

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council
12th October 2016

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

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Draft Annual Report 2015-2016 (Corporate Improvement Plan – ‘Rising to the Challenge’)

Purpose of Report

1. To present the Annual Report for 2015-2016 for consideration and approval.

Executive Summary

2. Overall, we achieved most of what we set out to do during 2015-2016 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. In some areas our performance in relation to other local authorities moved from the mid quartile performance into upper quartile performance. In 2015-2016, we achieved our target budget savings of £14.8 million, bringing the cumulative spending reductions to £60 million since 2009-2010.
 - The reduction in the number of children looked after by the Council.
 - Continued improvements in pupil performance and pupil attendance.
 - The new residential care home Plas Bryn Rosyn at the old Caewern site was completed and occupied.
 - We completed a number of important physical regeneration projects across the county borough and ensured that local people and businesses benefited from the regeneration activity.

- We continued to work with partners to help people on low incomes affected by welfare benefit changes.
- We achieved the statutory recycling and composting target of 58%.
- We launched our Digital by Choice Strategy to improve access to the services we provide by extending the number of services we provide online.

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 2015-2018 '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 2015-2018 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 197 employees) as it sought to deliver savings of £14.8 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 31st 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 31st October 2016 are achievable.

Consultation

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

Recommendations

12. It is recommended that Council adopts the draft Annual Report 2015-2016 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 2015 – 2018 “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
23. Ms Caryn Furlow, Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnerships. Tel 01639 763242, e-mail: c.furlow@npt.gov.uk
24. Shaun Davies, Corporate Strategy Performance Management Officer. Tel: 01639 763172, e-mail: a.s.davies@npt.gov.uk
25. Fiona Clay-Poole, Corporate Strategy Performance Management Officer. Tel: 01639 763677, e-mail: f.clay-poole@npt.gov.uk