



MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

**MONDAY, 14TH MARCH, 2016**

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

Councillors: T Chaplin, C T Jones, T Lewis, B E Mansbridge and K Moran

Councillor Phil Williams – Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Governance and Corporate Services

**Lay Member:**  
D Gibby

**Officers:**  
Gareth Chapman (Chief Executive), Mark Thomas (Head of Corporate Services), Kerry O'Donovan (Corporate Risk and Equalities Manager) and Gary Evans (Audit Manager)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
1171	Apologies for absence	Apologies were received from Councillor Gareth Jones, Councillor Margaret Davies and Councillor Ray Thomas.
1172	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.
1173	Update on progress in managing the Council's corporate risks for 2015-16.	Councillor Phil Williams introduced the report and handed over to the Chief Executive who led the Committee through the three corporate risks in detail and highlighted the current controls, risk cause, the impact and further actions required to manage the risks.

## **1. Finance**

The following questions were raised by the committee and were responded to in detail by the Chief Executive and Councillor Phil Williams.

- Is the Authority currently receiving value for money by engaging with PwC and will they achieve what is required

Councillor Phil Williams addressed the committee and explained that a workshop had been arranged for councillors to view an interim report from PwC in relation to their current work streams.

- How effective have PwC been up until now in implementing transformational change.
- Can the interim report produced by PwC be published to allow members of the public to see where the £500,000 is being spent
- Which departments are currently overspending and why?
- How are we going monitor our reputation against the Impact stated in the report – (poor reputation of the Local Authority and adverse negative publicity)
- Performance Management Framework – Can we have a presentation to Audit Committee in the near future

## **2. Capacity and Capability**

The following questions were raised by the committee and were responded to in detail by the Chief Executive and Councillor Phil Williams.

- How many staff are going to leave the Authority over the next twelve months
- Can details be provided to the committee in relation to development of the Managers Academy and Leadership Programmes

## **3. Governance**

- Does the Authority still support officers who are members of professional organisations, as this is one network where new legislation will be discussed and brought forward
- Using the new Environment Bill as an example

		<p>there is a concern that not all departments appreciate what is expected of them when new legislation is introduced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the cost of implementation the Welsh Language Act been taken into consideration</li> <li>• How can the 22 Local Authorities continue to deliver services and comply with legislation with Welsh Government continually implementing New Acts without any additional funding</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>Councillors receive an update on progress in managing the Council's Corporate Risks that the Chief Executive is leading on for 2015-16.</p>
1174	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.