



MINUTES OF MEETING

AUDIT MEETING

MONDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 2017

PRESENT: Councillor D Roberts (In the Chair)

Councillors: C J Barry, L Davies, S Jago, C T Jones, G Lewis and D Sammon

Councillor A Barry – Cabinet

Lay Member:
D Gibby

Officers:
Carys Kennedy (Head of Legal and Governance Services - Monitoring Officer), Mark Thomas (Head of Corporate Services), Steve Jones (Head of Finance), Sue Walker (Temporary Chief Education Officer), Helen Harbord (Internal Audit) and Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer)

Mair Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
477	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Colbran.
478	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.
479	Wales Audit Report on Good Governance when Determining Significant Changes 2016/17 (Merthyr specific).	Howard Jones Scrutiny Manager referred the Committee to the 'Update on the WAO's Proposals for Improvement Report – Good Governance when determining significant service changes – MTCBC' report and advised that the Governance, Performance, Business Change and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee had set up a Task

		<p>and Finish Group to take forward the development of a Cabinet Work Programme and that a report would be made to Cabinet in January.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to by the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many Local Authorities in Wales have a Cabinet Forward Work Programme • Did the Authority have a Cabinet Work Programme previously • Paragraph 23 –Minutes of Meetings • Paragraph 8 – Promoting Independence – Explanation requested • Paragraph 10 – Should read ‘Streams’ not ‘Steams’ <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The contents of the report be noted.</p>
480	Wales Audit Report on Savings Planning 2015/16 (Merthyr specific)	<p>Steve Jones referred the Committee to the ‘Update to Wales Audit Office Report – Savings Planning’ report and responded to the following question raised by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 21 – Clarification sought <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The response to the Wales Audit Office’s proposal for improvement in respect of Budget setting and planned savings be noted.</p>
481	Wales Audit Report on Achieving Improvement in Support of Schools through Regional Education Consortia – An early review	<p>Sue Walker referred the Committee to the ‘Welsh Audit Office National Review – Achieving Improvements in support of Schools through Regional Education Consortia – An early review’ report and gave an update to the Committee since the publication of the National Review.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to by the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 4.6 – What has been identified as a clear strategy and could the Members have sight of the Strategy • Paragraph 11 (c) - Have all these been addressed • Paragraph 3.14 – Concern expressed at the statement in the paragraph – When in the year would the Annual Governance Statement come forward – Sight prior to being signed off requested <p>The Committee agreed that the Strategy – ‘Closing the Gap’ be circulated to the Committee.</p> <p>Sue Walker advised that a representative of the Consortium could also be invited to a future Meeting.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p>

		<p>(a) The contents of the report be noted</p> <p>(b) The Committee support further Scrutiny from the Central South Consortium.</p>
482	Information Reports	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Reports for Information in relation to the following be received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasury Management 2016/17 • Sundry Debtors • Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Systems and Procedures 2016/17 (Follow up) • Purchasing Card Systems and Procedures 2016/17 (Follow up) • St Illtyds RC Primary School 2016/17 (Follow up) • Afon Taf High School 2016/17 (Follow up) • Caedraw Primary School 2016/17 (Follow up)
483	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair recommended that an item be placed on all future Committee agendas in relation to Reflection and Evaluation of the Meeting and the Committee agreed.