

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council
18th October 2017

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

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Draft Annual Report 2016-2017 (Corporate Improvement Plan – ‘Rising to the Challenge’)

Purpose of Report

1. To present the Annual Report for 2016-2017 for consideration and approval.

Executive Summary

2. Overall, we achieved most of what we set out to do during 2016-2017 in relation to our six improvement objectives. The priorities included in this Plan were set by the Council’s administration following the local government elections in May 2012 and despite the difficult and financially challenging times we have faced, improvements have been delivered across all six of those priorities and particularly those that support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our communities.
3. In 2016-2017, we achieved our target budget savings of £11.552 million, bringing the cumulative spending reductions to £77 million since 2010.

The overall summary for the year is as follows:

- We continued improvements to safely reduce the number of children looked after by the Council, whilst supporting more children to stay with their families.
- Results in key stage 4 have improved in nearly all key indicators and school attendance levels have broadly been maintained. However there has been a rise in both fixed and permanent exclusions, to address this, a Well-being and

Behaviour team has been established. We also opened our new, state of the art, all through 3–16 school, Ysgol Bae Baglan School.

- We continued to promote independence and reduced the reliance on statutory health and social care services.
- We successfully delivered the majority of our planned activities under the 'Prosperity for All' priority, despite the continuing challenging circumstances surrounding the economy.
- We continued to work with partners to support people from low income households to improve their financial circumstances.
- We further increased our recycling and composting performance to 62.77% and completed the roll-out of our improved Recycle+ weekly service to 64,000 homes.
- We completed our website redevelopment and more of our customers are satisfied with our website. More transactions are now completed online, however, there was an increase in the average customer waiting times in our One Stop Shops, due to additional enquiries arising from some service changes and reduced staffing levels.
- 63% of our national measures either achieved maximum performance or improved, which is above the previous year (59%). In contrast 40% of our comparable measures were better than the All Wales performance figures, a reduction of 20% on 2015-2016. This indicates that whilst our own performance has improved year on year the rest of Wales has improved at a faster rate in some performance indicators.

Background

4. 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.
5. This Annual Report looks back at how we did on delivering the improvement objectives set out in our Corporate Improvement Plan 2016-2019 '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

6. 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

7. 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.”
8. An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken for the development of the 2016-2019 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

9. During the year, the Council saw a further downsizing of its workforce by 198 as it sought to deliver savings of £11.552 million in-year.

Legal Impact

10. 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

11. 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

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

Recommendations

13. It is recommended that Council adopts the draft Annual Report 2016-2017.

Reason for Proposed Decision

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

Appendices

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

List of Background Papers

19. Corporate Improvement Plan 2016 – 2019 “Rising to the Challenge”
20. Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009

Officer Contact

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