



MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL

MINUTES OF MEETING

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2014

PRESENT: Councillor Richard Thomas (In the Chair)

Councillors G Jones, T Chaplin, G Davies, D L Jarrett,
C T Jones, G Lewis, B E Mansbridge and K Moran

Ellis Cooper (Corporate Director of Customer Services), Ann
Taylor (Head of Democratic Services)

Karen Vokes (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
442	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence received from Councillor T Lewis.
443	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were made.
444	Democratic Services Structure - Corporate Spine	<p>The Chair welcomed Ellis Cooper, Corporate Director of Customer Services, to the meeting.</p> <p>Ellis Cooper referred to the financial challenges across the Authority and the necessity in carrying out a Corporate Spine review to consider the potential consolidation of services to address these difficulties.</p> <p>He referred to the bringing together of Democratic Services and Executive Support, and that Ann Taylor will be meeting staff within Business Services to go through the finer detail to ensure that Democratic Services have the required support enabling them to carry out their statutory function.</p> <p>The Chair advised it needs to be recognised that Democratic Services is a statutory function and, as a small team, they are currently having difficulties meeting their</p>

		<p>required deadlines. The concerns expressed by the Committee were that there was no clear framework to clearly show how this is going to operate, no timescales and the need to ensure that sufficient support is given so that the functions can be carried out effectively.</p> <p>Questions were asked by Members and answered by both Ellis Cooper and Ann Taylor.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann Taylor fully engage with Business Services on the way forward on any decisions to be made. • A written report be brought back to Democratic Services Committee when the details have been clarified. <p>Tony Chaplin left the meeting at 4.10 pm.</p>
445	Any Other Business Deemed Urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.