



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

## NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Cabinet**

**19 June 2019**

**ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CHIEF DIGITAL OFFICER**

**K. Jones**

**Matter for:** Decision

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

**Report Title:**

Wales Audit Office - Audit of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's 2019-20 Improvement Plan

**Purpose of the Report:**

To present to Cabinet the Wales Audit Office's Certificate of Compliance (Appendix 1), following the audit of the Council's 2019-2022 Corporate Plan, "Shaping NPT – *A better life in a better place for a better future.*"

**Background:**

Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 - under Section 15, the Council has a duty to prepare and publish an Improvement Plan describing its plans to discharge the following duties which remain extant:

- i. Make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions (Section 2(1))
- ii. Make arrangements to secure achievement of its improvement objectives (Section 3(2))
- iii. Make arrangements to exercise its functions so that any performance standard specified by Welsh Ministers is met (Section 8 (1))

Under Section 17 and Section 19, 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:

- i. It included elements prescribed in the legislation
- ii. The arrangements for publication complied with the requirements of the legislation
- iii. 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.

### **Integrated Impact Assessment:**

There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment.

### **Valleys Communities Impacts:**

No implications.

### **Workforce Impacts:**

No implications.

### **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 Impacts:**

The Audit has not identified any corporate governance issues.

**Consultation:**

There is no requirement 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 2019-2020 Improvement Plan.

**List of Background Papers:**

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council - Corporate Plan 2019-2022  
"Shaping NPT – A better life in a better place for a better future."

**Officer Contact:**

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