



MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

**MONDAY, 2ND MARCH, 2015**

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

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

**Lay Member:**  
D Gibby

**Cabinet Members:**  
Councillor P Williams and Councillor B Carter

**Officers:**  
Gary Evans (Audit Manager), Lisa Curtis Jones (Head of Children's Services), Mark Anderton (Head of Adult Social Services), Kerry O'Donovan (Corporate Risk and Sustainability Manager), Richard Parry (Consultant for School Improvement) and Lisa Hayward (Benefits Manager) Jonathan Davies

**Outside Bodies:**  
Kevin Williams (PricewaterhouseCoopers)

Mair Morgan (Scrutiny / Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
1097	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G Davies, Councillor G Lewis and Councillor B Mansbridge.
1098	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.
1099	Action Schedule	Gary Evans referred to the Action Schedule arising from the 2nd March 2015 Meeting and responded to the questions raised by the Committee.

1100	Update on progress in managing the Council's Corporate Risks for 2014-15	<p>The Chair welcomed Councillor P Williams, Councillor B Carter, Lisa Curtis Jones, Mark Anderton, Kerry O'Donovan, Lisa Hayward and Jonathan Davies to the Meeting.</p> <p>Kerry O'Donovan referred the Committee to the Update on Progress in Managing the Council's Corporate Risks for 2014 -15 report.</p> <p>Lisa Curtis Jones, Mark Anderton and Lisa Hayward referred the Committee in detail to the following Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuation of unavoidable pressures on the Looked After Children's budget due to need to protect children</li> <li>• Budgetary pressures for home care, residential care placements and independent domiciliary care</li> <li>• Failing to meet increase in demand for services and respond to changing customer needs especially in relation to adults</li> <li>• Failing to mitigate the impact of Welfare Reform and the economic climate on the wellbeing of communities, families and individuals</li> <li>• Failing to safeguard children and vulnerable adults</li> </ul> <p>Questions were then raised by the Committee on the Risks and were answered in detail by Councillor Williams and the Officers.</p> <p>Councillor Raymond Thomas entered the Meeting at 2.10 pm.</p> <p>Councillor G Jones left the Meeting at 2.55 pm and returned at 3.00pm.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked the Officers for the update to the Committee.</p>
1101	Wales Audit Office report of deficiencies in Internal Controls.	<p>The Chair welcomed Kevin Williams of PriceWaterhouseCoopers to the Meeting</p> <p>Kevin Williams referred the Committee to the Wales Audit Office Report on Deficiencies in Internal Controls and referred in detail to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Claw back of Land</li> <li>• Fixed assets base data</li> <li>• Asset deeds</li> <li>• Assets held for sale</li> <li>• Internal recharges</li> <li>• Care home invoices</li> <li>• Welsh Water debtor balance</li> <li>• Creditor Cut off</li> <li>• Santander bank confirmation</li> <li>• Contracts</li> <li>• Annual Governance Statement</li> <li>• Long Outstanding Items – VAT reconciliation</li> <li>• Co-operative bank reconciliation</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully depreciated assets</li> </ul> <p>Questions were then raised by the Committee and were answered in detail by Kevin Williams, Gary Evans and Councillor Williams.</p> <p>A Member then recommended that Officers from the Finance Department and the Estates Section be invited to attend the next Committee Meeting to further update the Committee.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked Kevin Williams for the update to the Committee.</p>
1102	Confirmation of date for Audit Committee Training Day.	The Committee agreed that the Audit Committee Training Day be held Thursday 4th June 2015.
1103	Scrutiny and Audit Chairs Liaison Group update	The Committee received an update from the Chair.
1104	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised the Committee of a Special Meeting that had been convened for Tuesday 17th March 2015 at 3.30 pm.