

# NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Cabinet

30 October 2019

### Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer – K.Jones

#### Matter for Monitoring

**Wards Affected: All Wards**

#### Report Title

Half Year Progress Report - Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan for 2019-20 – period 01.04.19 to 30.09.19

#### Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with a half year update on the progress made on the Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan for 2019-20 (attached at Appendix 1). The action plan reflects the governance issues (improvement areas) identified in the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2018-19 ([reported to Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019](#)).

#### Executive Summary

2. During the period April – September 2019, good progress has been made on all of the improvement work areas contained within the action plan.

#### Background

3. The Annual Governance Statement describes the Council's governance arrangements and the controls we employ to manage the risks of failure to achieve strategic objectives. The Annual Governance Statement forms part of the Annual Statement of Accounts and provides a public

statement of the extent to which the Council complies with good practice and meets the core and sub principles of effective governance.

### **Progress to date**

4. The Corporate Governance Group continues to oversee the improvement work identified in the Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan to ensure the Council's processes and procedures enable the Council to carry out its functions effectively.
5. During the period April – September 2019, good progress has been made on all of the following improvement work areas contained within the action plan: Integrated Impact Assessment, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Information Management and Corporate Performance Management System. More detail is contained in Appendix 1.

### **Financial Appraisal**

6. The progress described was delivered against a challenging financial backdrop. Meeting the duties set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has created additional unfunded duties on the Council which have been met from the Council's base budgets.

### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

7. There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for monitoring/information purposes.

### **Valleys Communities Impact:**

8. No implications.

### **Workforce Impact**

9. New legislative requirements have meant additional training for staff across the Council. Training has been delivered on the revised Integrated Impact Assessment Tool and GDPR in order to mitigate legal challenges, fines and non-compliance.

## **Legal Impact**

10. This monitoring report is prepared under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and discharges the Council's duty to "make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions".
11. The Council also has a duty to reflect the requirement of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to ensure that our governance structures enable different parts of the organisation to work together on setting well-being objectives and taking all reasonable steps to meet well-being objectives.

## **Risk Management Impacts**

12. The Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, including arrangements for the management of risk. Failure to monitor progress on the action plan may lead to non-compliance by the Wales Audit Office and statutory recommendations the Council would be obliged to address. We continue to use the integrated corporate performance and risk management system (CPMS) to regularly report on strategic risks and high level operational risks.

## **Consultation**

13. There is no requirement in the Constitution for consultation on this item.

## **Recommendations**

14. It is recommended that Cabinet note the half year progress made on the Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan for 2019-20 for the period 01.04.19 to 30.09.19 - attached at Appendix 1.

## **Reason for Proposed Decision**

15. This is a matter for monitoring therefore no decision is required.

## **Implementation of Decision**

16. This is a matter for monitoring therefore no decision is required.

## **Appendices**

17. Appendix 1 – Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan 2019-20

## **List of Background Papers**

18. Annual Governance Statement (contained within the [2018-19 Statement of Accounts](#))

## **Officer Contact**

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