

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014 / 2015



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 the date of the Annual General Meeting on 21st May 2014 to the Annual General meeting on 20th May 2015. It is provided for the information of constituents and for no other purpose.

Councillor:

DAVID JONES

Political Party:

LABOUR

Electoral Division:

TOWN

Comprising the communities of:

Town, Mardy, Penyard, Twynyrodyn, Thomastown, Caedraw, Mountain Hare

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 outside the Council's responsibility, they have provided details from their own records.

Council Committees:

[Link to Councillor Jones' attendance page](#)

External Committees and Outside Bodies (as a representative of MTCBC):

[Link to Councillor Jones' personal page](#)

Salary

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales sets how much is paid to a Councillor depending on their role is, e.g. Cabinet Member, Chair of a Committee, Scrutiny Member, etc. The attached link will take you to the 2014/2015 Schedule of Remuneration which lists what each individual receives.

[Link to salaries, expenses and allowances](#)

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 Neighbourhood Services. (Technical and Environmental Services as was)

Again it has been a very challenging year regarding certain aspects of my Portfolio. Some of the main issues are highlighted below

In June this year we changed our recycling collection service to kerb-side sort. Initially this proved to be problematic, but as residents have become used to the system it is proving to be a success where we are collecting much cleaner recyclable materials that have a greater value for the Council. The main drivers behind this transition are the challenging Welsh Government recycling targets, which it appears that we have missed by 1% point this year.

We continue to sell plots of land that have no operational value, ranging from single garage plots to Dolygaer Outdoor Pursuit Centre. These have produced substantial Capital income for the Council, which we have been allowed to use to assist with redundancy payments, the vast majority of which have been Voluntary Redundancy payments to date.

We are on track with the Salix funding Scheme, which is a two year project to replace all street lighting with LED low voltage lighting, which will give a saving to the Council, both financially and with regard to our carbon footprint.

High technology heating monitoring systems have also been installed in the majority of Council buildings, which will also save money and positively affect our carbon footprint.

I have been involved in the delivery of the Miro-Hydro Scheme at Parc Taf Bargoed,, which is now under construction. This Scheme will generate electricity, which will provide an income for the Friends of Taf Bargoed Group, which will in turn be used to benefit the Park and the local community in Treharris.

I have recently been working with Officers and Cabinet colleagues on recommendations made by PWC with regard to in-year and future savings

I make every attempt to attend as many meetings as possible as my attendance record shows, though there are times when I am physically not able to be in two places at the same time. I do however "catch up" as soon as possible with my colleagues and Officers.

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 regularly take part in "street surgeries", choosing a different area each month to go out to our constituents and discuss any issues they may have..

I have supported many funding applications which have been beneficial to residents of Town Ward such the re-surfacing of the highway at Bryony Close, also the walkway from Bryony Close to Ty Cwn Extra Care Facility.

I have lead on the replacement railings at Aneurin Crescent, which will help stop motorcyclists accessing local green spaces and causing damage to them, also ASB from the noise from the motorcycles

I am currently working with Ward colleagues to address a highways issue by raising the height of the roundabout at the entrance to Dan y Graig estate which will ensure that motorists do not drive straight over the roundabout, which has been the reason for several accidents and near-misses.

I, along with my Ward colleagues have supported several sporting organisations by using our Community Grant fund, promoting a healthy life-style.

I regularly attend PACT meetings where residents have an opportunity to raise issues with councillors, the police and other Partnership members

I make every attempt to respond to emails and telephone queries as soon as possible, though normally within 24 hours

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 make every effort to attend all presentations held between Cabinet and Full Council, one of the most important being the Safeguarding Presentation and Policy, which was recently reviewed.

I have taken part in various Bob's Business Training and have attended all pre-meeting presentations I have been available for.

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.

As I am a Licensee of a public house, I regularly get constituents "dropping in" to seek information and or advice.

Councillor David Jones
Date: September 2015