



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

AUDIT MEETING

MONDAY, 14TH MAY, 2018

PRESENT: Councillors D Roberts (Chair)

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

Lay Member:
D Gibby

Officers:
S Jones (Head of Finance), G Evans (Audit Manager), H Harbord (Senior Auditor), J Ashdown (H R Manager), C Dinham (Communications, Consultation and Engagement Manager), R Evans (ICT Operations Manager), R James (Information Security Officer), A Mogford (Business Change Manager) and K O'Donovan (Corporate Risk and Equalities Manager)

Outside Bodies:
Helen Goddard and Alexis Smith (Wales Audit Office)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
976	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Amos and Councillor C Barry.
977	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.
978	Update on Progress in Managing the Council's Corporate Risks	The Chair referred the Committee to the 'Update on Progress in Managing the Council's Corporate Risks' report and welcomed the Officers to the Meeting. The following questions were then raised on the report and

were responded to in detail by the Officers:

Appendix 1

- Action (5) – Where and when will the Workshop be held
- Risk Cause (4) – Has this been achieved as an Authority – Updates requested on Plan as it progresses
- Current Controls (6) – How are the Business Cases Monitored – Who monitors the robustness of the Business Cases
- Action (1) – Focus Groups – Request made for examples of Focus Groups and Focus Groups to be contacted
- Action (3) – How much will be completed by the end of this financial year
- Employee, Councillor and Local Authority Numbers
- Is there a Plan or Strategy – Example requested on how this would work – Training provision – Apprenticeships
- Current Controls (1) – Where is the Annual Campaign Plan – Has this been discussed with Councillors – Will it be considered at Full Council – Will it be considered at the Audit and or the appropriate Scrutiny Committee – What input has there been by Councillors
- Communication and Consultation Strategy – Will it be completed by 31/12/2018 – Will it be considered by Full Council
- Annual Residents Survey – Background information requested – When will the Survey be issued – Will Councillors have input into what questions will be asked – Concern expressed if sent out prior to being seen by Councillors – How are residents to be communicated with
- Feedback on Cyber Attack risks – Are the Officers confident that all Security precautions are in place
- Action (7) – Action Plan and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) –When will Guidelines be issued – Will there be further Briefings for Councillors

The Chair then proposed that the Annual Residents Survey be considered in the first instance by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee and this was agreed by the Committee.

The Committee also suggested that the Annual Campaign Plan be submitted to Full Council.

Resolved that:

The update on progress in managing the Council's Corporate Risks in relation to a Cyber Attack, Capacity and Capability, Reputation and Performance be received.

The Chair then thanked the Officers for attending and the update to the Committee.

979	Wales Audit Office - Grants Annual Report 2016/17 (MTCBC)	<p>The Chair welcomed Helen Goddard and Alexis Smith to the Meeting.</p> <p>Helen Goddard then led the Committee in detail through the 'Certification of Grants and Returns 2016-17 – Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council' report.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee on the report and were responded to by Helen Goddard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Benefit Subsidy – The volume of cases to be dealt with – What is the percentage of the total volume that would have been Audited – Was the percentage looked at the norm for the number of applications • Summary Observations – Communities First Programme • R4 – Comments requested on this • Supporting People Grant Claims <p>The Chair then thanked Helen Goddard and Alexis Smith for attending and the update to the Committee.</p>
980	Information Reports	<p>The following Information reports were received by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car Parking Systems and Procedures 2017/18 • Dowlais Primary 2017/18 • Budgetary Control (Follow Up) 2017/18 • NNDR (Follow Up) 2017/18 • Pant Primary (Follow Up) 2017/18 <p>Arising on Budgetary Controls and NNDR a Member enquired in relation to implementation of the recommendations.</p> <p>The Audit Officer advised that she did not have the details of the recommendations to hand but would provide the information to the Members.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Internal Audit Reports be received.</p>
981	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected on the issues that had been considered at the Meeting.</p>
982	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chair advised that this was the last Audit Committee of the Municipal Year and he thanked the Committee, the Lay Member, Wales Audit Office and the Officers for their contributions.</p>