



MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

JOINT MEETING WITH AUDIT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 18TH JANUARY, 2017

PRESENT: Councillor T Lewis (In the Chair)

Councillors S P Brown, E Galsworthy, A Jones, G Jones, G Lewis, B E Mansbridge, J McCarthy, L Mytton, M O'Neill, D Roberts, S Slater, Raymond Thomas, Richard Thomas, C Tovey and T Chaplin

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

Cooptees / Lay Member:

Claire Brown, Alison Harris, Robert Holdaway, Howard Jackson, Brian Lewis, Alan Rees and David Gibby

Officers:

Steve Jones (Head of Finance), Mark Thomas (Head of Corporate Services), Mark Anderton (Head of Adult Services), Cheryllee Evans (Chief Officer (Neighbourhood Services)), Dorothy Haines (Chief Officer (Learning) - Chief Education Officer), Lisa Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services)), Alyn Owen (Chief Officer (Community Regeneration)), Julian Pike (Housing and Community Safety Manager), Angela Edevane (Principal Officer - Initial Support Services), Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer), Gary Evans (Audit Manager) and Chris Hole (Manager for Early Years), Ron Carpenter

Mair Morgan – Democratic Services Officer

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
711	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor H Barrett, Councillor M Davies, Councillor D Isaac, Councillor C Jones, Councillor W R Smith, Councillor S Williams, R Lazell, N Mahoney, A Morgan, A Roberts, T Skinner Co-opted Members and Councillor K Moran Cabinet Member.
712	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.
713	Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 to 2020/21 - Progress Update	<p>The Chair welcomed The Leader and Cabinet Members to the Meeting.</p> <p>The Leader referred the Committee to the 'Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 to 2020/21 – Progress Update' report and advised that there would be a further joint Meeting on 15 February 2017 to consider recommendations.</p> <p>Steve Jones then led the Committee in detail through the report and together with the Cabinet Members and Officers responded in detail to the following questions raised by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation to Schools • Savings form Collaborative Working – What Organisations are being worked with collaboratively • Can itemised figures be given for this • Appendix 3 – Application of Foundation Living Wage – (ISB) – The need to find money in future years - Removal of the Clothing Allowance • South Wales Trunk Road Agent Contract – Litter on the A470 • How the Looked after Children Budget can affect the Budget – Where are we now in relation to reserves – The future and volatility of budgets – Are reserves sufficient • Paragraph 9 – Table 8 – Are there any changes being made in relation to VER /VR – Is there a business case being made in relation to every post • Are schemes such as School Uniforms being re sold in schools being encouraged • Clarity and explanation sought in relation to School Clothing / Maintenance allowance • The issue of Capacity - Effective service delivery and effective operations – If there are shortcomings with capacity and experience can anyone respond • Reorganisation of internal departmental working – Smarter working • How many instances are there of single point dependency – How many staff only work a three day week for efficiency savings • What is the percentage of Agency workers – Do we employ an agency or is employment of agency services undertaken by the Authority • If the Authority do not undertake this service can it

		<p>be undertaken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with other Authorities <p>The Leader advised that a list of Collaboration would be circulated to Councillors.</p> <p>Mr B Lewis left the Meeting at 3.12 pm and returned at 3.15 pm.</p>
714	Tackling Poverty Agenda	<p>Councillor L Matthews referred the Committee to the 'Tackling Poverty Agenda' report and advised of the following correction:</p> <p>Paragraph 5.3 – Tackling Poverty Partnership Board The Public Service Board had agreed that there would not be a Public Service Board representative and therefore the PSB representative should be deleted from the report.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by the Cabinet Members and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 4.2.2 – Update requested in relation to Communities First • Paragraph 1.1 – What are the additional costs – What is the effect on the Budget • Mental Health and Wellbeing – What are the costs • What is the Capacity in terms of jobs in Departments and in terms of diversity • When is the Transitional Board going to meet <p>Resolved subject to the foregoing that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The content of the report and the next steps be noted and challenged (b) The Governance Structure of the Tackling Poverty Partnership Board and Strategic Group as outlined in Section 5.3 of the report be discussed (c) The Tackling Poverty Scrutiny arrangements through the Joint Scrutiny Committee as outlined in Paragraph 5.2 of the report be noted
715	Housing and Community Occupational Therapy Disabled Facilities Grants - Joint Working Arrangements	<p>Councillor L Matthews referred the Committee to the 'Housing and Community Occupational Therapy Disabled Facilities Grants – Joint Working Arrangements' report.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by the Cabinet Members and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceiling Costs • Expectations of recipients • Importance of Communication • Paragraph 5.7 – Are there any strategies to mitigate this • Aids and Adaptations – What is the Council's Policy regarding equipment that is no longer used • Paragraph 7.1 – Housing OT - Explanation

		<p>requested</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 7.2 – How will this be progressed <p>Clare Brown left the Meeting at 3.40 pm and returned at 3.43 pm. Councillor Richard Thomas left the Meeting at 3.52 pm. Councillor T Chaplin left the Meeting at 3.55 pm.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked those present for attending.</p>
716	Any Other Business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.