

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

5th FEBRUARY 2025

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY & CORPORATE SERVICES

MR N DANIEL

Matter for: Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title – Self-Assessment 2023/2024

Purpose of Report

1. To present Members with the council's draft self-assessment for 2023/2024.
2. The council is required to publish the self-assessment within 4 weeks of approval.

Background

3. The completion of an annual self-assessment is a requirement for all local authorities in Wales. The requirement is contained in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and is a corporate, organisational assessment rather than an assessment of individual services.
4. As part of the self-assessment, we are required to consider the extent to which the council is:
 - exercising its functions effectively (*how well we are doing*)
 - using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively (*how do we know*)
 - ensuring its governance is effective for securing the above (*what and how can we do better*)

5. As we are still in the early years of the self-assessment process we understand that there is still work to do on our approach. Welsh Government have provided guidance on self-assessment but aren't prescriptive of the content outside of the three questions. A number of authorities have combined the self-assessment with the annual report on the achievement of well-being objectives for 2023/2024. This approach was not adopted for Neath Port Talbot until a robust framework is in place to add value to the process rather than duplicating.
6. The self-assessment details how we have approached the self-assessment – utilising and adapting the Local Government Association Efficiency Toolkit – which has provided a baseline, enabling year on year improvement to be evidenced.
7. In undertaking this self-assessment process, in addition to stating what arrangements we have in place to ensure we are exercising our functions effectively, using our resources economically, efficiently and effectively and ensuring our governance is effective, we have also considered how those arrangements can be further improved, dovetailed with our Annual Governance Statement.

Conclusion:

8. The overall council scoring of the self-assessment, along with scorings for individual core activity areas are set out on page 10 and that Neath Port Talbot Council is identified as 'mature moving into leading'. Whilst the rating remains the same as the previous two self-assessments for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023, it is felt that significant progress continues to be made but it will take some time for all core activity areas to be at a stage where we can progress into an overall rating of 'leading'.
9. As required under the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 on 14th January 2025, the Governance and Audit Committee reviewed the draft Self-Assessment 2022-2023. Cabinet will be updated verbally of any recommendations for any changes to the conclusions or actions contained within the draft.

Integrated Impact Assessment

10. There is no requirement for an integrated impact assessment in respect of this item.

Valleys Communities Impact:

11. There are no impacts in respect of this item.

Workforce Impact

12. There are no workforce impacts in respect of this item.

Legal Impact

13. The completion of an annual self-assessment is a requirement contained in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Risk Management

14. There are no risk management issues in respect of this item.

Consultation

15. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

16. Members are asked to approve the draft self-assessment prior to publication and submission to the Welsh Government.

Reason for Proposed Decision

17. To evidence how the council is meeting the duty set out in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, 'for each Council in Wales to keep under review the extent to which it is meeting the 'performance requirements', that is the extent to which:-
 - it is exercising its functions effectively;
 - it is using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively;
 - its governance is effective for securing the above.'

Implementation of Decision

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

Appendices

19. Appendix 1 – Draft Self-Assessment 2023/2024

List of Background Papers

20. Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021

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