



MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING

JOINT MEETING WITH AUDIT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 20TH APRIL, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor T Lewis (In the Chair)

Councillors R Braithwaite, M Davies, A Jones, G Jones,
G Lewis, B E Mansbridge, J McCarthy, K Moran, L Mytton,
M O'Neill, D Roberts, S Slater, W R Smith, Richard Thomas and
C Tovey

Councillors T Chaplin and C Jones

Councillors B Toomey, P Williams, C Barry, D Jones, H R Jones
and L Matthews – Cabinet Members

Cooptees:

Claire Brown, Robert Holdaway, Rosemary Lazell, Brian Lewis,
Anne Roberts and Tanya Skinner
David Gibby

Officers:

Gareth Chapman (Chief Executive), Ellis Cooper (Corporate
Director (Place and Transformation) - Deputy Chief Executive),
Lorraine Buck (Corporate Director (People and Performance) -
Lead Director for Children and Young People), Carys Kennedy
(Head of Legal and Governance Services - Monitoring Officer),
Steve Jones (Head of Finance), Fran Donnelly (H R Manager),
Dorothy Haines (Chief Officer (Learning) - Chief Education
Officer), Lisa Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services)),

Cherylee Evans (Chief Officer (Neighbourhood Services)),
 Steve Peters (Head of Public Protection and Housing) and Chris
 Long (Economic Development & Strategic Tourism Manager)

Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer) and Mair Morgan (Democratic
 Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
1326	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Isaac, Councillor H Barrett, Councillor P Brown, Councillor B Carter, Councillor L E Smart, Councillor Raymond Thomas, Councillor S Williams and Mrs M Harris, Mrs M Jones, Mrs N Mahoney and Mrs Anne Morgan Co-opted Members.
1327	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	<p>Councillor D Roberts Declared his Interest in Item 3 – MTCBC Change Programme – Projects Report 5 –as his daughter works in Lifeline and his business supplies the Print Department.</p> <p>Mr R Holdaway Co-opted Member Declared his Interest in Item 3 – MTCBC Change Programme – Projects Report 5 as he is a representative of the Town Ward Pact.</p> <p>Councillor A Jones Declared his Interest in Item 3 – MTCBC Change Programme – Projects Report 5 when the item was being considered - Football Field Charges as he is involved in Football.</p>
1328	MTCBC Change Programme - Projects Report 5	<p>The Leader Councillor B Toomey referred the Committee to the MTCBC Change Programme – Projects Report 5' report.</p> <p>Councillor P Williams then referred to the report and the appendices and advised that if the Committee recommended any changes then these matters could be deferred at Council pending a further report.</p> <p>Councillor D Roberts having Declared his Interest in the item left the Meeting when the items upon which he had Declared his Interest were considered.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Members and were responded to in detail by the Cabinet Members and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraphs 4.1 and 4.5 of the report – How do they tie up • Paragraph 5.3 of the report – Bullet six – Can an example be given of this • Are staff looking at this • Appendix 3 – Are these suggestions currently rejected

- Policy – Ability to Change – Bullet five – Can this be explained and an example given
- Clinical Waste Collections – How many residents are involved and what would the increase be
- Default Works – Admin Charge – Can an example be given of what sort of work and what sort of income would be brought in
- Dog Warden Fees – Definition requested - Lower stray dogs

Green Bulky Waste Collections – Are costs being created in other areas by doing this – Will an increase in fly tipping be seen – What is the Strategy going forward – What is the current penalty – Is it having an impact – Is it wise to start charging more – Will it escalate what is already an issue

The Leader then advised that if the Committee were concerned regarding this proposal then it could be withdrawn

Resolved that:

Green Bulky Waste Collections be deferred and recommended for withdrawal from consideration at Full Council and that this deferral be for a period of three months.

- Housing Renewals – Why is this kept to one side – Why over four years
- Land Drainage – Was the Meeting arranged – Are the Clients accepting the SLA – What is the contingency plan
- Procurement Card Rebate – What are the risks associated – Overspend – VAT – Reassurance sought – Have Policies been revised to allow for risks to be identified
- Street Works – Do we make any allowances if disabled residents can not afford the charges – The Equalities Act.
- Taxi Licensing – Is this subject to consultation with the Taxi Association in Merthyr Tydfil – Is the Operator Licence going to be included
- Trade Waste – What size business would these bins affect
- Accommodation (HFE's) – How does the Authority compare with other Local Authorities

Rejected Business Cases

- Animal Impounding Fees – Will there be a change due to microchipping
- Bowls Fees – Council advised that there are ongoing negotiations with the Bowls Association
- Building Regulations – Will this be returned to in the future
- Bulky Waste Collection – The issues arising from the Scrutiny Committee held in relation to litter and the problems with fly-tipping

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing Fields – Has consideration been given to the sharing of fields – Transfers of assets <p>Further Resolved subject to the foregoing that:</p> <p>(a) The Cabinet recommended Income Management and Cost Recovery Policy attached as Appendix 1 of the report be approved</p> <p>(b) The Cabinet recommended additional income generation opportunities of £611,000, attached as Appendices 2 and 4 of the report be approved</p> <p>(c) The Cabinet rejection of income generation opportunities attached as Appendices 3 and 5 of the report be noted</p>
1329	MTCBC Change Programme - Projects Report 6	<p>Councillor L Matthews referred the Council to the 'MTCBC Change Programme – Projects Report 6' report.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Members and were responded to in detail by the Cabinet Members and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Response Services – Intermediate Care Fund – Is this guaranteed to continue • Children with Disabilities – Will there be an increase in cost to parents • Fostering and Adoption Services – What is the cost saving on the deletion of the post – What is a bumped redundancy option • Youth Offending and Duty Services –Social Services Budgets <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Cabinet recommended budget reduction opportunities of £511,000 as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.</p>
1330	Any Other Business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.</p>