

**CABINET**  
**REPORT OF THE**  
**ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CHIEF DIGITAL OFFICER**

**K. JONES**

**23<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2018**

**SECTION B - MATTER FOR INFORMATION**

**WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL**

**Title of Report**

**Wales Audit Office Certificate of Compliance - Audit of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's 2018-19 Improvement Plan**

**Purpose of Report**

To present to Cabinet the Wales Audit Office's Compliance Certificate (Appendix 1), following the audit of the Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2022 *Shaping NPT – A better life in a better place for a better future.*

**Background**

**Respective responsibilities of the Council and the Auditor General for Wales under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009**

Under Section 15 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, the duty on the Council to prepare and publish an Improvement Plan which describes its plans to discharge the following duties remains extant:

- Make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions (Section 2(1));
- Make arrangements to secure achievement of its improvement objectives (Section 3(2)); and

- Make arrangements to exercise its functions so that any performance standard specified by Welsh Ministers is met (Section 8 (1)).

The Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2022 – Shaping NPT – *A better life in a better place for a better future* - is Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's Improvement Plan, prepared under Section 15 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and discharges the above duties in addition to discharging duties contained within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Under Section 17 and Section 19 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, the Auditor General for Wales is required to carry out an audit of the Council's Improvement Plan, to certify that he has done so, and to report whether he believes the Council has discharged its duties to prepare and publish an Improvement Plan in accordance with statutory requirements set out in Section 15 of the Measure and associated statutory guidance.

### **Main Findings**

The Audit comprised a review of the Plan to ascertain whether it included elements prescribed in the legislation, whether the arrangements for publication complied with the requirements of the legislation and that the Council had regard to statutory guidance in preparing and publishing the Plan.

It is pleasing to report, the Auditor General concluded that: "the Council has discharged its duties to prepare and publish an Improvement Plan in accordance with statutory requirements set out in Section 15 and statutory guidance".

### **Financial Impact**

The audit work undertaken by the Wales Audit Office has been delivered within the budget allocated for audit and inspection work.

## **Workforce Impacts**

There are no workforce impacts.

## **Legal Impacts**

Under Sections 17 and 19 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, the Auditor General for Wales is required to carry out an audit of the Council's Improvement Plan.

## **Risk Management**

The Audit has not identified any corporate governance issues.

## **Consultation**

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

## **Recommendation**

That Cabinet note the WAO report and authorise the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer to publish the report on the Council's website.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Audit of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's 2018-2019 Improvement Plan

## **List of Background Papers**

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council - Corporate Plan 2018-2019  
'Shaping NPT – A better life in a better place for a better future'

## **Wards Affected**

All

**Contact Officers:**

Karen Jones, Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer  
Telephone: 01639 763284, email: [k.jones3@npt.gov.uk](mailto:k.jones3@npt.gov.uk)

Nita Sparkes, Corporate Strategy & Performance Manager  
Telephone: 01639 686172, email: [n.sparkes@npt.gov.uk](mailto:n.sparkes@npt.gov.uk)