

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

30 June 2021

Joint Report of

Head of Human & Organisational Development

S Rees

&

Head of Finance

H Jones

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Audit Wales review of the Corporate Performance Management System (CPMS)

Purpose of Report

1. To receive information on the Council's response to the 'opportunities for improvement' identified by Audit Wales following the review of the Corporate Performance Management System (CPMS). An action plan is attached as appendix 1.

Executive Summary

2. The review examined whether Neath Port Talbot Council's Corporate Performance Management System (CPMS) is strengthening its arrangements for business planning, performance and risk management. The review found the CPMS is helping to develop better links between corporate objectives and service business plans and improving the efficiency of performance reporting. However, this information could be used more effectively to support strategic direction and risk management arrangements still need strengthening.

Background

3. During 2020 Audit Wales undertook a review of the Council's Corporate Performance Management System (CPMS).
4. Following their review, Audit Wales provided feedback to the Council and a summary conclusion of the review findings has been included within the Annual Audit Summary for Neath Port Talbot Council which has been published by Audit Wales on their [website](#).

Review findings

5. The review findings included a number of areas of progress:
 - The CPMS keeps business planning, performance reporting and risk management in one place.
 - The CPMS creates links from service plans to well-being objectives.
 - The standard template for business planning helps to drive better consistency.
 - The CPMS provides an effective system to input data and create reports ready for review. It is an improvement on the previous system which depended on departmental spreadsheets.
 - Performance data in the system can be viewed by users across the Council, not just for their own service area.
 - Data can be filtered either by service areas or by Well Being Objective which makes tracking progress and looking for best practice easier.

The CPMS has video guides available to help users.
6. The review also identified a number of 'opportunities for improvement' all of which have been accepted and included in an action plan attached as appendix 1, for implementation.
7. The review by Audit Wales sought to answer the question: Is the Council's Corporate Performance Management System (CPMS) strengthening its arrangements for business planning, performance and risk management?
8. Audit Wales concluded that: The CPMS is helping to develop better links between corporate objectives and service business plans and improving the efficiency of performance reporting. However, this information could be used more effectively to support strategic direction and risk management arrangements still need strengthening.

9. Actions for improvement relating to risk management have been included in the action plan. The actions relating to planning and performance will be developed as part of the Council's fundamental review of the Council's corporate performance management framework during 2021/2022.

Financial Appraisal

10. The programme of audit and improvement assessment work undertaken by Audit Wales has been delivered within the budget allocated for audit and inspection work.

Integrated Impact Assessment

11. There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment on this report.

Valleys Communities Impact

12. No implications.

Workforce Impact

13. There are no workforce impacts.

Legal Impact

14. The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 requires the Auditor General to undertake an annual improvement assessment and to publish an annual improvement report for each improvement authority in Wales.

Risk Management

15. Audit Wales findings are a key input into the Council's corporate governance arrangements and the areas identified for improvement work inform the Annual Governance Statement and the associated improvement action plan.

Consultation

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

Recommendations

17. For Cabinet to approve the work that is to be undertaken in relation to the opportunities for improvement contained within the action plan attached as Appendix 1.

Reason for Proposed Decision

18. To ensure that the Council has put in place arrangements to strengthen its business planning, performance management and risk management arrangements.

Appendices

19. Appendix 1 – Action plan – Review of the Corporate Performance Management System (CPMS)

List of Background Papers

20. None

Officer Contact

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