



## MINUTES OF MEETING

# GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

**MONDAY, 4TH APRIL, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Councillors C T Jones (Chair)

Councillors: A Barry, D Chaplin, J Davies, D Sammon and C Tovey

**Other Councillors in Attendance:**

C Davies (Cabinet Member)

**Officers:**

S Jones (Head of Finance), M Thomas (Head of Regional Audit Service), L Cumpston (Audit Manager, Vale of Glamorgan Council), H Harbord (Senior Auditor), J Jones (Chief Officer Neighbourhood Services), D Chaffe (Highways and Fleet Manager), I Vantu (Transport) and A Lewis (Chief Accountant)

**Outside Bodies:**

H Goddard, N Hollis and S Byrne (Audit Wales)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
793	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Amos, Councillor D Roberts and Mr R Williams Lay Member.
794	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.
795	Audit Wales – Certification of Grants & Returns 2020/21	The Chair welcomed Helen Goddard, Neall Hollis and Sara-Jane Byrne of Audit Wales to the Meeting.  Neall Hollis then referred the Committee to the 'Certification

		<p>of Grants and Returns 2020-21 – Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council’ report and responded to the following questions raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conclusion – ‘Adequate arrangements in place’ – Is there scope for further improvement – Is there a specific area and is there any action the Authority needs to take</li> <li>• War Disablement Pension Rates – How many are there – Is this a high number</li> <li>• Late submission of Certified Claims – Is this other Councils or agencies such as DWP</li> </ul> <p>The Chair then thanked Neall Hollis for the update to the Committee.</p>
796	Audit Wales – Audit Plan 2022	<p>Helen Goddard, Neall Hollis and Sara-Jane Byrne referred in detail to the Wales Audit ‘2022 Audit Plan – Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council’ report and responded to the following question raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thematic Review – Unscheduled Care – When will this work start and how long will it take</li> </ul> <p>The Chair then thanked Wales Audit for the update to the Committee.</p>
797	Update From Fleet And Highways Services On The Recommendations Made In The Vehicles Fuel System Report 2021/22	<p>Helen Harbord referred the Committee to the ‘Update from Fleet and Highways Services on the Recommendations made in the Vehicles Fuel System Report 2021/22’ report.</p> <p>Darren Chaffe and Ioan Vantu then led the Members through the report and responded in detail to the following questions raised:</p> <p>Management Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.2 – Further details requested on Energy Monitoring Equipment and other ways to monitor</li> <li>• 2.1 – Further details requested on location of Vehicles</li> <li>• 3.6 – Where was the lack of staff resources</li> <li>• 3.7 – Are Budget holders/Managers checking on a regular basis</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The update provided by Engineering and Highways Services be considered.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Officers for attending and the update to the Committee.</p>
798	Draft Anti-Money Laundering Policy and Draft Anti-Tax Evasion Policy	<p>Mark Thomas led the Committee through the ‘Draft Anti-Money Laundering Policy and Draft Anti-Tax Evasion Policy’ report.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p>

		<p>(a) The draft Anti-Money Laundering Policy and the draft Anti-Tax Evasion Policy be noted</p> <p>(b) The draft Anti-Money Laundering Policy and the Draft Anti-Tax Evasion Policy be discussed prior to submission to Council for approval.</p>
799	Internal Audit Information Reports	<p>Mark Thomas referred to the Issued Internal Audit Reports and updated the Committee on the reports as listed in Table 1 of the report.</p> <p>No requests were received from the Committee for Call in of the reports listed in the report.</p>
800	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the matters that has been discussed at the Meeting.</p>
801	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p><b>Appointments</b></p> <p><b>Lay Members</b> The Chair advised that the new Governance and Audit Committee would have three Lay Members and that alongside Mr Robert Williams, Mr Martin Veale and Mrs Sue Erikson had been appointed as the Lay Members on the new Committee.</p> <p><b>Assistant Audit Manager</b> The Chair congratulated Helen Harbord on her appointment as Assistant Audit Manager</p> <p><b>Last Meeting</b> The Chair advised that this was his last Meeting as Chair of the Committee and he thanked all the Audit Wales Staff, Committee and Cabinet Portfolio Members and the Internal Audit staff for their work over the years.</p> <p>Thanks were also conveyed to the Chair for his work with the Committee.</p>