

**CABINET**  
**REPORT OF THE**  
**ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CHIEF DIGITAL OFFICER**  
**K. JONES**  
**23 January 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 assessment of 2017-18 performance

**Purpose of Report**

To present the Wales Audit Office's Certificate of Compliance issued in November 2018 (Appendix 1) for their Audit of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's assessment of 2017-18 performance (2017-18 Annual Report - Part 2).

**Background**

Under section 17 and 19 of the Local Government (Wales Measure) 2009, the Auditor General is required to report on his audit and assessment work in relation to whether the Council has discharged its statutory duty to publish an assessment of performance, before 31 October in the financial year following that to which the information relates, or by any other such date as Welsh Ministers may specify by order.

**Main Findings**

From the Compliance Certificate (contained in Appendix 1), it is pleasing to report the Auditor General concluded that: "the Council has discharged its duties under section 15(2), (3), (8) and (9) of the Measure

and has acted in accordance with Welsh Government guidance sufficiently to discharge its duties of the Measure.”

The Council published an [assessment of performance for the 2017-18](#) financial year on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

## **Financial Appraisal**

The audit work undertaken by the Wales Audit Office has been delivered within the budget allocated for audit and inspection work. Performance reported in the 2017-18 Annual Report – Part 2 was delivered against a challenging financial backdrop.

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

This report is not subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.

## **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 Council also has a general duty under the local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, to annually publish an assessment which describes its performance before 31 October in the financial year following that to which the information relates, or by any other such date as Welsh Ministers may specify by order. Failure to complete and publish an annual assessment of performance report for the Council would mean that the Council has not complied with statutory guidance, which could result in statutory recommendations the Council would be obliged to address.

## **Consultation**

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

## **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Members note the Wales Audit Office : Audit of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's assessment of 2017-18 performance, attached at Appendix 1.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Wales Audit Office: Audit of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's assessment of 2017-18 performance.

## **List of Background Papers**

- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Corporate Plan 2017-22 - [Annual Report – 2017-18 Part 2](#)
- Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009

## **Officer Contact**

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