



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

AUDIT MEETING

MONDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

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

Councillors: J Davies, G Lewis, D Sammon, C Tovey and
J Thomas

Lay Member:
R Williams (Lay Member)

Other Councillors in Attendance:
A Barry (Cabinet Member)

Officers:
G Evans (Audit Manager), M Thomas (Head of Regional Audit
Service), S Jones (Head of Finance), A Lewis (Chief Accountant)
and K O'Donovan (Corporate Risk and Equalities Manager)

Outside Bodies:
H Goddard and SJ Byrne (Wales Audit Office)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
269	Appointment of Chair to Audit Committee	<i>Appointment of Audit Committee Chair</i> Resolved that: Councillor C T Jones be appointed as the Audit Committee Chair. <i>Appointment of Audit Committee Vice Chair</i> Resolved that:

		Councillor D Roberts be appointed as the Audit Committee Vice Chair.
270	Apologies for absence	No apologies for absence were received.
271	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.
272	Statement of Accounts 2018/2019	<p>The Chair welcomed Steve Jones and Adele Lewis to the Meeting.</p> <p>Steve Jones referred the Committee to the 'Statement of Accounts 2018-19' report and responded in detail to the following questions raised by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Health – Reserves – Explanation requested on these Reserve accounts • Is the purchasing of Commercial Property as an investment being considered • Is there a template for how much should be in reserves • Disabled Facility Grants – Is money carried forward to the following year or is this money lost to the Authority • Paragraph 7.2.1 – Explanation requested on the effect of the Capital Programme on Revenue expenditure <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Audited Statement of Accounts for 2018/19 being the financial year ended 31 March 2019 be considered and recommended to the Council of 11 September 2019 for approval.</p>
273	Annual Governance Statement 2018/2019	<p>Gary Evans referred the Committee to the 'Annual Governance Statement for Financial Year 2018/2019' and responded in detail to the following questions raised by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have all Members had sight of the Code of Governance and has it been updated • Statistics for complaints made against Councillors during 2018/19 – Has this been updated • Leader / Chief Executive Blogs – Would it be possible for all Councillors to have sight of these • Update requested on the current situation in relation to Work Streams <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The reported Annual Governance Statement for 2018/2019 be recommended to the Council of 11 September 2019 for approval</p> <p>Councillor J Davies left the Meeting at 2.30pm.</p>

274	Audit of Financial Statements Report - MTCBC	<p>The Chair welcomed Helen Goddard and Sara-Jane Byrne (Wales Audit Office) to the Meeting.</p> <p>Helen Goddard then referred in detail to the report.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked Helen Goddard and Sara-Jane Byrne for attending.</p>
275	Speak my Language: Overcoming Language Barriers and Communication Barriers in Public Services	<p>The Chair welcomed Kerry O'Donovan to the Meeting.</p> <p>Kerry O'Donovan referred the Committee to the 'Speak My Language Action Plan' report in detail and the following question was raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – What is the number for whom English or Welsh is not their first language <p>Kerry O'Donovan advised that this information would be circulated to the Committee.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Action Plan be received and the content noted.</p>
276	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the matters that had been considered at the Meeting.</p>
277	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.</p>