



MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL

MINUTES OF MEETING

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

JOINT MEETING WITH JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 20TH APRIL, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor Richard Thomas (In the Chair)

Councillors: G Jones, T Chaplin, M Davies, C T Jones, G Lewis, T Lewis, B E Mansbridge, K Moran, R Braithwaite, A Jones, J McCarthy, L Mytton, M O'Neill, D Roberts, S Slater, W R Smith and C Tovey

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

Lay Member:

D Gibby, C Brown, R Holdaway, R Lazell, B Lewis, A L Morgan and T Skinner

Officers:

Gareth Chapman (Chief Executive), Ellis Cooper (Corporate Director (Place and Transformation) - Deputy 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), Lisa Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services)), Cheryllee Evans (Chief Officer (Neighbourhood Services)), Dorothy Haines (Chief Officer (Learning) - Chief Education Officer), Fran Donnelly (H R Manager), Chris Long (Economic Development & Strategic Tourism Manager) and Steve Peters (Head of Public Protection and Housing)

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

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
1331	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Isaac, Councillor H Barrett, Councillor P Brown, Councillor B Carter, Councillor L E Smart, Councillor Raymond Thomas, Councillor S Williams and Mrs M Harris, Mrs M Jones, Mrs N Mahoney and Mrs Anne Morgan Co-opted Members.
1332	Declarations of Interest	<p>Councillor D Roberts Declared his Interest in Item 3 – MTCBC Change Programme – Projects Report 5 –as his daughter works in Lifeline and his business supplies the Print Department.</p> <p>Mr R Holdaway Co-opted Member Declared his Interest in Item 3 – MTCBC Change Programme – Projects Report 5 as he is a representative of the Town Ward Pact.</p> <p>Councillor A Jones Declared his Interest in Item 3 – MTCBC Change Programme – Projects Report 5 when the item was being considered – Football Field Charges as he is involved in Football.</p>
1333	MTCBC Change Programme - Projects Report 5	<p>The Leader Councillor B Toomey referred the Committee to the MTCBC Change Programme – Projects Report 5' report.</p> <p>Councillor P Williams then referred to the report and the appendices and advised that if the Committee recommended any changes then these matters could be deferred at Council pending a further report.</p> <p>Councillor D Roberts having Declared his Interest in the item left the Meeting when the items upon which he had Declared his Interest were considered.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Members and were responded to in detail by the Cabinet Members and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraphs 4.1 and 4.5 of the report – How do they tie up • Paragraph 5.3 of the report – Bullet six – Can an example be given of this • Are staff looking at this • Appendix 3 – Are these suggestions currently rejected • Policy – Ability to Change – Bullet five – Can this be explained and an example given • Clinical Waste Collections – How many residents are involved and what would the increase be • Default Works – Admin Charge – Can an example

be given of what sort of work and what sort of income would be brought in

- Dog Warden Fees – Definition requested - Lower stray dogs

Green Bulky Waste Collections – Are costs being created in other areas by doing this – Will an increase in fly tipping be seen – What is the Strategy going forward – What is the current penalty – Is it having an impact – Is it wise to start charging more – Will it escalate what is already an issue

The Leader then advised that if the Committee were concerned regarding this proposal then it could be withdrawn

Resolved that:

Green Bulky Waste Collections be deferred and recommended for withdrawal from consideration at Full Council and that this deferral be for a period of three months.

- Housing Renewals – Why is this kept to one side – Why over four years
- Land Drainage – Was the Meeting arranged – Are the Clients accepting the SLA – What is the contingency plan
- Procurement Card Rebate – What are the risks associated – Overspend – VAT – Reassurance sought – Have Policies been revised to allow for risks to be identified
- Street Works – Do we make any allowances if disabled residents can not afford the charges – The Equalities Act.
- Taxi Licensing – Is this subject to consultation with the Taxi Association in Merthyr Tydfil – Is the Operator Licence going to be included
- Trade Waste – What size business would these bins affect
- Accommodation (HFE's) – How does the Authority compare with other Local Authorities

Rejected Business Cases

- Animal Impounding Fees – Will there be a change due to microchipping
- Bowls Fees – Council advised that there are ongoing negotiations with the Bowls Association
- Building Regulations – Will this be returned to in the future
- Bulky Waste Collection – The issues arising from the Scrutiny Committee held in relation to litter and the problems with fly-tipping
- Playing Fields – Has consideration been given to the sharing of fields – Transfers of assets

Further Resolved subject to the foregoing that:

		<p>(a) The Cabinet recommended Income Management and Cost Recovery Policy attached as Appendix 1 of the report be approved</p> <p>(b) The Cabinet recommended additional income generation opportunities of £611,000, attached as Appendices 2 and 4 of the report be approved</p> <p>(c) The Cabinet rejection of income generation opportunities attached as Appendices 3 and 5 of the report be noted</p>
1334	MTCBC Change Programme - Projects Report 6	<p>Councillor L Matthews referred the Council to the 'MTCBC Change Programme – Projects Report 6' report.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Members and were responded to in detail by the Cabinet Members and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Response Services – Intermediate Care Fund – Is this guaranteed to continue • Children with Disabilities – Will there be an increase in cost to parents • Fostering and Adoption Services – What is the cost saving on the deletion of the post – What is a bumped redundancy option • Youth Offending and Duty Services –Social Services Budgets <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Cabinet recommended budget reduction opportunities of £511,000 as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.</p>
1335	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.