

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

Register of Regulators Reports & Recommendations.

Purpose of the Report

To provide the Governance & Audit Committee with an updated Register of Regulators Reports and Recommendations.

Background

This report presents a summary of the reports issued by external review bodies since June 2023 and an updated Register of Regulators Reports (Appendix 1).

National Reports

1. Approach to achieving net zero across the UK (September 2022)

The report is a joint piece of work between the public audit offices of the four UK nations – Audit Scotland, Audit Wales, National Audit Office and Northern Ireland Audit Office – and has been produced with engagement from each respective government or administration.

It sets out the UK and devolved governments' legislation, policy, strategy, governance and monitoring arrangements, relevant to achieving net zero GHG emissions.

There were no recommendations listed within this report. This report has been circulated to officers for consideration.

2. Springing Forward: Lessons for our work on workforce and assets (September 2023)

The work undertaken by Audit Wales to develop this report considers both the effectiveness of councils' arrangements and the extent to which they were applying the sustainable development principle (as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015) in their approaches to workforce and assets.

Between 2021 and 2023 Audit Wales undertook work on asset management and workforce planning across all 22 councils. This report aims to gain assurance that councils are putting in place arrangements to transform, adapt and maintain the delivery of services following the Covid pandemic and changes to ways of working. Audit Wales asked councils to explain their actions both individually and collectively to strengthen their arrangements and to inspire other councils by capturing and sharing best practice.

The 'Springing Forward' report for Neath Port Talbot has not yet been received. This has been followed up with Audit Wales.

There were no recommendations listed within this report. The report has been circulated to officers for consideration.

3. 'Cracks in the Foundations' – Building Safety in Wales

This report looks at how the Welsh Government, local authorities and their key partners are implementing the requirements of the Building Safety Act 2022. The focus of the review has been on assessing the preparedness of bodies to take on their new and enhanced responsibilities, the resilience of existing services, and the robustness of building safety assurance systems. Within the Audit Wales report appendix 1 sets out their audit approach and methods.

There were 8 recommendations in total, 4 were for Welsh Government and 4 were for local authorities. This report has been circulated to officers for consideration.

4. Neath Port Talbot Council – Setting of Well-being Objectives (August 2023) – The report is an examination of how the Council applied the sustainable development principle throughout the process of setting Well-being objectives for 2022-2027, and where we could potentially further embed the sustainable development principle when setting Well-being objectives in future.

The report addresses what processes were followed when setting the well-being objectives and how the Council will make sure the well-being objectives are delivered in line with the sustainable development principle. It also reflects on the arrangements the Council has in place to monitor progress and improve.

This report was presented to Cabinet on 20th September 2023.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts in respect of this item.

Integrated Impact Assessment

There is no requirement for an integrated impact assessment in respect of this item.

Valleys Communities Impacts

There are no impacts in respect of this item.

Workforce impacts

There are no workforce impacts in respect of this item.

Legal Impacts

There are no legal impacts in respect of this item.

Risk Management

There are no risk management issues in respect of this item.

Consultation

There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- The Governance & Audit Committee note the reports issued by the Council's external review bodies since June 2023 and the updated Register of Regulators Reports and Recommendations.

Appendix

- Appendix 1 – Register of Regulators Reports & Recommendations.

Background Papers

None

Officer Contact

For further information on this report item, please contact:

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