

# NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Council**  
14<sup>th</sup> October 2015

**Report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services**  
K. Jones

## **Matter for Decision**

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

## **Draft Annual Report 2014-15 (Corporate Improvement Plan – ‘Rising to the Challenge’)**

### **Purpose of Report**

1. To present the Annual Report for 2014-15 for consideration and approval.

### **Executive Summary**

2. Overall, we achieved most of what we set out to do during 2014-15 in relation to our six improvement objectives. We also demonstrated improved performance across a number of services when compared with performance last year, despite our very challenging financial position, although in some areas our performance relative to other local authorities moved from top quartile performance to mid quartile performance. In 2014-15, we achieved our target budget savings of £17.3 million, bringing the cumulative spending reductions to £59 million since 2009-10 and a corresponding reduction in our workforce of approximately 20% (1700 employees).

The main highlights of the year include:

- Removal of our Children and Young People Services from the Care and Social Services Inspectorate’s Serious Concern Protocol following significant and sustained performance improvement over the last two years.
- Steady improvements in pupil performance and pupil attendance.
- Opening the first of the four new residential care homes Lys y Seren for older and disabled people whilst reducing the

reliance on residential care by people with a learning care by arranging more appropriate support in the community.

- We were able to support a number of important physical regeneration projects across the county borough and ensured that local people and businesses benefited from the regeneration activity.
- We worked with partners to help people on low incomes affected by welfare benefit changes.
- We achieved the 2015-16 statutory recycling and composting target of 58% and significantly improved our position across the 22 Welsh local authorities to 7<sup>th</sup> (14<sup>th</sup> last year).
- We made good progress in delivering our efficiency programme with more services now available on-line and a good percentage of people choosing to access services in this way.

## **Background**

3. Under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, the Council is required to publish a forward looking improvement plan setting out our improvement priorities (known as improvement objectives) for the financial year ahead and an annual report to reflect back on the performance of that plan.
4. This Annual Report looks back at how we did on delivering the improvement objectives set out in our Corporate Improvement Plan 2014-17 'Rising to the Challenge.' It is intended to comply with the legal duty in the 2009 Measure but more importantly it provides an assessment of our performance for our citizens.

## **Financial Appraisal**

5. The performance described in the Report was delivered against a challenging financial backdrop but the Council met the required savings identified for the year.

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

6. The Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies to "pay due regard to the need to:
  - Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;

- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
  - Foster good relations between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share it.”
7. An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken for the development of the 2014-17 Corporate Improvement Plan. As the Council has largely delivered what it set out to do, there are no material issues that were identified in the Equality Impact Assessment that require further addressing here.

### **Workforce Impact**

8. During the year, the Council saw a further downsizing of its workforce (by 241 employees) as it sought to deliver savings of £17.3 million in-year.

### **Legal Impact**

9. This Annual Report is prepared under Section 15(3) of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and discharges the Council's duties under sections 2(1), 3(2), 8(7) and 13(1).

### **Risk Management**

10. Councils are required to produce a backward looking report by 31<sup>st</sup> October each year. The report must comply with provisions within the Measure. Failure to produce a compliant report within the timescales can lead to a Certificate of Non-Compliance by the Wales Audit Office and statutory recommendations the Council would be obliged to address. The risk of non-compliance is considered low as the Report follows the same format as previous years when a Certificate of Compliance has been achieved and the timescales of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015 are achievable.

### **Consultation**

11. There is no requirement for consultation on this item.

### **Recommendations**

12. It is recommended that Council adopts the draft Annual Report 2014-15 and summary.
13. It is recommended that the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services is given delegated authority in consultation

with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Chief Executive to make any further changes that are necessary prior to final publication and which do not materially change the content of the report.

### **Reason for Proposed Decision**

14. To meet the statutory requirements set out in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

### **Implementation of Decision**

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

### **Appendices**

16. Appendix 1 – Draft Full Annual Report
17. Appendix 2 – Draft Summary Annual Report
18. Appendix 3 – Full suite of Neath Port Talbot performance measures
19. Appendix 4 – Comparison data against All-Wales.

### **List of Background Papers**

20. Corporate Improvement Plan 2014 – 2017 “Rising to the Challenge”
21. Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009

### **Officer Contact**

22. Mrs Karen Jones, Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services. Tel: 01639 763284 or e-mail: [k.jones3@npt.gov.uk](mailto:k.jones3@npt.gov.uk)
23. Mrs Nita Sparkes, Corporate Strategy and Performance Manager. Tel 01639 686172, e-mail: [n.sparkes@npt.gov.uk](mailto:n.sparkes@npt.gov.uk)