

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT MUNICIPAL YEAR 2012 / 2013



Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council operates under executive arrangements. Responsibility for the authority's functions is overseen by a Leader and Cabinet made up of Councillors from the party or group with the most members. The allocation of Chair and Vice Chair posts is also based by law on the number of seats each party or group has, and this number again will have influence on the appointment of Councillors to outside bodies.

Opinions, advice, conclusions and other information in this report shall be understood as neither given nor endorsed by the authority or on its behalf. It is a report by the Councillor referred to below regarding their key activities over the period from the day they signed their Declaration of Office in 2012 up to and including 14th May 2013. It is provided for the information of constituents and for no other purpose.

Councillor:	DAVID JONES
Political Party:	LABOUR
Electoral Division:	TOWN

Committee Membership, Roles and Attendance

This section relates to membership as an elected member, not in a personal capacity. Democratic Services has provided information on committee membership and attendance for Council Committees. However, where Councillors are a member of any other committees, they have provided details from their own records.

Council Committees: 100% Attendance

Full Council
Cabinet

Local Authority Panels:

- Customer Services, Service Management Board
- Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre Regeneration Panel
- Trelewis and Bedlinog Renewal/Regeneration Panel
- Treharris Town Centre Regeneration Panel
- Taf Bargoed Park Steering Group
- Pontmorlais Townscape Heritage Initiative

External Committees and Outside Bodies:

- Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Joint Committee; Engineering Consultancy for local authorities (Chair);
- County Borough Supplies;
- Ffos-Y-Fran Site Liaison Committee; Miller Argent, Cwmbargoed (Vice-Chair)
- Merthyr Care and Repair Management Board.
- South East Wales Transport Alliance
- Waste Project Board
- Old Town Hall Project Board
- North Cluster, Community First Board
- Flood Risk Management
- Emergency Planning

My attendance record for the majority of these meetings has been 100%. The rare occasions where I was unable to attend have all been as a result of other Council commitments.

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Committee Membership, Roles and Attendance Cont'd...

Champion:

I have recently been appointed Heritage Champion and am looking forward to working with the Groups that help to keep our rich heritage alive.

My Work as a Portfolio Member

There are six elected members with Executive roles who sit on Cabinet. The Leader chairs the committee and each of the others has responsibility for a specific portfolio of services. This section has identified the role of the individual Councillor and work undertaken in that role.

Portfolio for Technical and Environmental Services:

- The most challenging aspect of my portfolio role has been to provide the best Public Services possible with extensive cuts to our budget. My Cabinet colleagues and I have already put in place monthly 'Budget Meetings' with Directors and Senior Management to address issues for future budgets.
 - As part of my role I have been involved with the Town Centre Regeneration Project. I am delighted to have played a role in the development of the new River Taff Central Link, Penderyn Square pedestrianised area, Llys Janice Rowlands (the new events area near Gilar Street), the Castle Multi-storey Car Park, demolition of the Railway Club to create better access to the railway station and the purchase of the Hollies Health Centre for future development.
 - I am a Member of the Pontmorlais Townscape Heritage Initiative that is offering grants to premise owners to encourage them to improve the frontage and internal aspects, of their properties to encourage increased footfall to the area.
 - The Building Enhancement Schemes and Renewal Areas within the County Borough (Dowlais and Bedlinog/Trelewis) are also meetings I regularly attend that have made a substantial improvement for residents in those areas.
 - I am also delighted to be part of the Cyfarthfa Castle/Gardens/Leat Projects that promise to bring so much more to the Park and Museum.
 - I am a Member of the South East Wales Transport Alliance (SEWTA) that discusses the future of Road, Rail, Cycling and Walking in South East Wales. Recent issues are the Valleys rail electrification, M4 relief road at Newport also bus services in the Region.
 - I am currently working with our Waste Management Officers to provide a value for money waste facility with RCTCBC named 'Tomorrows Valley' potentially involving two other Local Authorities. I have also supported the 3G's Kerb-side Recycling Project.
 - At fortnightly SMB meetings my co-Cabinet colleague and I are kept aware of all issues relating to the Customer Services Directorate.
 - My co-Cabinet colleague and I have overseen the final construction of the two new care home facilities at the Gurnos and Treharris, which will provide 21st Century care for our residents that need such facilities.
 - I have attended all the Old Town Hall Management Board meetings and I hope that the public are as delighted as I am at the (almost) finished article.
 - I sit on the Job Evaluation Panel that ensures that officers get the correct financial reward for their input.
 - The Gethin Bike Park is another project that I have been involved with that promises to bring many extra visitors to Merthyr Tydfil along with employment.
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My Work as a Local Councillor

Under this heading, Councillors have identified the work undertaken on behalf of local constituents. Reference has also been made to any major initiatives or special projects they have been associated with on behalf of MTCBC, which have a direct impact on local constituents.

- Together with my three Ward colleagues, I hold regular monthly surgeries at various locations around the Ward.
 - We organise a monthly Street Surgery where we go out to various streets to speak to our constituents about their concerns.
 - As well as face-to-face queries, I am often contacted by residents by telephone and email and look to get answers to them as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours.
 - I attend PACT meetings regularly, where we (Councillors, Police and other partnership members) attempt to resolve issues raised by local residents.
 - As my Ward includes the town centre, many of the issues are related to Anti-Social Behaviour. My working relationship with our local Inspector, PCs and PCSO's is good and we have an excellent record of dealing with issues, though there is always more to be done.
 - Road safety is a big issue and I have been an integral part of getting a safer crossing at Twynyrodyn Community School, and am currently working to get safety measures in place at Clos-yr-Ysgol
 - Other issues that residents regularly raise include:
 - Highways repairs, Parking, Anti-Social Behaviour, Housing applications and repairs, Street lighting, Playground surfaces being destroyed to name but a few.
 - On a more positive note, I am pleased to say that I have supported many funding applications from varied local Groups, from Merthyr Tydfil Swimming Club to Merthyr Amateur Dramatics, to a local Community Group and a local Boxing Club, to assist them in the continuation of their respective organisations.
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Learning and Development

In the Learning and Development section, Councillors have demonstrated instances where they have taken the opportunity for personal development by taking part in initiatives and events aimed at improving their understanding and awareness.

I have taken part in the following Learning and Development initiatives during the past year:

Child Protection Training
Data Protection
Health and Safety
Risk Management
Information Protection

I have attended the following pre-Council Presentations:

I have attended EVERY pre-Council Presentation from Cwm Taf Health Board to Mountain Rescue

Other Activities and Issues

Under this heading, Councillors have provided information on themselves to demonstrate the 'personal' aspect of their role as a local Councillor which they believe would be of interest to constituents.

I run a local public house, which means that I am always in the public domain and residents often call in to discuss their "lesser" issues or general inquiries over a swift half.

Councillor Dai "Chick" Jones
Date: 08th July 2013