

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES CABINET BOARD

1ST NOVEMBER 2017

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF CORPORATE STRATEGY AND
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES – K. JONES**

SECTION A: MATTER FOR MONITORING

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

**Half Year Progress Report - Corporate Governance Improvement
Action Plan for 2017/18 – period 01.04.17 to 30.09.17**

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with a half year update on progress made on the Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan for 2017/18 (attached at Appendix 1). The action plan reflects the governance issues (improvement areas) identified in the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17.

Background

2. The Annual Governance Statement describes the Council's governance arrangements and the controls we employ to manage the risks of failure to achieve strategic objectives. The Annual Governance Statement forms part of the Annual Statement of Accounts and provides a public statement of the extent to which the Council complies with the Code of Governance.

Progress to date

3. The Corporate Governance Group continues to oversee the improvement work identified in the Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan to ensure the Council's processes and procedures enable the Council to carry out its functions effectively. During the period April – September 2017, good progress has been made on the following improvement work areas contained within the action plan:

- Corporate Risk Management
 - Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
 - Welsh Language Standards
 - Corporate workforce plan
 - Data Protection training
 - Council's Information Strategy
 - ICT Asset Management Plan
 - City Deal governance
4. One work area has been completed - the review of corporate performance appraisal process and three improvement work areas have been delayed due to pressures of other work which have needed to take priority.

Financial Appraisal

5. The progress described was delivered against a challenging financial backdrop.

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. As the focus is a progress report, there is no requirement to undertake an equality impact assessment.

Workforce Impact

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

Legal Impact

9. This monitoring report is prepared under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and discharges the Council's duty to "make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions". The Council also has a duty to reflect the requirement of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to ensure that our governance structures enable different parts of the organisation to work together on setting well-being objectives and taking all reasonable steps to meet well-being objectives.

Risk Management

10. The Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, including arrangements for the management of risk. Failure to monitor progress on the action plan may lead to non-compliance by the Wales Audit Office and statutory recommendations the Council would be obliged to address.

Consultation

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

Recommended

12. It is recommended that Members note the half year progress made on the Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan for 2017/18 for the period 01.04.17 to 30.09.17 attached at Appendix 1.

Appendices

13. Appendix 1 – Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan 2017/18

List of Background Papers

14. Annual Governance Statement (contained within the 2016/17 Statement of Accounts):
https://www.npt.gov.uk/media/7319/final_statement_of_accounts_-_2016_17.pdf

Officer Contact

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