

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

26th JANUARY 2024

Report of Director of Strategy & Corporate Services

Mr N Daniel

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

Half Year Progress Report

Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan for 2023-2024

1st April 2023 – 30th September 2023.

Purpose of Report

1. To provide the Governance & Audit Committee with an update on the progress made on the Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan for 2023-2024 (attached at Appendix 1). The action plan reflects the governance issues (improvement areas) identified in the council's Annual Governance Statement for 2022-2023.

Executive Summary

2. On the 28th June 2023, Cabinet approved the council's Annual Governance Statement 2022-2023. Appendix 1 contains areas identified for improvement and an update on progress.
3. The six monthly update was presented to Cabinet on 28th November 2023.

Background

4. 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.

Progress to Date

5. 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.
6. During the period 1st April 2023 – 30th September 2023, progress has been made on the improvement work areas contained within the action plan. More detail on the progress is contained in Appendix 1.

Financial Appraisal

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

Integrated Impact Assessment

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

Valleys Communities Impact:

9. There is no impact on the valley communities as a result of this report.

Workforce Impact

10. There is no impact on the workforce as a result of this report.

Legal Impact

11. The council 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 the well-being objectives.

Risk Management

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 for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

14. It is recommended that Governance and Audit Committee note the half year progress made on the Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan for 2023-2024 for the period 1st April to 30th September 2023 - attached at Appendix 1.

Reason for Proposed Decision

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

Appendices

16. Appendix 1 – Corporate Governance Improvement Action Plan 2023-2024.

List of Background Papers

17. Annual Governance Statement 2022–2023

Officer Contact

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