



MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# **SCRUTINY : GOVERNANCE,** **PERFORMANCE, BUSINESS** **CHANGE AND CORPORATE** **SERVICES MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Councillor T Lewis (In the Chair)

Councillors D Isaac, D Davies, L Mytton, D Roberts, L E Smart  
and W R Smith

**Portfolio Councillor:**  
Councillor Phil Williams

**Cooptees:**  
Alison Harris

**Officers:**  
Ewan McWilliams (Corporate Performance Manager), Suzanne  
Davies (Service Manager Planning & Commissioning), Gareth  
Chapman (Chief Executive), Lorraine Buck (Corporate Director  
(People and Performance) - Lead Director for Children and  
Young People), Mark Thomas (Head of Corporate Services),  
Maria Purnell and Ellis Cooper (Corporate Director (Place and  
Transformation) - Deputy Chief Executive)

Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer) and Matthew Phillips  
(Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
403	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Carter, Councillor G Jones and Councillor R Thomas.
404	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.
405	Corporate Strategy Direction	<p>Councillor Phil Williams introduced the Corporate Strategy Direction before handing over to Gareth Chapman who led the committee through the presentation in detail.</p> <p>Councillor Phil Williams stated to the committee that the new line management structure will be circulated to all councillors shortly.</p> <p>Clr Bill Smith requested A3 copies of detailed sheets at future all meetings to ensure all committee members can read the information provided.</p> <p>Officers provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have other authorities had similar operating models and if so what impact has it had?</li> <li>• Can the new community group in Pontsticill be used as a model in the future to develop the rest of the Borough?</li> <li>• How were the seven key priorities selected and where 3<sup>rd</sup> sector invited to engage in the selection process</li> <li>• How are you communicating this strategic direction to all staff and councillors; Partners; and the trade unions and is there a timeframe</li> <li>• Have there been any feedback/comments from our regulators</li> <li>• Should the self-evaluation process reflect the seven key priorities so there is a more cohesive way of working for staff.</li> <li>• Should a new challenge process be brought in for deeper challenges other than just scrutiny every six weeks</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked the officers for presenting the item.</p>
406	Local Service Board - Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015	<p>Councillor Phil Williams introduced the presentation and report to the committee and introduced Gareth Chapman as the Interim Chair of the Local Service Board. Gareth Chapman in-turn introduced Mark Thomas who led the committee through the presentation and report with assistance from Suzanne Davies and Maria Purnell.</p> <p>Officers provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the committee:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the main differences between the Public Service Board (PSB) and the Local Service Board (LSB) models</li> <li>• With Local Government restructure in the near future will there be twenty two Public Service Boards or twelve and how will it all tie in</li> <li>• What is the link between the local authority and the PSB</li> <li>• How will the set-up of the PSB impact on the collaborative work that has been undertaken with RCT such as with the Social Services and Wellbeing Act</li> <li>• How effective do you think the current LSB has been and provide some examples of where it has made a difference and impacted upon</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p> <p>The Chair thanked everybody who took part in the presentation.</p> <p>The following Councillors left the meeting at 5.56pm, David Davies, Leighton Smart, David Isaac and Lisa Mytton.</p>
407	Corporate Plan Challenge Process	<p>Councillor Lisa Mytton returned to the meeting at 5.57pm.</p> <p>Councillor Phil Williams introduced the report before handing over to Ewan McWilliams who led the committee through the report.</p> <p>Officers provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How will be the membership of the performance board be made up</li> <li>• Will the Chairs of Scrutiny, Heads of Service et al be invited to attend the performance board meetings</li> <li>• The Local Authority has received two formal recommendations from the Wales Audit Office, when are these likely to be rescinded</li> <li>• How can we improve the self-evaluation process so that it is formative and ongoing rather than just an annual event</li> <li>• How can Scrutiny challenge what has been reported in the service challenge</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The content of the report be noted</p> <p>The Chair thanked Ewan McWilliams for the update to the committee.</p>

408	Performance against our outcome agreement with the Welsh Government	<p>Alison Harris left the meeting at 6.14pm.</p> <p>Councillor Phil Williams led the committee through the report and highlighted the salient points.</p> <p>Councillors raised observations in relation to the report.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The content of the report be noted</li> <li>b. The submission of the Outcome Agreement Annual Report (Background Paper) to Welsh Government for the evaluation is agreed.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Phil Williams closed the item by confirming that he will be attending future scrutiny meetings as performance and change management falls under his remit. He also thanked the performance team and especially Ewan McWilliams for delivering above what is expected.</p>
409	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>There was one Scrutiny Referral which Councillor Darren Roberts will be taking back to Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny in relation to fly tipping.</p> <p>There were no Feedback or follow up actions to be considered.</p>
410	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	This item was not considered.
411	Forward Work Programme	Howard Jones confirmed with the committee that he would meet with the Chair to discuss the Forward Work Programme and bring it back to the next meeting.
412	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.