



MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL

MINUTES OF MEETING

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

TUESDAY, 12TH APRIL, 2016

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

Councillors D Isaac, B Carter, D Davies, G Jones, D Roberts,
W R Smith and S Williams

Councillor P Williams – Cabinet

Cooptees:

Alison Harris and Anne Morgan

Officers:

Carys Kennedy (Head of Legal and Governance Services -
Monitoring Officer), Steve Jones (Head of Finance), Dorothy
Haines (Chief Officer (Learning) - Chief Education Officer),
Ewan McWilliams (Corporate Performance Manager) and Ann-
Marie McCafferty (Research and Monitoring Officer)

Mair Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
1287	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L Mytton and Councillor Richard Thomas.

1288	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.
1289	Performance Report - Learning Performance Board	<p>The Chair welcomed Councillor P Williams, Carys Kennedy, Steve Jones, Dorothy Haines, Ewan McWilliams and Anne Marie McCafferty to the Meeting.</p> <p>Ewan McWilliams referred the Committee to the 'Performance Report – Learning Performance Board' report.</p> <p>Councillor B Carter entered the Meeting at 4.35 pm.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by Councillor P Williams and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 3.1 of the report – Parental Engagement - The role of Education Welfare – What is the link between Parents and attendance – What are the contact procedures – The need for consultation with schools on how to take this forward • Paragraph 5.2.1 of the report – How will the Corporate Support Services have to change to meet these new duties • Will it be ready to roll out by the end of September • Has the Workshop been held and what was the outcome • Paragraph 5.2.2 – Are the Officers satisfied that the work that has been done to date has improved schools' ability to manage their finances effectively • Paragraph 5.2.6 – Is there a value for money benchmark and is there benchmarking with other Local Authorities in Wales in relation to value for money – Is there benchmarking within families of schools outside the Local Authority • Paragraph 5.2.3 – Will training be provided on H R Policies – With training that has been provided what feedback information has been received to show that progress has been made • Who has attended this training –A lot of time, effort and money is involved in Training and it is vital that information can be interrogated in the future • With the streamlining of Services and staff being essential to the Organisation what time will be given for training • Paragraph 5.2.4 – H R Systems – What is the quality of the Data – Does it meet the requirement of the Data Protection Act – What is the Policy in relation to Data Retention – How are the Policies

		<p>communicated to staff – Are there Policy Documents to cover all aspects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 5.2.5 – Future Generations Act - How far has this been rolled out with staff – Will the implications be shared with staff and Councillors – What training has been put in place for Councillors – How will the training be rolled out to staff • What impact will there be on staff or their specific roles • Will it be rolled out to Co-opted Members as well • What is the timetable for this <p>The Chair then thanked Councillor Williams and the Officers for attending and the update to the Committee.</p>
1290	Update on MTCBC Whistleblowing Policy	<p>Carys Kennedy referred the Committee to the 'Update on MTCBC Whistleblowing Policy' report.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by Carys Kennedy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 5.2 of the report – Is this a percentage figure or actual numbers – Have the numbers improved the second time round • Paragraph 5.4 of the report – Can any themes be identified – Is this a consequence of the Policy • Has there been discussion with Trade Union Representatives in relation to the Policy • Does it point to any particular service area • Are there any false or malicious allegations made and are there any consequences for those that do make false accusations • Do changes affect complaints • Is there a Policy in relation to anonymous complaints • What if the Whistle Blower is not happy with the outcome, where and how can the complainant take it further and what could be the cost to the Council • Is the Policy robust enough in relation to Whistle Blowing with other Organisations or if someone from another Organisation was a Whistle Blower on the Council • Paragraph 6.1 of the report – can identification be made

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are staff who are under investigation suspended from work <p>The Chair then thanked Carys Kennedy for attending and the update to the Committee.</p>
1291	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	The Chair advised that he had no update in relation to this item.
1292	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected on the items that had been discussed at the Meeting.
1293	Forward Work Programme	The Committee agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee meet with the appropriate Officers to discuss the Forward Work Programme.
1294	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.