



MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL

MINUTES OF MEETING

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

TUESDAY, 8TH DECEMBER, 2015

PRESENT: Councillor D Isaac (In the Chair)

Councillors D Davies, L Mytton, D Roberts, W R Smith and S Williams

Councillor P Williams – Cabinet Member

Officers:

Mark Thomas (Head of Corporate Services), Suzanne Davies (Service Manager Planning & Commissioning), Paul Phillpott (Business Change Manager) and Andrew Mogford (Strategic Business Analyst)

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

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
805	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T C Lewis, Councillor B Carter, Councillor G Jones and Councillor Richard Thomas.
806	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.

807	Business Team	<p data-bbox="518 208 616 237">Change</p> <p data-bbox="644 208 1361 271">The Chair welcomed Councillor P Williams, Paul Phillpott and Andrew Mogford to the Meeting.</p> <p data-bbox="644 300 1361 389">Councillor P Williams referred to the 'Business Change Team' report and led the Committee through the report in detail.</p> <p data-bbox="644 421 1361 515">The following questions were then raised on the report and were responded to in detail by Councillor Williams, Paul Phillpott and Andrew Mogford:</p> <ul data-bbox="692 546 1361 1973" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="692 546 1361 636">• Due to Scrutiny Committees being held every six weeks is it possible to see all of the Change Programme <li data-bbox="692 667 1361 730">• What are the costs to the Authority for the work being undertaken by PriceWaterhouseCoopers <li data-bbox="692 761 1361 851">• Can details be given of the percentages of the work undertaken by PriceWaterhouseCoopers and the percentage undertaken by Council Officers <li data-bbox="692 882 1361 945">• Is there any duplication of the work with the Council Officers and PriceWaterhouseCoopers <li data-bbox="692 976 1361 1039">• Are the Council Officers working with PriceWaterhouseCoopers <li data-bbox="692 1070 1361 1196">• Paragraph 5.5 of the report advises that the prediction is that we will not be overspent when we close our accounts – what are the plans so we can't be overspent <li data-bbox="692 1227 1361 1352">• Paragraph 4.3 of the report refers to a saving of approximately £8m over the last two years and the austerity that the Council faces how much more savings have to be made <li data-bbox="692 1384 1361 1447">• How can the Council manage and use its money carefully not to see cutbacks for vulnerable people <li data-bbox="692 1478 1361 1662">• Whilst appreciating what is facing the Council and frontline services, paragraph 6.1 of the report outlines ambitious targets and how confident taking into account cuts especially in critical areas that the Council can still achieve its ambition to be top performing, sustainable and hold a good reputation <li data-bbox="692 1693 1361 1756">• How much longer will PriceWaterhouseCoopers be with the Authority <li data-bbox="692 1787 1361 1877">• If savings are made sooner rather than later will PriceWaterhouseCoopers remain with the Authority if savings are made <li data-bbox="692 1908 1361 1973">• Why were PriceWaterhouseCoopers chosen as a partner – were there any other contenders
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will a report on Services looked at by PriceWaterhouseCoopers be brought back to Scrutiny – How will Scrutiny know what the priorities are • In Paragraph 5.6 of the report (table) mention was made of the increased use and focus of the Customer Contact Centre - will there be a Training Programme in place for Contact Centre staff to ensure that staff are well versed in all aspects of the Councils activities • Will there be more finance for digital equipment and what about IT support • Can telephone numbers for Services be correct and available in the Contact Centre • Will it be possible to make appointments with Officers digitally in the Contact Centre <p>A Member commented that on line was the way forward due to the movement of Services</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The contents of the report be noted.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked Paul Phillpott and Andrew Mogford for attending the Meeting</p>
808	Local Service Board - Merthyr Tydfil Single Integrated Plan (SIP) 2013-17.	<p>The Chair welcomed Mark Thomas and Suzanne Davies to the Meeting.</p> <p>Councillor P Williams referred the Committee to the 'Merthyr Tydfil Single Integrated Plan 2013 – 17' report.</p> <p>Mark Thomas also referred the Committee to the report.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by Councillor Williams, Mark Thomas and Suzanne Davies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 3.3 of the report advised that the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 places a requirement on Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise designated public service providers and that this section of the Measure whilst not yet introduced by the Welsh Government was there any news as to when this will be implemented • What is the timeline and when would be the best time to issue invitations to attend Committee to challenge on Services • Could a list of the Community Partnership Partners be provided

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraphs 5.4 and 7.4 of the report referred to the SIP and Scrutiny would need time to digest where we are now and to look at joint Scrutiny's and move forward • Should a Training Day be looked at closer to the event for Councillors and Officers in relation to the new Act <p>The Committee were advised that there was a video available giving a summary of the Act and that this information could be circulated to the Committee.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The following be acknowledged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The methodology used to complete the mid-term review of the SIP • The adjustments made to practice/delivery methods in response to the lessons learned from undertaking the review as outlined in the reviewed SIP • The format of the refocused RBA report card format • The Scrutiny Forward Plan for 2015 – 16 as outlined in the reviewed SIP <p>The Chair then thanked Mark Thomas and Suzanne Davies for attending.</p>
809	Scrutiny Public Co-opted members - Applications to vacant positions	<p>The Committee were advised that applications had been received from three members of the public for the vacant Co-opted Member Scrutiny positions.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>Consideration of the applications be undertaken by the Scrutiny Chairs.</p>
810	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>Councillor P Williams referred to the Forward Work Programme and advised that the Review of H R Services would be considered at the next Committee Meeting.</p> <p>The Committee were advised of a referral received from Councillor G Jones Chair Regeneration, Planning Committee in relation to the following two issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Department links with the COT Team. Is this fully joined up with reference to disabled conversion needs • Who does what • Is there an outline flow chart re the processes / responsibilities involved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of any recent Internal Audit on the Housing Department:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When was the last one • Findings / Actions • Any Compliance issues • Why the gap <p>A Member then requested that DFG's and COT's be considered at the same Committee Meeting</p> <p>This request was then agreed by the Committee.</p>
811	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the issues that had been raised and discussed at the Meeting.
812	Forward Work Programme	The Committee considered and agreed the Forward Work Programme.
813	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.