop in sessions have been held to date with a further 10 planned to the end of the project. Provided advice and support to 11 businesses looking for property in NPT. Over 70 events and activities held since the beginning of the SPF Business Anchor Project to support our foundational economy. These have included: 10 Let's Talk Starting Your Business events, 17 Let's Talk Business events, 1 Let's Talk Social Enterprise event, 11 Carbon Reduction Training events, 2 Marketing workshops, 21 Let's Talk Business Drop In Session's, 6 Floating Offshore Windfarm engagement events, 1 Passenger Transport engagement event We have provided funding to Cyfle Building Skills, to provide 20 new apprentice opportunities for NPT residents. 	TP 8	Environment, Regeneration & Streetscene Services

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
We will have started to adopt the replacement Local Development Plan and will move forward on the implementation of the Plan.	On-track	 All-Member Seminar held on 25th April 2024 and on-line stakeholder engagement session on 23rd May 2024. A three week Key Issues, Vision and Objectives (KIVO) and Growth and Spatial options (G&SO) consultation ran from 14th May to 5th June 2024. Comments have been reviewed and necessary changes made to the Preferred Strategy. Assessment of the new Candidate Sites completed. Work continues on a number of key evidence base documents. The RLDP Preferred Strategy document, Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) written and ready to take through the political reporting process, with the formal, public consultation on the Preferred Strategy scheduled for Autumn / Winter 2024. 	TP 8	Environment, Regeneration & Streetscene Services
We will have published a skills and employability strategy that is fully aligned with our economic and regeneration aspirations and be working with schools and wider partners to develop a wider range of pathways into work for all residents.	Off-track	Work on the strategy has been halted due to the changing landscape of Neath Port Talbot. It has been decided to review the draft in 2025 with a view to streamlining the actions and aligning them with work taking place in other key areas i.e. Celtic Freeport, Tata Steel, and wider Welsh Government developments.	TP 9	Education, Skills & Well-being

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
More people and more employers are participating in apprenticeship programmes;	On-track	A new Apprenticeship Coordinator, appointed in September 2024, has written and developed a six-month engagement plan. The first phase of this plan is to develop a comprehensive network or training providers, education establishments and other relevant organisations. This will enable him to effectively support businesses and any customers by establishing a collaborative network, where information and apprenticeship opportunities can be shared earlier benefiting all interested parties. Apprenticeship Provision - At the end of September 2024, we have over 46 apprentices on our programme and have profiled to start 34 by the end of the apprenticeship contract year in July 2025. We have fewer places available this year than last year due to funding allocation. Skills & Training reported a risk that due to a higher number of apprentices continuing their programme into the new contract year, this would consume a high proportion of the contract value awarded to Skills & Training. It was anticipated that new apprentice start numbers would be low for 2024/2025. Whilst numbers are lower, Skills & Training have been given some opportunity by Skills Academy Wales to exceed the allocated apprenticeship contract with Skills Academy Wales. We have received a verbal agreement to deliver Level 4 in Hairdressing (Higher Apprenticeships), Beauty qualifications (level 2 NVQ's) and develop Play work with some employers/organisations.	TP 9	Education, Skills & Well-being

Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
More people and more employers are participating in apprenticeship programmes; <i>continued</i>		 Pathway to Progress (UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund) A variety of sector related courses have now been delivered in areas such as green construction skills, childcare, hospitality, retail. Recruitment of staff is ongoing and has continued to pose a risk to the achievement of the project. Recruitment has ceased in the Construction and Land -based industries due to an inability to recruit suitably qualified Training Advisors (possibly due to short term contract/high level skills required from industry). Up to the end of August 24, a total of 30 pupils had engaged in the project. Data is still being collated and confirmed for September. Positively it appears that we potentially will exceed the 150 target for engagement and 120 for qualification by the end of the project in February 2025. Apprenticeships In 2023/2024 apprenticeship academic year (August 2023 to July 2024) - across both Level 2 & Level 3 apprenticeships, 79% of our apprentices fully completed their Apprenticeship programme (75% level 2 completers, 100% level 3 completers). There is no data for 2024/2025 as yet as there have been no completers/leavers yet in this contract year. Jobs Growth Wales Plus 2023/2024 – 78 Jobs Growth Wales Plus starts Average Occupancy = 90 learners on programme. JGW+ progression into positive destination after programme ends - 76% 	TP 9	Education, Skills & Well-being

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Strategic Priorities	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
More people and more employers are participating in apprenticeship programmes; <i>continued</i>		 Other Projects Skills & Training have continued to work with the following initiatives/departments/schools: Ysgol Bae Baglan – Hairdressing (vocational) delivered on school timetable - 24/25 – 29 pupils supported Ysgol Hendrefelin – CSCS/groundworks (vocational) skills - figures to be confirmed (approx. 6) Ysgol Dwr Y Felin – Hairdressing (vocational) - 8 pupils supported Child and Progression Team - engagement/employability/hair (vocational) - 6 pupils NPT Employability Continuing with the Rapid Response Service (made up of staff from NPT Employability and Business Team, Careers Wales, DWP) for those businesses issuing HR1 (closure) due to the impact of TSUK. Supporting employees of Tata Steel and associated supply chain commenced on 2nd September 2024. This involved supporting upskilling, retraining in accordance with local labour market intelligence to gain sustainable employment. Examples of requests coming through so far are welding, tiling, ILM Level 5, Working at Heights, Gas Engineer, Production Operative, and Software Development. Number of people supported to gain a qualification or complete a course - 182 Number of people receiving support to gain employment - 109 	TP 9	Education, Skills & Well-being

Performance Measures	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	2023/2024	2024/2025 (April - Sept 2024)	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Progress towards delivering the outputs and outcomes agreed in the Celtic Freeport Full Business Case.	On-track	The development of the Full Business Case for the Celtic Freeport is underway. Outputs and outcomes will be confirmed on completion of the business case development process.	N/A	N/A	TP 8	Environment, Regeneration & Streetscene Services
Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Round 2 - Vale of Neath Heritage Corridor Visitor Attractor project (Gnoll Estate Country Park Visitor Infrastructure and Waterfall Country Pontneddfechan Visitor Infrastructure) to be delivered by March 2026;	On-track	Gnoll Country Park on works are on-track. Pontneddfechan possibly delayed due to land ownership issues.	N/A	N/A		
Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Round 3 Port Talbot Regeneration project (Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Square and Riverside Walk) to be delivered by March 2026;	On-track	N/A	N/A	N/A		

Performance Measures	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	2023/2024	2024/2025 (April - Sept 2024)	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
We will have helped to deliver a range of interventions that mitigate the impact of change on local people and businesses as a result of Tata transition - see below.						
Number of businesses supported to diversify operations	Not started	N/A	N/A	Data not yet available	TP 8	Environment, Regeneration & Streetscene Services
Number of businesses supported to achieve growth	Not started	N/A	N/A	Data not yet available		
Number of businesses supported to deliver redundancy measures; restructuring or closure of operations	Not started	N/A	N/A	Data not yet available		
Number of individuals supported to find alternative employment	Not started	N/A	N/A	Data not yet available		
Number of apprentices supported to find new placements	Not started	N/A	N/A	Data not yet available		
Number of people reskilled	Not started	N/A	N/A	Data not yet available		
Number of people we have employed who are former Tata employees	On-track	N/A	N/A	9		
Progress towards meeting year 1 and 2 actions with the approved Employability and Skills Strategy published in 2024/2025	Off-track	First draft circulated for consultation. Revised draft postponed until 2025.	N/A	N/A	TP 9	Education, Skills & Well-being

Performance Measures	Half Year Progress	April - September 2024 Summary of Progress	2023/2024	2024/2025 (April - Sept 2024)	Transformation Programme	Scrutiny Committee
Number of people on various apprenticeship programme.	On-track	N/A	No data available	No data yet available	TP 9	Education, Skills & Well-being
Promote the full range of pathways available for skills and employment progression.	On-track	Work ongoing	N/A	N/A		
Improvement in the qualification levels of the resident population	On-track	Information to follow	To follow	To follow		