

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

30th November 2022

Report of the Chief Finance Officer

Matter for Monitoring

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title

Half Year Progress Report - Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan for 2022-2023 - period 1st April 2022 – 30th September 2022.

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with a half year update on the progress made on the Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan for 2022-2023 (attached at Appendix 1). The action plan reflects the governance issues (improvement areas) identified in the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2021-2022 reported to Cabinet on 29th June 2022.

Executive Summary

2. On 29th June 2022, Cabinet approved the Council's Annual Governance Statement 2021-2022. Appendix 1 contains areas identified for improvement and an update on progress to date.

Background

3. The Annual Governance Statement forms part of the Statement of Accounts and reports on the extent of the Council's compliance with its principles and practices of good governance, including how the Council has monitored the effectiveness of its governance arrangements in the year ending 31st March 2021.

Progress to date

4. The Corporate Governance Group continues to oversee the improvement work identified in the Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan to ensure the Council's processes and procedures enable the Council to carry out its functions effectively.
5. During the period 1st April 2022 – 30th September 2022, good progress has been made on the improvement work areas contained within the action plan.

More detail is contained in Appendix 1.

Financial Appraisal

6. The progress described has been delivered within service budgets.

Integrated Impact Assessment

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

Valleys Communities Impact:

8. No impact.

Workforce Impact

9. No impact.

Legal Impact

10. This monitoring report is prepared under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and discharges the Council's duty to "make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions".
11. The Council also has a duty to reflect the requirement of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to ensure that our governance structures enable different parts of the organisation to work together on setting well-being objectives and taking all reasonable steps to meet well-being objectives.

Risk Management Impacts

12. The Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, including arrangements for the management of risk. Failure to monitor progress on the action plan may lead to non-compliance by Audit Wales and statutory recommendations the Council would be obliged to address.

Consultation

13. There is no requirement in the Constitution for consultation on this item.

Recommendations

14. It is recommended that Cabinet note the half year progress made on the Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan for 2022-23 for the period 1st April – 30th September 2022- attached at Appendix 1.

Reason for Proposed Decision

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

Implementation of Decision

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

Appendices

17. Appendix 1 – Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan 2022-2023.

List of Background Papers

18. Annual Governance Statement 2021-2022

Officer Contact

19. Huw Jones, Chief Finance Officer
Email: h.jones@npt.gov.uk

20. Caryn Furlow-Harris, Strategic Manager – Policy & Executive Support
Email: c.furlow@npt.gov.uk
21. Louise McAndrew, Corporate Strategic Planning & Governance Officer
Email: l.mcandrew@npt.gov.uk