

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

19 October 2017

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

Matter for Information

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Civic Buildings - Accessibility Survey

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Members of the Democratic Services Committee following the completion of an accessibility survey for the Neath and Port Talbot Civic Centres and The Quays Civic Offices.

Background

2. At the previous meeting of the Democratic Services Committee held on 27 July 2017, improvements to facilities for the use of Members was debated.
3. As part of Members discussions a request was made to undertake further work to establish if there were any other reasonable adjustments that should be considered to improve disabled access for both Members, staff and the general public within civic buildings.

4. Work to undertake the survey was conducted by the Facilities Management team during September and the relevant report is attached at Appendix 1.

Progress

5. In relation to the assessment undertaken at Port Talbot Civic Centre the report details that the civic building was constructed in 1987, prior to the introduction of any significant legislation to improve access for disabled people.
6. A number of areas were identified in the report where facility improvement works potentially could be carried out to improve access arrangements. This included issues such as car parking, external ramps, reception areas and lobbies, toilet facilities, signage and acoustics.
7. In addition, the report highlighted those areas where modernisation works had been carried out to improve access. Areas of improvement included new disabled toilet facilities, lift car adaptations, call points as well as various other upgrade works.
8. In relation to Neath Civic Centre this building was constructed in 2005, while building work on the civic offices located in The Quays, Briton Ferry was completed in 2009.
9. As a result both civic buildings were designed and built to comply with Part M of the Buildings Regulations and aside from operational issues (i.e. change of use of certain rooms) the buildings are designed to be fully accessible.

Financial Impact

10. With regard to civic building access, all relevant costs and any potential improvements will be funded via facility accommodation budgets with all potential works being fully planned, costed and delivered subject to annual budget limits.

Equality Impact Assessment

11. A screening assessment has been undertaken but a full equality impact assessment is not warranted.

Workforce Impacts

12. There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Powers

13. Part M Building Regulations 2010 - Part M

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/access-to-and-use-of-buildings-approved-document-m>

Risk Management

14. There are no significant risks associated with this report.

Consultation

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

Recommendation

16. That the Democratic Services Committee note the accessibility survey.

Appendices

17. Appendix 1 - Civic Offices Access Appraisal Summary

List of Background Papers

18. None

Officer Contacts

Karen Jones - Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services

e-mail: k.jones3@npt.gov.uk

Telephone: 01639 763284

Rhys George - Electoral and Democratic Services Manager

e-mail: r.j.george@npt.gov.uk Telephone: 01639 763719

Steve Lewis - Asset Manager Surveyor

e-mail: s.lewis2@npt.gov.uk Telephone: 01639 686252

Richard Jenkins - Building Premises Manager

e-mail: r.jenkins@npt.gov.uk Telephone: 01639 763284