



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING JOINT MEETING WITH AUDIT

WEDNESDAY, 23RD JANUARY, 2019

PRESENT:

Councillors T Skinner, G Lewis, J Amos, C J Barry, B Carter, D Chaplin, M Colbran, J Davies, S Jago, C T Jones, D Jones, H R Jones, G Richards, T Rogers, D Sammon, W R Smith, S Thomas and I Thomas

Coopteers:

R Holdaway (Public Appointed) and J Beard (Public Appointed)

Other Councillors In Attendance:

K O'Neill (Cabinet Member), D Hughes (Cabinet Member) and G Thomas (Cabinet Member)

Officers:

G W Chapman (Chief Executive), C Kennedy (Head of Legal and Governance Services - Monitoring Officer), E Cooper (Deputy Chief Executive), S Jones (Head of Finance), C Evans (Chief Officer (Neighbourhood Services)), L Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services)), A Mogford (Business Change Manager), A Owen (Chief Officer (Regeneration and Public Protection)), S Walker (Chief Education Officer), C Dinham (Communications, Consultation and Engagement Manager), F Donnelly (H R Manager), P Lewis (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager) and G Evans (Audit Manager)

Outside Bodies:

H Goddard (Wales Audit Office)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
758	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Brown, Councillor C Davies, Councillor L Davies and H Jackson, R Lazell, K Sutton, M Ellis, H Hopkins, J McCarthy, K Phelan, C Payne, H Powell, T Butler, E Wilkins-Campbell, and E Davies Co-opted Members.
759	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	Mr R Holdaway Co-opted Member Declared his Interest in Item Three – Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 – Update January 2019 – Citizen’s Advice Bureau as he is a Director.
760	Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 - Update January 2019	<p>Steve Jones referred the Committee to the ‘Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 – Update January 2019’ report and also made a Presentation in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised Budget Deficits 2019/20 to 2022/23 • Corporate Additional Demands • Corporate Budget Reductions • Further Revised Budget Deficits • Local Government Revenue Settlement • Welsh Local Government Revenue Settlement 2019 -2020 • Schools Budget Reductions • Proposals to Address Budget Deficit 2019/20 <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in cost of school meals • Paragraph 3.1 – What is the projected deficit – Could the figure be included in the report • What are the current reserves • What is the cost of the Additional Learning Needs Bill • Clarification sought in relation to Budget and general reserves • Timing of grants from the Welsh Government • Further details requested in relation to Phase 2 – VR/VER • Teachers Pensions • Position next year in relation to Children Looked After – Demands • Cost of a Residential Placement per annum • Explanation requested in relation to Weekly Placements • Level of Placements – Reasons for the increase – Is this UK wide • Clarification sought on Supported Placements (Individual Care Packages) • Clarification sought in relation to Financing of a permanent Energy Officer <p>A Member then enquired why there was no Member of the Cabinet present at the Meeting to respond to questions</p>

		<p>raised.</p> <p>Another Member then advised that the Cabinet Members were currently in another Meeting and would be attending shortly.</p> <p>A Member then moved the motion that ‘this Committee was disappointed that there was no Cabinet Member present at the Meeting’ and this motion was seconded.</p> <p>Councillor K O’Neill, Councillor D Hughes and Councillor G Thomas then entered the Meeting at 3.10pm.</p> <p>A vote was then taken on the Motion and it was</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>To note the disappointment of the Committee that there was no Cabinet Member present at the Meeting.</p> <p>Further Resolved that:</p> <p>The report be noted.</p>
761	Any Other Business deemed urgent by the Chair	Councillor K O’Neill addressed the Committee regarding the attendance of the Cabinet Members at the Meeting.