

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

27th February 2019

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Digital Officer – Mrs K Jones

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

WALES AUDIT OFFICE REVIEW OF SCRUTINY

Purpose of the Report

1. To present to Council for approval the Authority's response to the Wales Audit Office's recommendations for improving the scrutiny function.

Background

2. During December 2017 and January 2018, the Wales Audit Office conducted a review of the Authority's scrutiny arrangements. The findings and recommendations were included in the report 'Overview and Scrutiny – Fit for the Future? – Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.'
3. The report was considered at the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Forum on the 18th September 2018, and further views were sought from Members of all five scrutiny committees in October 2018. The responses received formed the basis of the proposed response to the WAO's review (Appendix 1).

Integrated Impact Assessment

6. There is no requirement for Integrated Impact Assessment item.

Workforce Impacts

7. There is a workforce development programme in place to support the delivery of the action plan, overseen by the Democratic Services Committee.

Legal Powers

8. Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009

Risk Management

9. There is a risk of adverse audit reports if the Council does not respond formally to the proposals for improvement.

Consultation

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

Recommendation

11. To approve the Authority's response as contained in appendix 1 to the Wales Audit Office recommendations and as outlined in the report 'Overview and Scrutiny – Fit for the Future? – Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.'

Reasons for Proposed Decision

12. To ensure that the Authority's scrutiny function is robust and fit for purpose, and that there is a formal response to proposals for development made by the Council's auditors.

Appendices

13. Appendix 1 – Draft response to the Wales Audit Office's recommendations for improvements to the scrutiny function

List of Background Papers

14. Overview and Scrutiny – Fit for the Future? – Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Officer Contact

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