



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

6 January 2021

Report of

Chief Executive

K.Jones

Matter for: Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: Audit Wales - Audit of Neath Port Talbot Council's 2020-21 Improvement Plan

Purpose of the Report:

1. To present to Cabinet the Audit Wales Certificate of Compliance (Appendix 1), following the audit of the Council's 2020-21 Corporate Plan arrangements.

Background:

2. Every year, the Council has to publish a Plan which sets out the Council's priorities for improvement and how we are changing the way we do things to ensure we continue to improve the services we deliver to our communities.
3. The onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic meant that it was not practical to publish a refreshed detailed Corporate Plan for 2020-21. For 2020-21 the well-being objectives and priorities for improvement set out in the 2019-2022 Plan remain the same.

4. The Council's updated Corporate Plan 2020-2023 was due to be presented to Council for approval in April 2020 and as part of that work the well-being objectives were reviewed and it was not considered necessary to make any changes and this was endorsed by Council on the 14th October 2020.
5. Under Section 17 and Section 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, 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 (6) to (9) of the Measure and associated statutory guidance.

Main Findings:

6. It is pleasing to report, the Auditor General concluded that: "the Council has discharged its duties under section 15(6) to (9) of the Measure and has acted in accordance with Welsh Government guidance sufficiently to discharge its duties." The Audit Wales certificate is attached as appendix 1.

Financial Impact:

7. The audit work undertaken by the Audit Wales has been delivered within the budget allocated for audit and inspection work.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

8. There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

9. No implications.

Workforce Impacts:

10. No implications.

Legal Impacts:

11. 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:

12.The Audit has not identified any corporate governance issues.

Consultation:

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

Recommendation:

14.It is recommended that Members note the Audit Wales: Audit of Neath Port Talbot Council's Improvement Plan, (attached as appendix 1) before publication on the Council's web site.

Appendices:

15.Appendix 1 – Audit of Neath Port Talbot Council's 2020-2021 Improvement Plan.

List of Background Papers:

16.Neath Port Talbot Council - [Corporate Plan 2019-2022](#)

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