



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 2024

PRESENT: Councillors M Veale (Chair)
C Prosser (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: B Carter, C Jones, D Roberts, D Sammon,
J Scriven and C Tovey

Lay Member:
S Eriksen

Other Councillors in Attendance:
A Barry, G Thomas and D Hughes

Officers:
E Cooper (Chief Executive), A Wathan (Head of Regional Internal Audit Service), L Cumpston (Audit Manager Regional Internal Audit Service), C Davies (Audit), H Harbord (Assistant Audit Manager Regional Internal Audit Service), L Hull (Chief Finance Officer / Section 151 Officer), C Dinham (Communications, Consultation and Engagement Manager), H Brown (Head of HR and Organisational Improvement) and J Jones (Director of Neighbourhood Services) and J Llewellyn (Head of Childrens Services).

Outside Bodies:
I Phillips and D Woods (Audit Wales)

O Moore (Democratic Services Officer) and E Galeozzie
(Democratic Services Officer)

| ITEM NO. | AGENDA MATTER | DECISION |
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| 684 | Apologies for absence | No apologies for absence were received. |
| 685 | Declarations of Interest | Councillor D Hughes Declared his Interest in Item 14 – Special Guardianship Orders. |
| 686 | Minutes of Previous Meeting For Information | The Minutes of the Governance and Audit Committee held 15th of January 2024 were accepted as a correct record. |
| 687 | Governance and Audit Committee Action log | The Chief Finance Officer referred to the Action Log and updated the Committee on any outstanding items. |
| 688 | Audit Wales – Annual Audit Summary | <p>The Chair welcomed Ian Phillips and Deborah Woods Audit Wales to the Meeting.</p> <p>Ian Phillips provided an update on the report.</p> |
| 689 | Audit Wales – Digital Strategy Review – Report – Organisational Response Form | <p>The Chair welcomed Richard Evans to the Meeting.</p> <p>Richard Evans then led the Committee through the report and together with Audit Wales and the Chief Executive responded to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How often does the working group meet? • Who will receive the updates? <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>Governance and Audit Committee note and debate the content of this report.</p> |
| 690 | Audit Wales - Work Programme and Timetable | <p>Ian Phillips led the Committee through the Audit Wales Work Programme and Timetable report and together with Deborah Woods responded to the following questions raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit accounts – any information or updates on the timetable? • Assurance and Risk Assessment – will there be a report published? |
| 691 | Revenue Budget 2024/25 | <p>The Chief Finance Officer led the Committee through the ‘Revenue Budget 2024/25’ report.</p> <p>The Chair referred to the Budget Setting Workshops, and expressed how they provided useful information and insight into the budget setting process.</p> |

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| | | <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The content of this report be discussed and noted.</p> |
| 692 | Governance and Audit Committee Forward Work Programme 2023/24 | <p>Lisa Cumpston led the Committee through the Governance and Audit Committee Forward Work Programme 2023/24 report.</p> <p>In reference to the Governance and Audit Committee Self-Assessment, the Chair reminded the Committee of the deadline to complete the questionnaire.</p> <p>The Chair requested that future Committee dates be shared with the Committee.</p> |
| 693 | Internal Audit Information Reports | <p>Lisa Cumpston led the Committee through the Internal Audit Information Reports.</p> <p>The Chair referred to the positive results of the audits.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>Members determine any reports they wish to consider in more detail at a future meeting including receiving updates from appropriate officers on progress made in implementing recommendations.</p> |
| 694 | Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting | <p>The Chair and the Committee reflected on the items that had been considered at the Meeting.</p> |
| 695 | Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair | <p>The Chief Finance Officer advised the Committee that the Authority's contract with the Internal Audit Shared Service is due to expire and gave details on this.</p> <p>A Cabinet Report is being drafted and the Committee would be kept updated on the matter.</p> |
| 696 | Exempt | <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under Part 4 of Schedule 12A of Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972</p> |
| 697 | Special Guardianship Orders | <p>Declaration of Interest</p> <p>Councillor D Hughes, having declared an interest in this item, left the meeting for the consideration of the item.</p> <p>Joanne Llewellyn led the Committee through the Special</p> |

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| | | <p>Guardianship Orders report and responded to the questions raised by the Committee.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The recommendation detailed in Paragraph 2.1 be approved.</p> |
| 698 | Revenue Budget 2024/25 | <p>The Chief Finance Officer led the Committee through the Revenue Budget 2024/25 report and responded to the questions raised by the Committee.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The recommendation detailed in Paragraph 2.1 of the report be approved.</p> |