



MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# SCRUTINY : CUSTOMER SERVICES MEETING

MONDAY, 12TH JANUARY, 2015

**PRESENT:** Councillor D Roberts (**In the Chair**)

Councillors L E Smart, H Barrett, T Chaplin, J McCarthy and Raymond Thomas

**Cooptees:**

Robert Holdaway

**Cabinet:**

Councillor B Toomey, Councillor L Matthews, Councillor C Barry and Councillor D Jones

**Officers:**

Gareth Chapman (Chief Executive), Ellis Cooper (Corporate Director of Customer Services), Steve Jones (Chief Finance Officer), Cheryllee Evans (Head of Property and Estates), Judith Jones (Head of Town Planning), Richard Marsh (Assistant Director Customer Services), Jeremy Morgan (Head of Engineering), Steve Peters (Head of Public Protection and Housing), Mark Thomas (Assistant Director - Chief Executive's), Alyn Owen (Head of Economic Development and European Funding), Richard Parry (Consultant for School Improvement) and Ewan McWilliams (Corporate Performance Manager) Ian Kent (Accountant)

Mair Morgan (Scrutiny / Democratic Services Officer) and Howard Jones (Scrutiny Manager)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
887	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor W R Smith.
888	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	<p>Councillor H Barrett Declared his Interest in Item 4 – Budget Proposals 2015/16 to 2017/18 – Non Employee – Appendix 5 – (1) as he is a Member of Merthyr Valleys Homes.</p> <p>Councillor D Roberts Declared his Interest in Item 5 – Budget Proposals 2015/16 to 2017/18 – Employee – as his wife is employed by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.</p>
889	Consideration of Agenda items	<p>Councillor T Chaplin entered the Meeting at 2.05 pm.</p> <p>Councillor Raymond Thomas entered the Meeting at 2.06 pm.</p> <p>Councillor J McCarthy entered the Meeting at 2.20 pm and was welcomed by the Chair to his first Meeting of this Committee.</p> <p>The Committee considered in detail the items on the agenda.</p>
890	Budget Proposals 2015/16 to 2017/18 - Non Employee	<p>The Chair welcomed Councillor B Toomey, Councillor C Barry, Councillor D Jones and Councillor L Matthews to the Meeting.</p> <p>The Chair also welcomed the Officers to the Meeting</p> <p>Councillor Toomey then gave an overview to the Committee of the Budget setting process and gave details of the Revenue Settlement.</p> <p>Steve Jones referred to the Budget Proposals 2015/16 to 2017/19 – Non Employee report and led the Committee in detail through the report together with Appendices 1 to 9.</p> <p>The Committee were also advised that if there were questions in relation to other Service areas these would be raised with the appropriate Officers.</p> <p>Questions were then raised by the Committee on the Budget Proposals and were responded to in detail by the Officers and the Cabinet Members</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>(a) The Cabinet approved revisions (subject to the outcomes of Public, Employee and Trade Unions consultations) to the Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 to 2017/18 relating to the Customer Services Scrutiny Committee be considered and approved</p>

		(b) Employee Related budget reductions be considered separately under the exempt report ' <i>Budget Proposals 2015/16 to 2017/18 – Employee</i> ' to this Customer Services Scrutiny Committee of 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2015
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## **Exempt**

### **Resolved that:**

*The public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 12 and 13 under Part 4 of Schedule 12A of Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972*

891	Budget Proposals 2015/16 to 2017/18 - Employee	<p>Steve Jones referred to the Budget Proposals 2015/16 to 2017/18 – Employee report and led the Committee in detail through the report together with Appendices 1 to 4. He also circulated to the Committee Risk Assessments relating to Appendix 3 of the report.</p> <p>Questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by the Officers and the Cabinet Members.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The Cabinet approved revisions (subject to the outcomes of Public, Employee and Trade Unions consultations) to the Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 to 2017/18 relating to the Customer Services Scrutiny Committee be considered and approved</li> <li>(b) The ongoing Senior Management and Corporate Centre restructures be noted</li> <li>(c) Potential requirement for changes to Employee Terms and Conditions be noted</li> <li>(d) The application to the Welsh Government for a Capitalisation Direction be noted</li> </ul>
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## **Re-Opened Session**

892	Corporate Plan Performance Report, Mid-year Update	<p>The Chair welcomed Mark Thomas and Ewan McWilliams to the Meeting.</p> <p>Ewan McWilliams referred to the Corporate Plan Performance Report Mid- Year Update report and led the Committee through the report giving details in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority Area 1 – Raising Standards of Attainment</li> <li>• Priority Area 2 – Employability</li> <li>• Priority Area 3 – Economic Development</li> <li>• Priority Area 4 – Active Lifestyles</li> <li>• Priority Area 5 – Promoting Independence</li> <li>• Priority Area 6 – Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable</li> </ul>
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		<p>Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority Area 7 – A Sustainable Environment</li> </ul> <p>Questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to by the Officers.</p> <p>The Committee were also advised that if there were further questions in relation to the Priority Areas these questions would be submitted to the appropriate Officer with the response reported back to the Members.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p> <p>Councillor H Barrett left the Meeting at 3.50 pm and returned at 3.53 pm.</p>
893	Communication Strategy (Recycling / Landfill)	The Chair updated the Committee in detail in relation to the findings of the Task and Finish Group.
894	Scrutiny and Audit Chairs Liaison Group Update	The Committee received an update from the Chair.
895	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected on the issues that had been raised at the Meeting.
896	Forward Work Programme	<p>The Committee considered and agreed the Forward Work Programme.</p> <p>Councillor L E Smart left the Meeting at 4.00 pm.</p>
897	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.