



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# AUDIT MEETING

**MONDAY, 29TH APRIL, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Councillors C T Jones (Chair)  
D Roberts (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: J Amos, J Davies, D Sammon, C Tovey and  
J Thomas

**Lay Member:**  
R Williams (Lay Member)

**Other Councillors in Attendance:**  
A Barry (Cabinet Member), C Davies (Cabinet Member),  
D Hughes (Cabinet Member), L Mytton (Cabinet Member) and  
G Thomas (Cabinet Member)

**Officers:**  
E Cooper (Deputy Chief Executive), S Jones (Head of Finance),  
M Thomas (Head of Regional Audit Service), G Evans (Audit  
Manager), A Owen (Chief Officer (Regeneration and Public  
Protection)) and P H Davies (Purchasing Manager)

**Outside Bodies:**  
H Goddard and S J Byrne (Wales Audit Office)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
1039	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G Lewis and Councillor K O'Neill Cabinet Member.
1040	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.
1041	Procurement Strategy	The Chair welcomed Paul Davies to the Meeting.

		<p>Paul Davies referred the Committee to the 'Public Procurement in Wales – MTCBC – Procurement Strategy' report and advised that it was still a draft report and was open for comments.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The report be noted.</p>
1042	Annual Audit Letter 2017 - 2018	<p>The Chair welcomed Helen Goddard and Sarah Jayne Byrne to the Meeting.</p> <p>Helen Goddard referred the Committee in detail to the Annual Audit Letter and Sarah Byrne outlined to the Committee the Performance elements of the letter.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to by the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansion requested on the phrase 'It is not sustainable for the Council to rely on its reserves'</li> <li>• What would happen if the figure were to go below 3.5% - What would be the position of the 151 Officer</li> <li>• Where is the Authority in relation to other Council's</li> <li>• When will the Financial Stability of Councils report be available</li> </ul> <p>A Cabinet Member then referred to the significant budget challenges and the only way was to work together and also referred to the Meeting the Committee Chair and Vice Chair were having with the Wales Audit Officer and offered attendance at this Meeting.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked Helen Goddard and Sarah Byrne for the Presentation of the report and their attendance at the Meeting.</p>
1043	Internal Audit Peer Review	<p>Gary Evans referred the Committee in detail to the 'Internal Audit Peer Review' report.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The report be received and its contents and Action Plan for strengthening existing arrangements be noted.</p> <p>Councillor J Davies left the Meeting at 2.30 pm.</p>
1044	Internal Audit Plan 2019-2020	<p>The Chair welcomed Mark Thomas to the Meeting.</p> <p>Mark Thomas and Gary Evans referred in detail to the 'Internal Audit Strategy and Plan 2019/2020' report and responded in detail to the following questions raised by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staffing levels – Vacancies</li> <li>• Clarification of figures in the report</li> </ul>

		<p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The Internal Audit Strategy and Plan be approved.</p>
1045	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	A Member referred to the Meeting being held with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee with the Wales Audit Office and stated that all Committee Members should have been advised of this Meeting.
1046	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.