

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Policy and Resources Cabinet Board**

27 July 2016

### **Report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services**

K.Jones

#### **Matter for Monitoring**

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

#### **Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Strategic Equality Plan 2015-2019 progress update**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To present a progress update on the Strategic Equality Plan 2015-2019.

#### **Executive Summary**

2. This progress update, attached at Appendix 1, provides an interim picture of progress prior to the annual report that will be presented to Members in the autumn.
3. Overall, progress has been good across all objectives, with the majority of actions completed within set timescales. Where target dates have been missed explanatory narrative is included in the update.
4. Unfortunately data is not currently available for all measures identified in the Plan, however, a more complete picture will be available for the annual report which will be presented in the autumn.

#### **Background**

5. The Strategic Equality Plan was revised and published in October 2015.
6. Although the objectives remained relevant the actions that had been identified to meet them required updating or changing,

7. As required under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 an Annual Report will be presented to Members in the autumn.

### **Strategic Equality Plan 2015-2019 progress update**

8. The update, attached at Appendix 1, provides information on progress against the action plan developed as part of the revised Strategic Equality Plan which came into force in October 2015.
9. Good progress has been made across all objectives, with significant progress being made against Objective 2 and 6, improving access to information and the environment respectively.
10. The work undertaken to improve the website has ensured that the information available is relevant, up to date and available bilingually. Where the Council is fully responsible for the content, 92% of these webpages are bilingual with some content still awaiting translation.
11. Progressing the Digital by Choice agenda has provided an opportunity to review, update and develop online services, as well as making improvements to the website generally. As a result the aim is to provide a website that is more accessible, has improved transactional services as well as offering accessible applications for mobile devices.
12. During the first 6 months of the policy user satisfaction with navigation and mobile device applications were rated as 4 (the highest SOCITM rating) but work is still required to improve the accessibility of the website (SOCITM rating 2(second from lowest rating). Overall user satisfaction attracted a rating of 2.
13. The Disability Network Action Group (DNAG) has been involved as a stakeholder in the Vibrant and Viable Places project from the outset and this involvement has ensured that accessibility has been considered at all stages.
14. By involving DNAG a number of requirements have been incorporated at the design stage of the Port Talbot Integrated Transport Hub, including seats/benches every 50 metres, tactile

paving, bollards with contrasting band to aid visibility, fully accessible public space and bus shelters.

15. A number of actions are progressing well, including work in relation to addressing hate crime and domestic abuse. Both hate crime and domestic abuse have been identified as priorities for the Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership and plans are being developed to address areas that require action.
15. Members are fully aware of the significant work the Council has undertaken to resettle Syrian families in Neath Port Talbot. Work to ensure the integration of these families into our communities has been the focus of attention over the last 12 months.
14. Currently data is not available for all metrics originally identified to measure the outcome of the equality objectives. However this will be addressed in the annual report which will be presented to Members in the autumn.
15. The Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report will provide further, more detailed, information on the resulting outcomes of the work undertaken as well as providing an opportunity to review action and metrics in order to fully meet the equality objectives.

### **Financial Impact**

16. The progress described in the annual report was delivered within reduced budgets.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

17. As the focus of the update is to report progress made against our equality objectives, which were identified under the Equality Act 2010 there is no requirement to undertake an equality impact assessment.

### **Workforce Impacts**

18. The progress described in the annual report was achieved against a backdrop of a reduced workforce alongside ongoing financial challenges.

## **Legal Powers**

19. We have a legal duty under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 to monitor the progress on meeting our equality objectives.

## **Crime and Disorder Impact**

20. The Council has a legal duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to carry out all its various functions with “due regard to the need to prevent Crime and Disorder in its area”.
21. The Strategic Equality Plan contained specific proposals to prevent and address hate crime and domestic abuse and progress has been made to meet these proposals thereby assisting us in discharging the crime and disorder duty.

## **Risk Management**

22. We have a legal duty under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 monitor the progress on meeting our equality objectives. Failure to do so could lead to a compliance notice from the Equality and Human Rights Commission, an independent statutory agency which was established under the Equality Act 2006.

## **Consultation**

23. There is no requirement under the constitution for external consultation on this item.

## **Recommendations**

24. It is recommended that:

Members monitor the contents of the progress attached at Appendix 1

## **Appendix**

25. **Appendix 1** – Strategic Equality Plan Progress Update

### **List of Background Papers**

26. [Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Act 2010 \(Statutory Duties\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2011.](#)

27. [Strategic Equality Plan 2015-2019](#)

### **Officer Contact**

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