

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

Report of the Head of Property & Regeneration Simon Brennan

14th May 2021

MATTER FOR : Information

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

Examination by Audit Wales into the Council's Regeneration Service as part of its Well Being Objectives

Purpose of Report

To inform Members of the findings and recommendations of the Audit Wales report.

Executive Summary

To inform Members of the examination undertaken by Audit Wales, and the subsequent Action Plan submitted by the Council.

Background

As part of the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Audit Wales undertook an examination for the Audit year 2019/20 into the Council's Well-Being Objective '**We Will Deliver Strategic Regeneration Programmes**'

Following fieldwork undertaken by Audit Wales, the main findings were as follows: -

- The Council is seeking to deliver long term improvements to well-being through its Regeneration projects, but it could clarify its ambition and identify measures of success.
- The Council is designing its Regeneration activity to help tackle Social, Economic, Cultural and Environmental decline.

- The Council is seeking to deliver a range of benefits through its Regeneration activity, but could strengthen the links with the Public Services Board's well being objectives.
- The Council is actively looking to work with partners when it delivers its Regeneration projects, but it needs to assess the effectiveness of its collaborations going forward.
- The Council has taken steps to engage with some stakeholders, but it needs to enhance and extend its approach to involvement.

In response to this the Council identified a number of Actions and submitted its **Action Plan** to Audit Wales, which was accepted and approved by the latter.

The full Audit Wales report, together with the Council's Action Plan is attached as Appendix 1.

Financial Impact

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

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required. The Assessment is attached as an appendix.

Workforce Impact

There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impact

Under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure) and Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Auditor General for Wales is required to carry out audit work of the Council's business as

agreed in the audit programme, and to assess whether the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources.

Risk Management

There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

Consultation

No external consultation has been required.

Valleys Communities Impacts

No Implications.

Recommendations

Having had due regard to the first stage of the Integrated Impact Assessment, it is recommended that Members note the findings of the Audit Wales' examination and the Council's subsequent Action Plan.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

In order that the Council is compliant with its obligations to the Auditor General for Wales.

Implementation of Decision

The decision will be implemented after a 3 day call in period.

Appendices

The Audit Wales Examination Report.
IIA.

List of Background Papers

None.

Officer Contact

For further information on this report, please contact Andrew Collins, Regeneration & Economic Development Manager on 07771 674706 or e-mail a.collins@npt.gov.uk