



MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

**MONDAY, 19TH JANUARY, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Richard Thomas (In the Chair)

Councillors: G Jones, T Chaplin, C T Jones, G Lewis, T Lewis,  
B E Mansbridge, K Moran and Raymond Thomas

**Lay Member:**

D Gibby

**Officers:**

Gareth Chapman (Chief Executive), Steve Jones (Chief Finance Officer), Mark Thomas (Assistant Director - Chief Executive's), Gary Evans (Audit Manager), Kerry O'Donovan (Corporate Risk and Sustainability Manager), Lisa Jones (Interim HR Manager), Richard Parry (Consultant for School Improvement), Cheryllee Evans (Head of Property and Estates), Sue Hughes (Assistant Director of Social Regeneration), Ian Benbow (Head of Adult Social Regeneration and Development), Mark Anderton (Head of Safeguarding, Quality and Performance), Lisa Curtis Jones (Head of Children's Services), Anthony Lewis (Head of Education, Planning, Performance and Resources), Judith Jones (Head of Town Planning), Richard Marsh (Assistant Director/Group Manager Leisure Culture and Environment), Jeremy Morgan (Head of Engineering), Alyn Owen (Head of Economic Development and European Funding) and Val Steel (Waste Strategy Manager)

**Guest Councillors:**

Councillors B Toomey, L A Matthews and P Williams.

Karen Vokes (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
935	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence received from Councillor G Davies.
936	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.
937	Action Schedule	<p>Gary Evans referred to the Action Schedule dated 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and responded to questions raised.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>The training session for the Audit Committee members scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> May to be reconvened due to the Parliamentary Election.</p>

The Chair agreed that Items 5 and 6 (Budget Proposals for Non Employee and Employee) would be considered prior to the Council's Corporate Risk item scheduled.

938	Update on progress in managing the Council's corporate risks for 2014-15	<p>The Chair welcomed Kerry O'Donovan, Cheryllee Evans, Val Steel, Mark Thomas and Lisa Jones to the meeting.</p> <p>Val Steel and Cheryllee Evans gave an update on the progress made in managing the Corporate Risk in relation to::</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inability to meet recycling and waste targets resulting in substantial financial penalties on the Council.</li> </ul> <p>Lisa Jones gave an update on the progress made in managing the Corporate Risk in relation to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in organisational capacity and/or capability.</li> </ul> <p>Mark Thomas gave an update on the progress made in managing the Corporate Risk in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The risk that an inconsistent application of Performance Management and not adopting a corporate culture of Performance may comprise the achievement of the Council's priorities.</li> </ul> <p>Detailed discussions ensued in relation to progress of the identified risks, and questions were asked by Members and answered by the appropriate Officers.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>Councillors note the update on progress in managing the Council's Corporate Risks that the Corporate Director of Customer Services is leading on for 2014/15.</p> <p>Councillor B Mansbridge left the meeting at 3.40 pm.</p>
-----	--	---

939	Budget Proposals 2015/16 to 2017/18 – Non Employee	<p>The Chair welcomed Councillors B Toomey, P Williams and 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 2017/18 - Non Employee report and led the Committee in detail through the report together with Appendices 1 to 9.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <p>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 be considered and noted.</p> <p>Employee Relating budget reductions be considered separately under the exempt report “Budget Proposals 2015/16 to 2017/18 - Employee” to this Audit Committee of the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015.</p>
-----	--	--

**CLOSED SESSION**

**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.

940	Budget Proposals 2015/16 to 2017/18 – Employee	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the Budget Proposals 2015/16 to 2017/18 – Employee report.</p> <p>Steve Jones led the Committee in detail through the Budget Proposals for 2015/16 to 2017/18 together with appendices 1 to 4.</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> <p>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 be considered and noted.</p> <p>The ongoing Senior Management and Corporate Centre restructures be noted.</p>
-----	--	--

		<p>Potential requirement for changes to Employee Terms and Conditions be noted.</p> <p>The application to the Welsh Government for a capitalisation direction be noted.</p>
--	--	---

**RE-OPENED SESSION**

941	Scrutiny and Audit Chairs Liaison Group update	The Chair gave an update to the Committee on the Scrutiny and Audit Chairs Liaison Group meeting of the 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2014.
942	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.