

# Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

## COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

### MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015 / 2016



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
**MERTHYR TUDFUL**  
**MERTHYR TYDFIL**  
County Borough Council

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 20 May 2015 to the Annual General meeting on 18 May 2016. It is provided for the information of constituents and for no other purpose.

**Councillor:**

**DAVID JONES**

**Political Party:**

**WELSH LABOUR PARTY**

**Electoral Division:**

**TOWN WARD**

*Comprising the communities of:*

*Penyard, Mountain Hare, Twynyrodyn, Mardy, Town Centre, Caedraw and Thomastown*

## 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 David Jones' attendance page](#)

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

- Event Safety and Advisory Group (ESAG)
- Job Evaluation Panel
- Waste Project Board

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

### **Other Bodies (not in their capacity as a Councillor):**

- Governor at Ysgol Santes Tydfil plus Complaints Committee

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## 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 2015/2016 Schedule of Remuneration which lists what each individual receives.*

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

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I HAVE CHOSEN TO FOREGO 2% OF MY SALARY.

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## **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.*

### **Neighbourhood Services and Public Protection.**

2014/15 has again been a very challenging year for parts of my Portfolio, though unverified figures indicate that we have achieved our Welsh Government target of 58% of our waste being re-cycled. This will ensure that we are not fined by Welsh Government.

With Senior Officers, I visited a re-cycling centre at Conwy to view how their centres are managed and what we could learn from them.

Trials of "Stacker box" containers are being trialled in parts of the County Borough and if they are successful we will look to promote this throughout the County Borough, though residents can continue to use their current containers if they prefer them.

Fly-tipping has also been a massive issue this past year, and I have introduced an Enforcement Team to deal with this issue. Individuals and businesses that continue to blight our beautiful countryside and streets with waste have found that we are no longer the "soft touch" that we were last year and the Courts have dispensed appropriate fines when offenders have ignored initial penalties and even Court summons'.

I have worked closely with the Councillors of Treharris, Merthyr Vale and Plymouth Wards with regard to the "clearway" that is to be introduced along the A4054 for 12 to 14 weeks from early August this year in order that we can carry out essential maintenance on the Abercynon bridge. Our collaborative work should mean that residents will be inconvenienced as little as possible

Cyfarthfa Park has achieved the Green Flag Award, and now both of our major parks have this prestigious environmental status,

With the Leader and Deputy I attended the Network Rail Seminar on National rail improvements which included the South Wales Region in London.

I have mentored "new" Councillors until they become confident enough to progress individually, though they know I am always there should they need any assistance..

I also assist Councillor colleagues were they have an issue with any part of my Portfolio

## **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.*

Along with my Ward colleagues, I regularly organise "street surgeries" where we have a rota of the areas within our Ward and go out to meet our constituents.

Again, as part of a team I organise and distribute information letters to residents' where improvement works are to be carried out. These letters give residents' the opportunity to ask any questions they may have before a scheme takes place. For example: when a road is being re-surfaced and there may be essential road closures for part of the repair time, or residents have disability/ access issues that they wish us to consider.

I regularly attend PACT and Neighbourhood Watch meetings where residents' have the opportunity to raise any issues they may have. I also pick up case-work from these meetings, such as bollards being placed at Union Terrace to stop inconsiderate drivers mounting the kerb, and having trees removed which were a possible danger to residents and pedestrians.

I have, with my Ward colleagues, supported many sporting teams, disability groups, older persons groups and individuals with grants from our Community Funds.

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I also supported the upgrading of a footpath from Gelli Dawel to Bryony Close which helps residents of all ages and abilities access a local shop, a bus-stop and the local school also friends and family have a more accessible route to visit their relatives at Ty Cwm.

I regularly complete passport, licensing and other applications for residents where they require a suitable person to sign those applications.

I have been the conduit between residents and our Member of Parliament and Assembly Member, as appropriate, when they have had issues that are relative to their Offices.

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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***

- I complete all the Bob's Business modules
- Data Protection
- LDP Review PINS
- Safeguarding

***I have attended the following pre-Council Presentations:***

- I have attended all, bar one, of the pre-Council presentations, including the Rotherham Report and Safeguarding presentations
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## 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.*

Residents will regularly call into the pub I run to ask for information or guidance on a variety of issues.

Residents will also approach me in the street to ask about a query/issue they have.

**Councillor DAVID JONES**  
**Date: August 2016**