



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

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

TUESDAY, 23RD MARCH, 2021

PRESENT: Councillors: T Skinner (Chair)

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

Other Councillors in Attendance:

L Mytton (Cabinet Member) and A Barry (Cabinet Member)

Officers:

E Cooper (Interim Chief Executive), S Jones (Head of Finance), A Mogford (Head of Corporate Services), S Walker (Chief Education Officer), L Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services)), F Donnelly (H R Manager), M Purnell (Performance and Scrutiny Officer), J Sellwood (Central Library), H Brown (Human Resources) and R Barry (Tourism Officer)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
491	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Amos, J Beard, C Payne and S Fureed Co-opted Members.

492	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	<p>Councillor D Sammon Declared his Interest in Item 3 – Welsh Public Library Standards Update as he is a Leisure Trust Board Member and has received Dispensation.</p> <p>Councillor L Davies Declared his Interest in Item 3 – Welsh Public Library Standards Update as he works for the Leisure Trust.</p>
493	Welsh Public Library Standards Update	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the 'Welsh Public Library Standards Update' report and welcomed Jane Sellwood to the Meeting.</p> <p>Jane Sellwood then led the Committee through the report and responded in detail to the following questions raised by the Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to include Merthyr Tydfil not just Merthyr and County Borough not just Borough in the report • Executive Summary – Paragraph 3.4 – Is there still a vacancy for a qualified Librarian – What is the minimum number of qualified Librarians – Is there an intention to advertise for a qualified Librarian – Are there recruitment issues • Apart from the Click and Collect Service when will the Library Service be open to the public • Will the Housebound Service be continued when services are back to normal • Explanation requested in relation to expenditure on books • Expertise and Capacity – As Chief Executive of the Trust will there be the need to appoint another qualified Librarian • How can work with Schools be strengthened – How can mini libraries and book exchanges be established in schools – How can everyone be engaged • What is the future direction – What is the number of new memberships – How many people have taken up the service of book delivery • Has the upskilling / training of existing staff been explored to become qualified Librarians • The need for IT upskilling – Are there any proposals for basic IT training courses • When the Library is allowed to re-open will it be open for a full service <p>Resolved that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The information on feedback from the Welsh Government be received (b) The report to Welsh Government be retrospectively ratified (c) The feedback report be accepted <p>The Chair then thanked Jane Sellwood for attending and the update to the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee also expressed thanks to all the staff for the</p>

		work undertaken in the past twelve months
494	Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan	<p>The Chair welcomed Councillor L Mytton and Councillor A Barry together with Council Officers to the Meeting.</p> <p>Councillor L Mytton then led the Committee through the 'Recovery, Transformation and Improvement (RTI) Plan' report and responded together with the Officers on the following questions raised by the Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 5.12 – What work has been done so far – How is digital performance being monitored – How long will it take for the model to be rolled out • Paragraph 5.13 – Further information requested in relation to the post of Commercial Manager • (Ellis Cooper advised that a briefing or workshop would be arranged in relation to this post) • Paragraph 5.17 – Further information sought on Phase 1 and could Phase 2 be confirmed • Paragraph 7.5 – Explanation sought in relation to external funding • (The Chair advised that she would pursue this matter as part of the Forward Work Programme and come back to the Committee for their views) • Paragraph 1.5 – Update requested on update from the Board • Capacity – What is the situation in other Local Authorities – Funding issues – Has the Welsh Government undertaken any rapid assessments • Concerns raised in relation to Environmental issues such as street cleansing and anti social behaviour – Is there discussion with Registered Social Landlords • What is the plan for the changing role of Scrutiny <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked the Cabinet Members and the Officers for attending and the update to the Committee.</p>
495	Work Programme 2020-2021	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the Forward Work Programme 2020/21 and advised of the need to consider the programme for the forthcoming year and sought suggestions from the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee also agreed the agenda for the next Committee Meeting.</p>
496	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>The Chair updated the Committee in relation to Free School Meals Data and the School Buildings Survey.</p>
497	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the issues that had been considered at the Meeting.</p>
498	Any other business	<p>The Chair advised that there was no business deemed</p>

	deemed urgent by the Chair	urgent.
--	-------------------------------	---------