Please note that today’s meeting will be recorded.

This recording will not be broadcast on the Authority’s internet as it will only be used for training purposes by the Democratic Services Department.

The Public Seating areas will be in view of the Camera and, by entering the Chamber and using the Public Seating Area, Members of the Public are consenting to being filmed.

This Agenda has been prepared by the Democratic Services Department. Any member of the public requiring information should contact the department on (01685) 725203 or email democratic@merthyr.gov.uk.

Any reference documents referred to but not published as part of this agenda can be found on the Council’s website or intranet under Background Papers.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)

Members of this Committee are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and prejudicial interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council’s Constitution and the Members’ Code of Conduct. In addition Members must declare any prohibited party whip which the Member has been given in relation to the meeting as per the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

Note:

a. Members are reminded that they must identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest; and

b. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they must notify the Chair when they leave.


See attached report  
(Pages 1 - 12)

4. Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow Up Actions

To receive any referrals from the other Scrutiny Committees and Audit Committee; an update from the Chair on their attendance at the Service Performance Challenge Meetings and to consider any follow up actions from the previous meeting(s).

5. Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting

To receive an update from the Chair.

6. Work Programme

See attached report  
(Pages 13 - 28)
7. Any Other Business deemed urgent by the Chair

**COMPOSITION:**

Councillor G Jones (Chair)

Councillors: B Carter, H Barrett, S P Brown, E Galsworthy, K Moran and M O'Neill

together with appropriate officers

If you would prefer a copy of this agenda in another language please contact democratic@merthyr.gov.uk or telephone 01685 725203

Os byddai’n well gennych gopi o’r agenda hwn mewn iaith arall, cysylltwch a democratic@merthyr.gov.uk neu ffoniwch 01685 725203
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To:  Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

The Merthyr Tydfil Local Development Plan 2006-2021 and Associated Annual Monitoring Report

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to increase Scrutiny Committee's knowledge and understanding of the Merthyr Tydfil Local Development Plan and the process involved in preparing the Plan. In doing so, the report responds to each of the 12 points previously identified by the Scrutiny Committee.

1.2 The Annual Monitoring Report, which is submitted to the Welsh Government in October every year, assesses the extent to which the Plan’s strategy, policies and sites are being delivered, and is available as a background paper.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 That the Scrutiny Committee notes the contents of this report.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

3.1 This report has been prepared at the request of the Scrutiny Committee in order to increase knowledge and understanding of the Merthyr Tydfil Local Development Plan (LDP). In particular, the report considers the process and procedures involved in the LDP’s preparation; its purpose and contents; and its implementation, monitoring and performance. The report also identifies the lessons learnt from
preparing the first adopted LDP and looks forward to the potential issues and challenges arising from the review and future revision of the LDP.

3.2 The Scrutiny Committee has previously identified 12 points to be addressed in this report, and accordingly, each point is considered separately within Section 4 below.

4.0 THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP)

4.1 What are the legislative requirements for preparing an LDP?

4.1.1 Section 62 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires every local planning authority (LPA) in Wales to prepare an LDP. Given that LDP preparation is a statutory duty, it is important that authorities give a high priority to LDP preparation, monitoring and revision to ensure up to date plans are in place.

4.1.2 Section 39 of the 2004 Act requires local planning authorities to prepare LDPs with the objective of contributing to sustainable development. In order to do so, a sustainability appraisal is undertaken as part of the LDP preparation process, which considers the social, economic and environmental effects of a plan.

4.1.3 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004\(^1\) also requires LDPs to be subject to a strategic environmental assessment, which aims to improve the environmental performance of the plan and provide strategic environmental protection. In practice, a strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal are combined and fully integrated into the plan making process.

4.1.4 Finally, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 requires the screening and appropriate assessment of strategic options in order to ensure that an LDP will not lead to adverse effects on the integrity of any internationally important wildlife site. The screening assessment, undertaken during the preparation of the adopted LDP, concluded that the plan will not have significant effects on surrounding internationally important wildlife sites, and accordingly, further appropriate assessments were not deemed necessary.

4.2 What is the LDP’s purpose, strategy and objectives?

Purpose

4.2.1 The LDP sets out the Council’s objectives in relation to the use and development of land in the County Borough and the general policies to implement them between 2006 and 2021. In doing so, the LDP clearly shows how Merthyr Tydfil is expected to change in land use terms in order to accommodate development needs over the plan period, providing certainty for developers and the public. In broad terms, the LDP seeks to achieve the following:

- To balance social, economic and environmental issues in order to meet the needs of those people living, working and visiting Merthyr Tydfil;

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\(^1\) These SEA Regulations transpose into Welsh law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC.
• To protect important elements of the built, natural and cultural environment;
• To provide new housing, employment and community facilities in appropriate locations;
• To promote sustainable and integrated forms of transport; and
• To provide a basis for determining planning applications and appeals in a consistent and rational manner.

4.2.2 The primacy of the LDP is set out in Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which requires that, if regard is to be had to the development plan for the purposes of any determination to be made under the Planning Acts, the determination must be made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Strategy

4.2.3 The LDP is based on an Enhanced Growth Strategy which aims to facilitate a reduction in out migration from the County Borough so that population levels stabilise by 2011 and are followed by 10 years of enhanced growth (this represents the primary aim of LDP). In terms of development, the strategy seeks to deliver 3,964 new dwellings, new employment facilities on 27.5 hectares of land and new retail development in the town centre.

4.2.4 The amount of development is distributed over three growth areas, namely the Primary Growth Area comprising of the County Borough’s northern settlements; the Secondary Growth Area comprising of Edwardsville, Quakers Yard, Treharris and Trelewis; and the Other Growth Areas comprising of Troedyrhiw, Aberfan, Merthyr Vale and Bedlinog (See figure 1 below).

4.2.5 The amount of development varies considerably between the different growth areas, which is illustrated by the extent of housing and employment allocations:

• Primary Growth Area – Approximately 3134 dwellings and all employment land allocations;

• Secondary Growth Area – Approximately 580 dwellings and no employment allocations; and

• Other Growth Area – Approximately 250 dwellings and no employment allocations.
Objectives

4.2.6 The LDP incorporates 12 strategic objectives (see pages 22-23 of LDP written statement - [http://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/1538/adopted-ldp-mtcbc-may-2011.pdf](http://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/1538/adopted-ldp-mtcbc-may-2011.pdf)) covering social, economic and environmental matters. The strategic objectives were assessed by the sustainability appraisal/strategic environmental assessment (SA/SEA) framework as part of the LDP preparation and were all found to contribute in different ways to sustainable development. Each policy within the LDP seeks to deliver one or more of these strategic objectives, which provide the basis for monitoring the plan’s implementation.

4.3 What is the process required to prepare an LDP?

4.3.1 The detail on the procedure for LDP preparation is set out the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended 2015), with further advice provided in Planning Policy Wales (Edition 7, July 2014) and the Local Development Plan Manual (Edition 2, August 2015).
4.3.2 The preparation process for an LDP is best illustrated through Figure 2 below. It is a cyclical process beginning with the review and development of the evidence base and culminating with the adoption of an LDP. The latter does not, however, mark an end to the process, as an adopted LDP must be monitored on an annual basis and is followed by the review and revision of an LDP where the preparation process begins once more.

Figure 2. LDP Preparation Process

4.3.3 Community involvement and the undertaking of an SA/SEA are integrated with the plan preparation process, particularly at key stages. This interaction between the main stages of the process is illustrated in more detail through Figure 3 below.

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2 Source: Local Development Plan Manual (Edition 2, August 2015)
Figure 3. Main Stages of the LDP Preparation Process

Source: Local Development Plan Manual (Edition 2, August 2015)
4.4 What are the lessons learnt from the process leading up to the adoption of the current LDP?

4.4.1 The adopted LDP was prepared under a new system which came into effect under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This new system brought a different focus to plan preparation and contained a number of new requirements which were unfamiliar to LPAs at the time. In particular, it required the undertaking and integration of SA/SEAs; early and effective community engagement; a fast and responsive approach to plan making; the making of strategic, concise and distinctive plans based on robust evidence; and the need to take account of infrastructure requirements, availability of resources, viability and market forces.

4.4.2 Unsurprisingly, the new LDP system presented a challenge for LPAs and a number of lessons were learnt throughout the process. The key lessons learnt are set out below.

4.4.3 Local authorities must have a robust evidence base to support the policies and development allocations within their LDP. At the examination of the adopted LDP, the appointed planning inspector was dissatisfied with the robustness of the evidence that supported the plan’s employment strategy. As a consequence, the examination was suspended for 6 months in order for the further work to be undertaken. This resulted in both a time delay in the adoption of the LDP and the incurring of additional study and examination costs.

4.4.4 It also became clear at the Examination that the Inspector required clear evidence of key decisions made throughout the LDP preparation process. Council and officer meeting minutes, which record key decisions, are an important part of the evidence base.

4.4.5 The need to strike the right balance between aspiration and realism is an important aspect of preparing an LDP. This applies to both the overall strategy of the plan and the requirements of individual policies. A key test of soundness is whether the plan will deliver and inspectors require LPAs to demonstrate that sites are deliverable and policy requirements will not detrimentally affect development viability. The latter is particularly relevant to infrastructure, affordable housing and planning obligation requirements.

4.4.6 As indicated above, early and effective community engagement is an important aspect of the LDP system. Experience has, however, shown that members of the public are not generally interested in the strategic decisions made at preferred strategy stage; tending only to get involved when an area of land is allocated for development within their area at deposit stage. In doing so, members of the public miss the opportunity to influence important decisions on how their area will develop and change.

4.4.7 The LDP should not go on deposit unless it is considered to be sound. Whilst it is unrealistic to expect a deposit LDP to be perfect, any changes recommended as a result of public consultation should be essential and kept to a minimum. Any recommended changes to the deposit LDP will require further SA/SEA assessments and public consultation. This leads to further work, time delays and a complex audit trail.
4.4.8 On commencement of LDP preparation, the Authority enters into a delivery agreement with the Welsh Government, which commits the Authority to produce its LDP according to the stated timescales and consultation processes. Good project management is therefore essential to meeting key milestones, ensuring that consultees stay engaged, minimising contextual changes and avoiding additional costs, particularly during LDP examinations.

4.5 **How is the LDP influencing overall achievement of MTCBC’s vision?**

4.5.1 The LDP complements and expresses, in appropriate land use terms, those aspects of the MTCBC’s vision that relate to the development and use of land. Strategically, the LDP complements the vision through its first strategic objective which seeks to capitalise on Merthyr Tydfil’s strategic position by further developing its role as the main commercial, service and employment centre in the Heads of the Valleys area. In order to achieve this, the town of Merthyr Tydfil has been designated as the primary growth area.

4.5.2 The LDP also facilitates the delivery of development that allows many of the vision’s aspirations to be met. In particular, the LDP has achieved the following:

- In terms of healthy lifestyles, 2 health centres and new cycle ways have been delivered, new play facilities on housing sites have been secured and open spaces have been protected from development.
- In respect of learning and developing new skills, 4 education facilities have been delivered and financial contributions to education provision have been secured through new development.
- In relation to creating a place where people want to visit, new leisure and tourist facilities have been delivered at Cyfarthfa Park, Parc Taf Bargoed and Rhydycar.
- With regard to living and working, approximately 1,500 new homes and over 26,000 sq m of new employment floor space have been delivered.

4.6 **Which elements are on track and which are not?**

4.6.1 Progress on the implementation of the LDP is monitored on an annual basis and 4 annual monitoring reports (AMR) have been produced and submitted to the Welsh Government to date. The fourth AMR (included as a background paper) shows that good progress has been made on the delivery of community, tourism and waste related infrastructure, and that policies are functioning effectively in respect of protecting community facilities and natural and cultural heritage assets. New development is also being directed to sustainable locations and regeneration is occurring through the use of brownfield rather than green field sites.

4.6.2 LDP objectives which are not being fully met primarily relate to the delivery of housing and employment (see paragraph 7.14 of AMR). Since the start of the plan period, 1,536 houses have been completed and 26,262 sq m of employment floor space has been delivered. However, the amount is currently below the level needed to meet the requirements of the Enhanced Growth Strategy. The primary
reason for the lower than anticipated level growth is considered to be the economic recession which has existed for much of the plan period. However, it should also be noted that a significant number of the housing and employment allocations within the LDP are in Council ownership, and it is essential that these sites are proactively brought forward for development by being marketed as available for development.

4.7 What criteria do you use to evaluate success?

4.7.1 Under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, all LPAs have a duty to produce an AMR, which must be submitted to the Welsh Government and published on the authority’s website by the 31st October each year (LDP Regulation 37). The AMR assesses the success, or otherwise, in the implementation of the LDP based on the findings of the LDP’s monitoring framework, which comprises of a range of indicators and associated targets. The latter enable an assessment to be made on whether the plan’s policies are achieving their objective and the plan’s strategy is being delivered (See section 3 of AMR). The SA/SEA also contains a monitoring framework, again comprising of indicators and targets, which provides a check on whether movement towards sustainable development is being achieved. The findings of the SA/SEA framework are also included in the AMR (See sections 5).

4.8 How often is progress monitored?

4.8.1 As indicated above, progress is monitored on an annual basis and reported through the AMR which must be submitted to the Welsh Government and published on the Authority’s website by the 31st October each year (LDP Regulation 37).

4.9 How is progress relayed to decision makers?

4.9.1 Planning applications are determined by the Planning and Regulatory Committee on a monthly basis. The monthly committee reports also contain a list of all applications determined under delegated powers during the preceding month. These two mechanisms combine to inform Council of progress on developments permitted in the County Borough. The LDP review report, which is anticipated to go before Full Council in April 2016, will contain recommendations on how the LDP should be revised, which will require Full Council endorsement.

4.10 Can you provide statistical information on the 12 strategic objectives in the LDP?

4.10.1 Section 3 of the AMR provides statistical information on the progress made in meeting the 12 strategic objectives of the LDP. A summary of whether each strategic objective is being delivered is provided based on the performance of related policies and their corresponding indicators and targets.

4.11 What are the three types of policies? What are barriers to success? What are the successes to date?

4.11.1 The LDP contains three types of policy, namely borough-wide strategic policies, area specific policies and topic based policies.

4.11.2 Borough-wide strategic policies are those which directly relate to the delivery of the LDP strategy and/or apply to multiple types of development throughout the County
Borough. For example, LDP policies BW13 and BW14 define the total housing and employment requirements of the LDP strategy respectively; whereas LDP policy BW7 sets out the sustainable design requirements for all types of built development, including houses, household extensions, employment units and community buildings.

4.11.3 Area specific policies are those which directly relate to spatial allocations within the County Borough. For example, site specific housing (LDP policies AS1-AS3) and employment allocations (LDP Policy AS14) fall under this type of policy, as well as site allocations that are constrained by certain policy requirements, such as green wedges (LDP policy AS5) and sites of importance for nature conservation (LDP Policy AS6). All area specific policies have related allocations which are shown on the LDP proposal maps.

4.11.4 Topic based policies are those which are required for types of development that cannot be adequately considered under the more generic policies identified elsewhere in the plan. Such policies therefore add further policy requirements specific to the specialist area of planning policy. Examples include minerals, waste and renewable energy technology.

4.11.5 Barriers to success vary considerably between policies and current successes are highlighted in Section 4.6 above. A summary of the performance of individual policies can also be found in Appendix 1 of the AMR. It should, however, be noted that it is not realistic or necessary for all policies to be directly monitored; this would lead to unnecessarily large and complicated AMRs.

4.12 What are the perceived issues for the LDP during the revision period and beyond?

4.12.1 There are considered to be three key issues that could influence the preparation of a revised LDP. Firstly, preparing a revised LDP will require additional funding at a time of financial constraint. The LDP budget for 2015/16 was £25,000; however, it is anticipated that this will need to increase to £57,000 in 2017/18 in order to meet the cost of background studies and plan production costs, and even more during examination year in order to meet Inspector, Programme Officer and examination venue costs.

4.12.2 As indicated in section 4.1, LPAs have a statutory duty to prepare an LDP and experience has shown that it is vital that it is based on robust evidence. Failure to do so can result in challenges at LDP examination, which can lead to additional time delays and costs later on (see section 4.4.3). It is therefore essential that LDP preparation is fully resourced.

4.12.3 Notwithstanding this, the Policy and Implementation Section have been exploring ways of reducing the cost of LDP preparation, including the up-skilling of staff in order to undertake more work in-house and undertaking joint work with neighbouring authorities were possible. SA/SEA training has already been undertaken by planning officers and experience has been gained in collaborative working through the preparation of the Community Infrastructure Levy with Caerphilly CBC and Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC.
4.12.4 Local government re-organisation could also influence the approach to LDP preparation. The Welsh Government’s current position is that Merthyr Tydfil CBC should be merged with Bridgend CBC and Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, and an argument could be made for the preparation of joint development plans if or when there is a greater degree of certainty over whether the mergers will proceed.

4.12.5 Two or more LPAs could prepare a joint LDP for their areas either through joint agreement (the legislation for which is provided by section 72 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and LDP Regulation 36) or by the direction of Welsh Ministers (section 14 of the Planning Wales Act 2015). Whilst there are currently no plans to jointly prepare an LDP with the aforementioned authorities, this position could change in the future.

4.12.6 The Planning Wales Act 2015 has introduced strategic planning areas and associated strategic development plans (SDP) into the Welsh planning system, and the Welsh Government has indicated that this strategic approach will be taken forward in South East Wales. It is anticipated that Merthyr Tydfil will be included within the strategic planning area for South East Wales, and accordingly, the preparation of the Merthyr Tydfil’s LDP will need to be in conformity with the emerging SDP. In terms of timescales for the preparation of an SDP, it is anticipated that the SDP area will be designated in 2016, the strategic planning panel will be established in 2017 and the SDP will be adopted in 2021.

ELLIS COOPER
DIRECTOR OF PLACE AND
TRANSFORMATION

CHRIS BARRY
PORTFOLIO MEMBER FOR
REGENERATION, PLANNING AND
COUNTRYSIDE

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Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council’s Constitution? NO
SCRUTINY REPORT

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT
1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with its work programme for consideration and to prepare in advance for the next scrutiny committee meeting.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)
2.1 The Committee considers its work programme and approve, revise or amend it as deemed appropriate; and to consider the questions above in planning for the next meeting.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND
3.1 Scrutiny committees are required to prepare and keep under review a programme for their future work. By reviewing and prioritising issues, members are able to ensure that the work programme delivers a member-led agenda.

3.2 At each meeting the committee will agree the agenda items for their next meeting and in preparation may in advance wish to ask itself the following questions.

Q) Why has the item been placed on a scrutiny work programme?
   a. Does this item/topic contribute to the delivery of the Council’s Corporate Plan and priorities?
   b. Is this item/topic relating to service performance concerns?
   c. Is this item/topic of significant public interest?
   d. Has the item/topic got budgetary implications?
e. Is this a topic where Scrutiny involvement will make a significant difference and achieve tangible outcomes?
f. Can effective Scrutiny of this issue be delivered from within available resources?

Q) What is the specific role of the committee?
This will depend on the item – for example the role could be:

a. to determine if performance levels are acceptable in relation to a particular department
b. to determine if a specific policy is fit for purpose
c. to satisfy itself that the Authority is working well with its partners in tackling a major issue
d. to gather the views of specific stakeholders as part of an on-going scrutiny investigation / review
e. to explore possible solutions to an issue

Q) What outcome is the committee seeking from the consideration of this item?

a. To comment on the proposed budget and make suggestions to cabinet regarding the proposed budget’s ability to deliver the priorities of the council
b. Identification of any causes for concern and note successes.
c. To receive an overview presentation.
d. To gain an understanding of and to comment on a policy / strategy
e. To explore ideas around the setting of budgets while considering the pressures facing each service. This also helps provide an overview of the policy frame work.
f. For the scrutiny committee to gain an overview and refresh their knowledge of the corporate plan / other plan / other strategy.
g. Improvement in service delivery

Q) What information does the committee need to fulfil this role / achieve this outcome?
What is the Committee trying to do? You might be trying to do some or all of the following i.e. establish facts; gather opinions; or explore new ideas / solutions.

Q) Who should be invited to the meeting to provide the information?
Depending on the information you need you might want to hear from a range of witnesses – e.g. Cabinet members, Senior Officers, Service users, and External partners – e.g. Police, Health Board etc

Q) Does the committee need to ask for written representations?
The Committee may wish to pose some questions to the Directorate / Cabinet member / External Partner etc prior to the meeting. This may help in instances when the committee is looking for something specific to be addressed. This will assist whoever is attending ensure that they have the information / answer ready for the meeting.

Q) Which meeting format / venue would be most appropriate for the item and for the witnesses that will be invited to attend?
Meetings do not have to be held in a formal committee room environment. You may wish to hold occasional meetings out in the community e.g.
community centres, sports facilities etc. It depends on the subject. Some people find the formal setting intimidating. Site visits for example may be more appropriate to see first-hand what the committee is investigating / obtaining information on e.g. waste sites, regeneration projects etc.

3.3 Committees members will be aware that the Council has seven key priorities as per the Corporate Plan. These are:- 1) Raising Standards of Attainment; 2) Employability; 3) Economic Development; 4) Promoting Active Lifestyles; 5) Promoting Independence; 6) Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable Children and 7) A Sustainable Environment.

The seven Council priority areas are delivered through 4 themes, and each of the 4 Chief Officers has ownership and responsibility for one of these themes. The 4 themes are:-

- **Raising Standards** - (Chief Officer for Learning/ Cabinet member for Learning)  
  *Learning & LAESCYP Scrutiny Committee*

- **Improving Wellbeing** - (Chief Officer for Social Services / Cabinet member for Social Services)  
  *Social Services Scrutiny Committee*

- **Economic Growth** - (Chief Officer for Community Regeneration / Cabinet member for Regeneration, Planning and Countryside)  
  *Regeneration, Planning & Countryside Scrutiny Committee*

- **Sustainable Development** - (Chief Officer for Neighbourhood Services / Cabinet member for Neighbourhood Services and Public Protection)  
  *Neighbourhood Services and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee*

3.4 To reflect the 4 themes as per above in a convenient form, 4 “strategies on a page” have been developed and each reflects Measures of Success; Desired Outcomes and Strategic Aims and Objectives.

3.5 Much of Scrutiny committee work programme activity is aligned to the delivery of the Council’s corporate priorities and the “strategies of a page” can assist scrutiny committees in this role. See appendix I for the “strategies of a page”.

3.6 A copy of the Committees work programme is also attached.

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<td>Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?</td>
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Page 15
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Measures of Success

Raising Standards

Vision:
All learners attain at least the expected standard at all stages in their education

Desired Outcomes

Leadership in all schools is good or better
All members of the education community collaborate well in order to improve the standards and wellbeing of pupils
Teaching in all schools is good or better
LA provision improves standards of attainment and the quality of leadership and teaching in schools

Strategic Aims

AIM 1: Improve the quality of leadership including the leadership of learning and teaching
AIM 2: Improve LA and commissioned services
**Improving Wellbeing**

**Vision:**
We will help people in Merthyr Tydfil to maximise their potential, be free from poverty, be independent and healthy and to live in supportive and resilient communities.

Specific Measurable Outcomes - Measures of Success

**Strategic Aims & Objectives:**
- **AIM 1:** Implement the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.
- **AIM 2:** Improve performance within Social Services.
- **AIM 3:** Improve partnership working.
- **AIM 4:** Promotion of early intervention and prevention.
- **AIM 5:** Manage demand for services.
- **AIM 6:** Outcome focussed planning.

Social Services:
- Children
- Adults
- Safeguarding

People in Merthyr Tydfil will be able to lead independent and fulfilled lives.

Vulnerable children in Merthyr Tydfil live healthy, safe and fulfilled lives.

People in Merthyr Tydfil are physically active and as a result have improved health.

**Desired Outcomes**
- Year on year more people are supported in their own homes.
- Assessments and reviews are completed in a timely manner and meet ambitious performance targets.
- All people in need have a clear and appropriate plan that meets their needs.
- Increasingly, Social Services work with local providers, other Local Authorities and community groups.
- Children and adults in Merthyr Tydfil are safe.
- By April 2016 Merthyr Tydfil is ready to implement the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.
- Numbers of children needing to be looked after reduce.
- Commissioned services meet appropriate need.
- Services are provided at the right time.

**Overarching Theme:**
- Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.
- (17 work streams)
- Outcome focussed planning.
Economic Growth Plan

Vision

To position Merthyr Tydfil as a key regional centre within the City Region, with a diverse and vibrant economy with a skilled, flexible and well paid work force

Measurable Outcomes

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<th>The Business Base</th>
<th>Baseline (year)</th>
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<td>Key Indicator</td>
<td>Level 2 Skills</td>
<td>6682</td>
<td>7000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Working Age Population with level 2 qualifications (2011)</td>
<td>6682</td>
<td>7000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Working Age Population with no qualifications (2011)</td>
<td>5963</td>
<td>9000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Desired Outcomes

- Create more jobs across all sectors of the economy
- Match skills requirement within the existing labour market to growth employment sectors
- Improve the digital and mobile communication infrastructure in Merthyr
- Improve the skills within the exiting workforce
- Continues to improve the physical infrastructure of the town centre and key employment sites
- Agree with schools and colleges how to develop and promote advanced skills particularly focused on STEM
- Develops in new way support mechanism for existing businesses and improve support for new businesses start-ups and high-growth evolution
- Create a new business and employment partnerships bringing together all sectors necessary for effective growth

AIM 1: Develop a diverse and vibrant business base
AIM 2: Create a flexible, resilient and responsive labour market
AIM 3: Increase the quality and skills within the existing and future workforce necessary for effective business growth
AIM 4: Improve and create the right infrastructure to enable and accelerate business growth
A Sustainable Environment

People in Merthyr Tydfil will live in communities that are sustainable, clean and energy efficient.

Vision

Specific Measurable Outcomes - ‘Scores on Doors’ - Measure of Success

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Year</th>
<th>Welsh Government Target (NSI/PAM – WMT/009b)</th>
<th>MTCBC Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>Missed (achieved only 48%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019/20</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024/25</td>
<td>70% (Towards Zero Waste)</td>
<td>75%</td>
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</table>

Landfill Allowances Scheme

The amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merthyr Tydfil</td>
<td>8,793</td>
<td>8,402</td>
<td>8,012</td>
<td>7,621</td>
<td>7,230</td>
<td>6,839</td>
<td>6,448</td>
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</tbody>
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% of Fly Tipping incidents cleared within 5 working days

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Wales Ave:</td>
<td>95%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merthyr Tydfil</td>
<td>96%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Flood Management

Planning & Countryside

Wildlife & Biodiversity

Parks & Open Spaces

Waste Management

Energy Management

Environmental Quality - Cleaning / Fly Tipping / Litter

- Air Quality

- Noise

Desired Outcomes -

Behavioural change - Residents engage and take ownership of recycling waste

Creation of more ‘Greener’ jobs

Generate income from sale of clean, high-quality recyclable materials

Create a more resilient and resource efficient economy through support to local markets

Reduction in green-house gas emissions by diverting waste from landfill

Reduce our ecological footprint by providing clean, high quality recycled materials that can achieve closed loop recycling

Reduction in fly tipping and litter incidences resulting in a cleaner, more attractive environment

Less carbon emissions due to use of new modern recycling vehicles utilizing routes optimized collection rounds

Strategic Aims & Objectives -

AIM 1: Increase the amount of waste reused, recycled or composted

AIM 2: Reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill

AIM 3: Provide a more cost effective and efficient waste management service

AIM 4: Improve Local Environmental Quality
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Corporate Items</th>
<th>Policy Review &amp; Development</th>
<th>Monitoring Reports / Briefing Reports</th>
<th>10th November 2015</th>
<th>15th December 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8th July 2015</td>
<td>Transformation and Budget meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd September 2015</td>
<td>Production of a Local Development Plan (LDP) 2006 to 2021</td>
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<td>10th November 2015</td>
<td>Economic Growth Plan Community and Economic Regeneration</td>
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</table>

(Two above items will be in the form of 1 x combined report)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Corporate Items</th>
<th>26th January 2016</th>
<th>8th March 2016</th>
<th>19th April 2016</th>
<th>31st May 2016</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26th January 2016</td>
<td>JOINT MEETING All Scrutiny Committees</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th March 2016</td>
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<td>19th April 2016</td>
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<td>31st May 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring Reports / Briefing Reports</td>
<td></td>
<td>Taxi licensing (SP/PL) (Deferred from 10th November)</td>
<td>Housing Wales Act 2014 – 1 year on.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Effectiveness Of Scrutiny &amp; Audit Annual Report</td>
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</table>

Version November 2015
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Invitees</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Scrutiny Focus</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22nd September 2015</td>
<td>Housing Grants/DFG</td>
<td>(JP/SP)</td>
<td>Value for money</td>
<td>Scrutiny &amp; Challenge: A report providing</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>(i) a more detailed analysis of performance over 4 years comparing the top and</td>
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<td>bottom performance with the performance of MTCBC and the Welsh average</td>
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<td>(ii) a view about whether the service provides value for money and</td>
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<td>(iii) whether the available funding can be used differently to address some of</td>
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<td>the challenges such as changing demography, the drive towards greater</td>
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<td>independence and the Independent Living Review 2014/15</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Local Development Plan (LDP)</td>
<td>(JJ/JW)</td>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>The LDP was adopted by Council in 2011 and covers the period from 2006 to 2021.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2006 to 2021</td>
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<td>Information: A report providing an explanation of the LDP process:-</td>
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<td>(i) legislative requirements</td>
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<td>(ii) the purpose, its strategy and objectives</td>
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<td>(iii) the process required to develop it</td>
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<td>(iv) lessons learnt from the process leading up to the adoption of the current</td>
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<td>LDP</td>
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<td>10th November 2015</td>
<td>Housing Grants/DFG</td>
<td>(JP/SP)</td>
<td>Value for money</td>
<td>Scrutiny &amp; Challenge: A report providing</td>
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<td>(i) a more detailed analysis of performance over 4 years comparing the top and</td>
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<td>bottom performance with the performance of MTCBC and the Welsh average</td>
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<td>(ii) a view about whether the service provides value for money (how do you</td>
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<td>measure vfm re the different ongoing projects) and</td>
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<td>(iii) whether the available funding can be used differently to address</td>
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<td>Economic Growth Plan</td>
<td>AO, CL &amp; CB</td>
<td>Economic Growth</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pre scrutiny.</strong> The Growth Plan being developed with a view to: increase employment; encourage business growth and investment; tackle social disadvantage. The plan will link to local strategic aims in advancing an area’s economic well-being, and underpins cross-cutting approaches to tackle deprivation as a result of industrial decline. This is an opportunity for scrutiny to comment on the plan before it is submitted to Cabinet/Council.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community and Economic Regeneration</th>
<th>(AO)</th>
<th>Grants and sustainability</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Scrutiny & Challenge:** A report detailing  
(i) the current strategy, key success factors and desired outcomes  
(ii) all current grant funded projects, how they support regeneration in MTCBC, their purpose, the amount and when the funding expires  
(iii) how remaining core funding and grants beyond 2017, can provide a sustainable strategy and programme for the next 5 to 10 years |
Taxi licensing (Deferred) (SP/PL) Licensing
(i) Deregulation Act for taxi licensing
(ii) Child sexual exploitation issues from Casey Report (Rotherham)

Scrutiny & Challenge: A report which provides details about the risks and issues for the Council and the wider public of the Deregulation Act, how these are being addressed and how the potential for child sexual exploitation can be reduced in relation to use of taxi’s and taxi procurement.

Scrutiny & Challenge: The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that an AMR is produced and submitted to WG at the end of October each year. The AMR reports on the success (or not) of the LDP in delivering/implementing policies.

Local Development Plan (LDP) 2006 to 2021 (JJ/JW) Planning
The LDP was adopted by Council in 2011 and covers the period from 2006 to 2021.

Information: A report providing an explanation of the LDP process:-
1. legislative requirements
2. the purpose, its strategy and objectives
3. the process required to develop it
4. lessons learnt from the process leading up to the adoption of the current LDP
5. How is LDP influencing overall achievement of MTCBC’s ‘vision’?
6. Which elements are on track and which are not (with reasons for the latter).
7. What criteria do you use to evaluate its success? ie. Targets?
8. How often is progress monitored?
9. How is this relayed to decision makers?
10. Can you provide statistical information on the 12 strategic objectives in the LDP?
11. Can you give a breakdown on the three types of policies – Borough, Area specific and topic based, What are they and what are barriers to success and what are the successes to date?
12. What are the perceived issues for the LDP during the revision period and beyond?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Scrutiny &amp; Challenge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14th January 2016 (Joint)</td>
<td>Budget Proposals 2015/16</td>
<td>Scrutiny &amp; Challenge: A report detailing the budget proposals for 2015/16 and the implications for the 4 year medium term financial plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>LCJ, EC, GC, LB</td>
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<td>Joint Scrutiny</td>
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<td>AO, CL</td>
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<td>Economic Growth</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th January 2016</td>
<td>TAXI LICENSING (Deferred from Nov meeting)</td>
<td>Scrutiny &amp; Challenge: A report which provides details about the risks and issues for the Council and the wider public of the Deregulation Act, how these are being addressed and how the potential for child sexual exploitation can be reduced in relation to use of taxi’s and taxi procurement.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(SP/PL)</td>
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<td>Licensing (iii) Deregulation Act for taxi licensing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(iv) Child sexual exploitation issues from Casey Report (Rotherham)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th March 2016</td>
<td>DESTINATION MANAGEMENT PLAN</td>
<td>Scrutiny &amp; Challenge: A report detailing how does the DMP need to be refocused especially to include heritage and outdoor activity development?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(CL/RB)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Strategic Tourism</td>
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<td></td>
<td>How does the DMP need to be refocused especially to include heritage and outdoor activity development?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(i) progress delivering the current DMP and the outputs and outcomes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(ii) why and how the plan needs to be refocused</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>Scrutiny &amp; Challenge</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th April</td>
<td>Housing Wales Act 2014 – 1 year on.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Better focus on heritage and outdoor activity</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(iii) Trends in terms of visitors to MTCBC, the length of stay in the area</td>
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<td></td>
<td>and the focus of activity.</td>
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<td>(iv) Partnership collaboration &amp; engagement e.g. Trust (Castle/Cyfarthfa</td>
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<td>Park)</td>
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<td>Wellbeing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Housing Wales Act 2014 – 1 year on.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Scrutiny &amp; Challenge: - a summary of the impact of the 2014 Act</td>
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<td>nearly 12 months from its enactment on service needs, performance</td>
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<td>and resources</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Organisation: - a summary of the impact of the 2014 Act</td>
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<td>nearly 12 months from its enactment on service needs, performance</td>
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<td>and resources</td>
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<td>Economic Growth</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Scrutiny &amp; Challenge: - A Presentation/report on the Social Enterprise</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Strategy detailing:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(i) The key aims/objectives of the strategy</td>
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<td>(ii) SEWCED Legacy – The continued impact of the investment and how SEWCED</td>
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<td></td>
<td>funded organisations have developed since the programme ended. What their</td>
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<td></td>
<td>requirements are moving forward.</td>
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<td>(iii) An overview of the new EU programmes. Including funding, business</td>
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<td>support. How the LA can help access support.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(iv) The current role of the Local Authority in growing the sector – local</td>
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<td></td>
<td>and regional networks. Signposting, business reviews and identifying</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>opportunities.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(i) Health and Wellbeing act – An outline. Opportunities for Social</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Enterprises.</td>
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</table>

Following the 10th November 2015 there are two referrals that the Chair will take to the next Governance meeting:

- a) Issue around Internal Audit’s review of DFG’s. When last was an audit undertaken / when is one next expected.; and
- b) Discussion with the Chair of Social Services around the issues raised by JP on delays on the COT side.
| **To be confirmed (next year’s work programme)** | Housing Services Update - Is the housing renewals programme helping to improve the wellbeing of affected residents  
**Scrutiny & Challenge**: A report providing  
(i) a brief summary of the new allocations policy (not available - work on drafting one has only just started and will not be completed until next summer (2016))  
(ii) issues affecting homelessness services and strategic partnership working/development - this is being covered in the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny meeting of the 7th Dec 2015 |