



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Democratic Services Committee

3rd March 2020

Report of the Chair of the Disability Audit Working Group – Cllr. Sandra Miller

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Disability Audit Working Group

Purpose of the Report:

To provide the Democratic Services Committee with the findings of the recent Working Group on the Disability Audit of Neath and Port Talbot Civic Centres.

Executive Summary:

This report highlights the work of the Group undertaken over a period of several months. The Group consisted of a small number of Members and considered evidence and insights from internal Council departments as well as external specialists, Proudlock Associates.

Background:

Democratic Services Committee Members requested that arrangements be made for a disability audit to take place in both Neath and Port Talbot Civic Centres in order to remove any barriers for Members to access their workplace and facilities.

The Facilities Management team carried out an accessibility survey and discovered that a number of areas were identified as needing improvement, in the Civic Centres.

Following this the Democratic Services Committee formed a Working Group to carry out a disability audit of Members' facilities at Neath and Port Talbot Civic Centres.

Financial Impacts:

There are financial impacts associated with the recommendations set out in this report. However, the Group consulted officers in arriving at the final recommendations and they have been ranked according to what is considered important and affordable in the short term as well; as those recommendations that would be progressed in the longer term as part of a more significant programme of works

Integrated Impact Assessment:

This work was specifically commissioned to address the needs of disabled people, specifically elected members, to ensure that people with disabilities can participate in the business of the Council.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

This report focuses on the needs of people with disabilities and there are no direct impacts for valleys communities.

Workforce Impacts:

There are no direct workforce impacts associated with this report however, changes introduced to meet the needs of disabled Members will also benefit staff with disabilities and also the wider public.

Legal Impacts:

The work has specifically considered how well existing arrangements meet duties set out in the Equality Act 2010 and relevant health and safety and building regulations.

Risk Management Impacts:

There is a risk that without implementing the recommendations, the needs of elected members with disabilities will not be met, impairing their ability to fully participate in the business of the Council.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations:

That the Democratic Services Committee considers the report developed by the Task and Finish Group and commends the recommendations included in the report (appendix one) to the Cabinet.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To make reasonable adjustments to Neath and Port Talbot Civic Centres in order to improve disabled access for Members and assist the Council in meeting its equality duties.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period

Appendices:

Appendix one – Report of the Working Group

Officer Contact:

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