



MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# SPECIAL AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

## JOINT MEETING WITH JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**WEDNESDAY, 27TH JANUARY, 2016**

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

Councillors: T Chaplin, M Davies, G Lewis, T Lewis,  
B E Mansbridge, K Moran, Raymond Thomas, H Barrett,  
A Jones, D Roberts, W R Smith, M O'Neill, S Slater and C Tovey

Councillors B Toomey, P Williams, C Barry, D Jones and L  
Matthews – Cabinet Members

**Co-optees:**

Clare Brown, Rosemary Lazell, Robert Holdaway and Brian  
Lewis

**Officers:**

Gareth Chapman (Chief Executive), Lorraine Buck (Corporate  
Director (People and Performance) - Lead Director for Children  
and Young People), Carys Kennedy (Head of Legal and  
Governance Services - Monitoring Officer), Steve Jones (Head of  
Finance - Chief Finance Officer), Lisa Jones (Head of Human  
Resources and Organisational Development) and Adele Lewis  
(Chief Accountant), Ian Kent (Accountant)

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

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
986	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Brown, Councillor B Carter, Councillor D Isaac, Councillor C Jones, Councillor G Jones, Councillor H R Jones, Councillor J McCarthy, Councillor L Mytton, Councillor S Williams and Mrs A Harris, Mrs N Mahoney, Mr A Rees and Mr D Gibby Co-opted Members.
987	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.
988	Budget Requirement 2016-17 to 2019-20	<p>Councillor P Williams referred the Committee to the 'Budget Requirement 2016/17 to 2019/20' report.</p> <p>Steve Jones then made a Presentation to the Committee giving details on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget Requirement 2016/17 to 2019/20</li> <li>• Financial Background</li> <li>• Welsh Local Government Settlement 2016 -17</li> <li>• Change in Aggregate External Finance, adjusted for transfers by Unitary Authority</li> <li>• Revenue Settlements 2010/11 – 2016/17</li> <li>• Breakdown of General Capital Funding by Unitary Authority 2016 – 17</li> <li>• Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 – 2017/18</li> <li>• Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 -2019/20</li> <li>• Cabinet/Council Approved adjustments</li> <li>• Adjustments from updated information (Part 1 to 7)</li> <li>• Additional Pension Contributions</li> <li>• Impact of Provisional Local Government Settlement</li> <li>• Notes to Impact of Provisional Local Government Settlement</li> <li>• Welsh Government Draft Budget 2016/17</li> <li>• Schools' Cash Protection (Provisional)</li> <li>• Corporate Risk Fund</li> <li>• Council Tax Increase Reduction</li> <li>• Revised MTFP 2015/16 – 2017/18</li> <li>• Council Budget Strategy</li> <li>• Other Considerations</li> </ul> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by the Cabinet Members and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paragraph 1.3 of the report – How confident is the Officer that the Authority will get approval of Capitalisation and if not, where will savings be found</li> <li>• There have been financial difficulties over the past few years and financial difficulties to be faced in the future, can a monetary figure be given for the cost of providing non Statutory Services and how would this figure compare with three years ago</li> <li>• What is the difference in costs between Statutory</li> </ul>

		<p>and non Statutory Services – How are the costs split</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How much has the Authority saved by stripping down processes</li> <li>• Restructuring of Senior Management and the evaluation of Senior Managers posts</li> <li>• Is there any indication of what schools are going to cut</li> <li>• Capital expenditure – Can examples be given on why the Authority would be purchasing land</li> <li>• Are there any Services that are being provided above the minimum Statutory requirements</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.3.3 of the report – Could ‘Slippage’ be explained</li> <li>• The Corporate Risk Fund – Why are outcome agreement monies out of the budget – Why is this being done and what are the benefits</li> <li>• The new Social Services Wellbeing Act – Will there be a review of funds for Social Services</li> <li>• What could be the effect of the Williams Report and the Local Government Review</li> <li>• Will the Authority be a proper living wage employer</li> </ul> <p>Councillor P Williams then advised that Officers were currently preparing reports to set the budget at the Special Council Meeting scheduled for 2 March 2016 and recommended that a further joint Audit and Scrutiny Committee be convened to consider the budget proposal in further detail prior to the Special Council Meeting.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>A Special Joint Audit / Joint Scrutiny Committee be convened for 24 February 2016 commencing at 3.30 pm.</p>
989	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.