

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

20 November 2019

Report of

**Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer
K.Jones**

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

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

Purpose of Report

1. To present the Wales Audit Office's Certificate of Compliance issued in November 2019 (Appendix 1) for their Audit of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's assessment of 2018-19 performance (Corporate Plan 2018-22 [Annual Report 2018-19](#)).

Background

2. 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

3. 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 sections 15(2), (3), (8) and (9) of the Measure and has acted in accordance with Welsh Government guidance sufficiently to discharge its duties."

Financial Appraisal

4. 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 2018-19 Annual Report was delivered against a challenging financial backdrop.

Integrated Impact Assessment

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

Valleys Communities Impact:

6. No implications.

Workforce Impact

7. There are no workforce impacts.

Legal Impact

8. Under Sections 17 and 19 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, the Auditor General for Wales is required to carry out an audit to determine whether the Council has discharged its duty to publish an assessment of performance.

Risk Management

9. 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 would mean the Council has not complied with statutory guidance, which could result in statutory recommendations the Council would be obliged to address.

Consultation

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

Recommendations

11. It is recommended that Members note the Wales Audit Office: Audit of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's assessment of 2018-19 performance, attached at Appendix 1.

Reason for Proposed Decision

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

Implementation of Decision

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

Appendices

14. Appendix 1 – Wales Audit Office: Audit of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's assessment of 2018-19 performance.

List of Background Papers

15. Neath Port Talbot Council, Corporate Plan 2018-22 - [Annual Report 2018-19](#)
16. Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

Officer Contact

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