



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : GOVERNANCE, PERFORMANCE, BUSINESS CHANGE AND CORPORATE SERVICES MEETING

TUESDAY, 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2020

PRESENT: Councillors: T Skinner (Chair)

Councillors: H R Jones, D Sammon, W R Smith and C T Jones

Officers:

H Brown (Human Resources), L Emerson (Asset Management Principal Officer), P Lewis (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager), M Price (Revenue Officer) and S Lyons (Performance and Scrutiny Officer)

Outside Bodies:

Claire Brown

A Taylor (Head of Democratic Services) and M Edmunds* (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
46	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gareth Lewis (Vice Chair), Councillor Andrew Barry (Portfolio Member) and Geoff Beard (Co-optee).
47	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were received.

48	Coronavirus Update - Response and Transition to Recovery	<p>The Chair introduced the Response and Transition to Recovery Coronavirus Update report and advised it was an opportunity for Members to catch up on what has happened since lockdown, key outcomes and plans for recovery.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Paul Lewis to the meeting to provide further information and following a comment made by a Committee Member it was requested that due to the (new local lockdown restrictions) an additional brief overview be provided referring to the impact/effects on the last couple of days.</p> <p>(Councillor Gareth Lewis joined the meeting).</p> <p>Paul Lewis introduced Lisa Emerson (Estates), Mark Price (Revenues) and Hannah Brown (HR) who are part of the Recovery sub group and in particular referred to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate challenges (childcare issues for staff, staff self-isolation) • Support to public (PPE, redeployment of staff to support community) • Agile Working • Reducing footprint and office space <p>The following questions/comments were raised by Committee and answered in detail by the Officers:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the plan to re-open the front desk at the Civic Centre (request for risk assessment update). • What services have digitally been provided for the public. • How many council tax summons have been issued. • Clarity sought on (point 5.1) staff numbers working remotely; (point 6.2) number of staff that completed the survey and number of staff self- isolating. • Youth working. • Localised lockdown timescales. • Business sector grants. • Clarity sought on staff returning from abroad and having to quarantine. <p>Committee Members complimented officers on the work that has been undertaken.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Committee Members receive the report, noting the actions taken by the Council in response to the pandemic; and b) Committee Members consider the future plans to respond to the phased relaxation of lockdown; and how the Council will work differently to meet the needs of the 'new norm'.
49	Draft Work Programme	Following a request made by Scrutiny Support the Chair agreed that Items 3 and 4 be dealt with in reverse order as

		<p>the Work Programme needed to be agreed before moving on to any other items.</p> <p>The Chair introduced the report and made particular reference to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting statutory requirements • Action Tracker • Four Key Strands • Unprecedented events – (Floods; Covid 19). <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Committee approve the Draft Forward Work Plan.</p>
50	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>The Chair invited Sian Lyons to update Committee.</p> <p>The following matters were noted:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the risk assessment on the Civic Centre front desk re-opening would be escalated to CMT by Paul Lewis and an update be brought back to Committee. • Hannah Brown, HR provided figure of 383 responses in reply to a question raised regarding number of staff that completed the survey. • Action Tracker will be reviewed at each Committee under Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow Up Actions. • All reports going forward should have the 'covid lens' and 'lessons learnt' approach. • Future pre-meetings will take place at 3.30 p.m.
51	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair reflected on the items discussed in the meeting.</p>
52	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chair advised that the Corporate Plan and Annual Performance Report historically came to Committee in the final stages. It is now suggested that as a Committee we have a more involved role using workshop style meetings to shape and scrutinise during rather than at the end of the process which will give more ownership to Committee.</p> <p>Sian Lyons provided an update on Self Evaluation and what needed to be done by Committee Members.</p> <p>No other business was deemed urgent and the meeting was closed.</p>