

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:

GARETH LEWIS

Political Party:

LABOUR

Electoral Division:

PLYMOUTH

Comprising the communities of:

Abercanaid, Pentrebach, Troedyrhiw

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 Lewis's attendance page](#)

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

[Link to Councillor Lewis's personal page](#)

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

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 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.

- I have held, and continue to hold, constituency advice surgeries at various times and locations within the Plymouth Ward.

- Attended local PACT meetings and regularly addressed any complaints or queries in a timely manner.
 - I have supported individuals who have contacted me on a wide range of issues. These can include concerns about litter, dog fouling, un-gritted roads and pot holes to anti-social behaviour, road traffic problems, planning issues and school placements.
 - I received a number of telephone calls and emails from residents seeking advice and assistance on a range of personal issues, always being prepared to listen to their concerns and offer appropriate support.
 - I have used social media, such as Twitter and Facebook to contact constituents. I have also used social media to regularly keep constituents up to date on local issues/events and to encourage topical debate.
 - Secured funding for a number of local community groups.
 - Promoted and supported local businesses.
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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 attended the following pre-Council Presentations:

I make every effort to attend the presentations between Cabinet and Council

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 am immensely proud to be one of the three Councillors' to represent the three villages of Troedyrhiw, Pentrebach and Abercanaid, elected since May 2012. Having been brought-up and educated within the ward, I am passionate about the best interests of the Plymouth Electoral Division and take an active daily interest in the up keep of the ward and the welfare of its residents.
- Plymouth Ward Councillor's - Councillor Harvey Jones, Councillor Brent Carter and myself work as a team, whilst we pick up our own casework, and may lead on separate issues, the majority of the work done in the ward is driven by the three of us.
- I regularly deal with a variety of different problems and issues from local residents. The most recurring problem raised by residents is traffic related. Many streets within the ward date back to Victorian times and were therefore not built to accommodate motor vehicles. I regularly consult and liaise with constituents on this issue, while also working with the local Police Community Support Officer in managing the problem.
- With regard to other traffic related issues, I have received several complaints about speeding along the road adjacent to Brynhafred Villas in Troedyrhiw and into the entrance of Abercanaid. I have requested that Council Officers monitor this situation and report back to me on a regular basis.
- Some of the other major issues within the ward include fly-tipping, which has been a severe and on-going problem in some areas of the ward. I am working with Council officers, the Police and enforcement officers as well as the community to increase enforcement against offenders and to improve the situation.
- I have also worked in partnership with external organisations such as Welsh Government, South Wales Trunk Road Agency, Communities First and Merthyr Valley Homes when assisting

constituents. Such issues can range from planning concerns and road safety to the maintenance of social housing.

- I have been successful in obtaining funding for many community groups over the last twelve months. Organisations that have benefitted include Abercanaid Football Club, Hills Plymouth Cricket Club and Troedyrhiw Bowls Club.
 - I believe community events are integral to the promotion of the Plymouth ward and its residents, as a local Councillor I am always looking to promote community events and support community groups.
 - I thank all the people of Plymouth Ward in providing me with the opportunity to represent them over the last twelve months. It is a privilege and I look forward to continue standing up for my constituents and their local community in the coming years.
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Councillor Gareth Lewis
Date: July 2015