

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

12th October 2023

Report of the Director of Strategy & Corporate Services

Noelwyn Daniel

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

Audit Wales – Setting of Well-being Objectives – Neath Port Talbot Council

Purpose of Report

1. To present Members with the council's response to the above examination undertaken by Audit Wales.

Executive Summary

2. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a "well-being duty" on 48 public bodies. The duty requires those bodies to set and publish "well-being objectives" that are designed to maximise their contribution to achieving each of the Act's seven national well-being goals.
3. Section 15(1) (a) of the above Act requires the Auditor General to carry out examinations to assess the extent to which public bodies have acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle when setting their well-being objectives.
4. The aim of the examination was to:
 - Explain how Neath Port Talbot Council applied the sustainable development principle throughout the process of setting its Well-being objectives;

- Provide assurance on the extent that the council applied the sustainable development principle when setting its Well-being objectives; and
- Identify opportunities for the council to further embed the sustainable development principle when setting Well-being objectives in the future.

Summary of Findings

5. The examination found:

The council has applied the sustainable development principle and carried out extensive engagement when setting its Well-being objectives but will need to further develop its monitoring arrangements.

A copy of the Audit Wales report is attached at Appendix 1

6. The examination concluded with the following recommendation:

R1 In order to support the effective delivery of and accountability for its Well-being objectives, the council should:

- Develop a clearer understanding of when and how partners will support the delivery of its Well-being Objectives;
- Ensure its Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2023-2027 clearly considers how the council's resources support the delivery of its Well-being objectives and identifies how any future financial risks or savings might impact on the delivery of its Well-being Objectives; and
- Ensure that as it refreshes its Corporate Performance Management Framework (CPMF), it looks for opportunities to develop more outcome focused metrics that will enable it to measure its cross-cutting Well-being Objectives.

7. The council's response to the above recommendation is attached at Appendix 2.

Financial Appraisal

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

Integrated Impact Assessment

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

Valleys Communities Impact

10. No impacts.

Workforce Impact

11. There are no workforce impacts.

Legal Impact

12. Section 15(1) (a) of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires the Auditor General to carry out examinations to assess the extent to which public bodies have acted in accordance with the sustainable development principle when setting their well-being objectives.

Risk Management

13. The findings of Audit Wales examinations are a key input into the council's corporate governance and self-assessment arrangements.

Consultation

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

Recommendation

15. For Governance and Audit Committee to note the council's response attached at Appendix 2.

Appendices

16. Appendix 1 – Audit Wales Report – Setting of Well-being objectives – Neath Port Talbot Council
Appendix 2 – Council Response Form

List of Background Papers

17. None

Officer Contact

Noelwyn Daniel, Director of Strategy & Corporate Services

Email: n.daniel@npt.gov.uk