



MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# **AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING** **JOINT MEETING WITH JOINT** **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 2016**

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

Councillors: G Jones, T Chaplin, M Davies, C T Jones, G Lewis, B E Mansbridge, K Moran, Raymond Thomas, H Barrett, R Braithwaite, S P Brown, B Carter, D Isaac, A Jones, J McCarthy, L Mytton, M O'Neill, D Roberts, L E Smart, S Slater, W R Smith and C Tovey

Councillors B Toomey, C Barry, D Jones, H R Jones and L Matthews – Cabinet Members

**Lay Member:**  
D Gibby

**Co-optees:**  
Clare Brown, Alison Harris, Rosemary Lazell, Howard Jackson, Meryll Jones and Anne Morgan

**Officers:**  
Gareth Chapman (Chief Executive), Ellis Cooper (Corporate Director (Place and Transformation) - Deputy Chief Executive), Carys Kennedy (Head of Legal and Governance Services - Monitoring Officer), Steve Jones (Head of Finance - Chief Finance Officer), Mark Anderton (Head of Adult Services), Gary Evans (Audit Manager) and Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer)

Mair Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

| ITEM NO. | AGENDA MATTER                                  | DECISION   |
|----------|--|--|
| 1072     | Apologies for absence                          | Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T C Lewis, Councillor P Williams, Councillor S Williams and Mr R Holdaway, Mr B Lewis and Mrs N Mahoney Co-opted Members.  |
| 1073     | Declarations of Interest                       | No Declarations of Interest were made.   |
| 1074     | Budget Requirement 2016/17 to 2019/20 - Update | <p>Steve Jones referred to the 'Budget Requirement 2016/17 to 2019/20 – Update' report and made a Presentation to the Committee giving details on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction and Objectives</li> <li>• Revisions to the Medium Term Financial Plan</li> <li>• Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 – 2019/20</li> <li>• Revised MTFP 2016/17 – 2019/20</li> <li>• Updated Provisional Settlement 2016/17</li> <li>• Welsh Local Government Settlement 2016 -17</li> <li>• Updated MTFP 2016/17 – 2019/20</li> <li>• Recommendations – Cabinet 24 February 2016</li> <li>• Council Budget Strategy</li> <li>• Estimated Budget Reductions 2016/17</li> <li>• Customer Offering</li> <li>• Back Office Administrative Support / Strategic Support Services</li> <li>• Procurement</li> <li>• Income and Service Cost Recovery</li> <li>• Outcome Focused Redesign</li> <li>• Flexible Use of Capital Receipts</li> <li>• Delivery of the Change Management Programme for 2016/17</li> </ul> <p>Councillor G Lewis entered the Meeting at 3.37 pm and Councillor P Brown entered the Meeting at 3.42 pm.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to by the Leader and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paragraph 5.4.3 of the report – Channel Shift – Could and explanation be given in relation to automation in the Contact Centre and the Interactive Voice Response</li> <li>• Could clarification be given regarding the Strategic Partner and the costs to the Authority</li> <li>• Paragraph 6.4 of the report – Fixed Asset Sales – An elaboration of future Sales was requested</li> <li>• Channel Shift – How much monetary investment is required</li> <li>• Joint Department Working – How confident are the Officers that the Departments that have come together are successful</li> <li>• Is there outsourcing to other Councils</li> <li>• Finance Generation – How soon can this be seen in the business plans and what is the target in terms</li> </ul> |

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|------|---|---|
|      |   | <p>of potential income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Procurement</li> <li>• Frequency of Joint Audit/Joint Scrutiny Committee Meetings</li> <li>• Paragraph 1.3 of the report – Explanation of the wording requested</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>(a) The revised budget deficits of £4.079 million for 2016/17 and £20.302 million for 2016/17 to 2019/20 be noted</p> <p>(b) The ongoing progress with the change management work streams in addressing the projected budget deficit of £4.079 million for 2016/17 be considered and noted</p> <p>(c) The Minister for Public Services' Direction in respect of flexibility in respect of utilisation of Capital Receipts be noted</p> |
| 1075 | Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair | The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.   |