



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor Richard Thomas (In the Chair)

Councillors: H Barrett, T Chaplin, M Davies, G Lewis, T Lewis,
K Moran and Raymond Thomas

Councillor P Williams – Cabinet Member

Lay Member:

D Gibby

Officers:

Steve Jones (Head of Finance), Adele Lewis (Chief Accountant),
Mark Thomas (Head of Corporate Services) and Louise Ballinger
(Senior Auditor)

Outside Bodies:

John Herniman and Helen Goddard – Wales Audit Office

Mair Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
336	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Jones and Councillor B E Mansbridge.
337	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.
338	Audit of Financial Statements Report for 2015/16	The Chair welcomed Councillor P Williams, John Herniman and Helen Goddard Wales Audit Office, Steve Jones, Mark Thomas, Adele Lewis and Louise Ballinger to the Meeting. John Herniman referred to the 'Audit of Financial Statements Report – Merthyr Tydfil County Borough

		<p>Council' and led the Committee in detail through the document.</p> <p>Councillor M Davies entered the Meeting at 10.37 am.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by Mr Herniman, Councillor Williams and the Officers:</p> <p>Summary Report</p> <p><i>Paragraph 12 - Uncorrected misstatements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Surplus Assets</i> - How have the anomalies arisen as they are quite substantial sums • Can an example be given of a surplus asset • <i>Housing Revenue Account</i> – Can an example be given of how the debt arose and what is outstanding • Has the amount decreased over the seven years • Why was the debt not transferred to Merthyr Valleys Homes when the stock was transferred • Have former tenants been pursued for the debt • How will back bench Members know if a debt is written off <p><i>Paragraph 14 – Other significant issues arising from the audit:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does Note 23 refer to • Reserves and job losses • Resources in the Audit and Accountancy Departments – Are the Officers confident that the changes can be managed with the current staff or can difficulties be seen <p>The Chair then thanked the Wales Audit Office and the Officers for the hard work that had been undertaken.</p>
339	Annual Governance Statement for 2015/16	<p>Louise Ballinger referred to the 'Annual Governance Statement for Financial Year 2015/16' report together with the 'Annual Governance Statement 2015/2016' and led the Members through the report and statement.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Members and were responded to in detail by Councillor Williams and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next year is there only one issue – Financial pressures • Paragraph (h) – Undertaking the core functions of an Audit Committee, as identified in CIPFA's Audit Committee - Practical Guidance for Local Authorities - What has been done in relation to Regulatory reports • Auditor General's Annual Improvement Report incorporating the Corporate Assessment Report 2014 – Is the capacity sufficient

		<p>The Chair then thanked the Officers for the work that they had undertaken.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>A recommendation be made to Full Council that the Annual Governance Statement 2015/16 be approved.</p>
340	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.