

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

6th December, 2017

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

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Annual Report Addendum 1st April 2017 to 30th September 2017 (Corporate Improvement Plan – ‘Rising to the Challenge’)

Purpose of Report

1. To present the first part of the Annual Report for 2017-2018 for consideration and approval.

Background

2. 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.
3. Additionally, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires the Council to set well-being objectives which seek to maximise the Council’s contribution to the national well-being goals, whilst also embracing the sustainable development principle. The Council is further obliged to report on the extent to which the well-being objectives it has set have been achieved.
4. In 2017-18 the position is further complicated by the local government elections that took place in May 2017. Clearly, the new Council would wish to set its own priorities but to provide time for the Council to develop its own programme, the pre-decessor programme extended its Corporate Plan until 30th September 2017 to provide continuity during a period of considerable change.

5. This means that the Council has had two sets of corporate objectives set in the current financial year. Both sets of objectives respond to the 2009 Measure and the 2015 Act. This report has been prepared to report progress over the first six months of the year against the six priorities established by the predecessor authority. In March 2018, a further report will be prepared setting out progress against the objectives set by the current Council over the remaining six months of the financial year.

Financial Appraisal

6. The performance described in the Report was delivered against a challenging financial backdrop. The Council is on track to deliver its business within the current budget.

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 is experiencing a further downsizing of its workforce by 198 to achieve a balanced budget.

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). This Annual Report also discharges duties in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

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. Regulation of the work required under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is still evolving.

Consultation

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

Recommendations

13. It is recommended that Council adopts the first part of the Annual Report for 2017-18.

Reason for Proposed Decision

14. To meet the statutory requirements set out in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in.

Appendices

15. Appendix 1 – Draft Annual Report – Part One

List of Background Papers

16. Corporate Improvement Plan 2016 – 2019 “Rising to the Challenge” Addendum Report
17. Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009
18. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
19. NPT Corporate Plan 2017-2022

Officer Contact

20. Mrs Karen Jones, Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services. Tel: 01639 763284 or e-mail: k.jones3@npt.gov.uk
21. Shaun Davies, Corporate Strategy Performance Management Officer. Tel: 01639 763172, e-mail: a.s.davies@npt.gov.uk