

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013 / 2014



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 14th May 2013 to the Annual General meeting on 21st May 2014. It is provided for the information of constituents and for no other purpose.

Councillor:	LISA MYTTON
Political Party:	INDEPENDENT
Electoral Division:	VAYNOR

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: 76% attendance

Full Council
Scrutiny: Schools (Chair)
Scrutiny: Social Services & Social Regeneration
Appeals Committee

External Committees and Outside Bodies:

Merthyr Tydfil Institute for the Blind
Stephens & George Charitable Trust
Vaynor Community Forum
Wales Council for the Blind
Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (Scrutiny Committee)
Groundwork – Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taff

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 hold monthly surgeries within my ward, the surgeries focus on key developments within the ward and are an opportunity for residents to attend and receive advice, guidance and support on any issues they may be facing, some issues I have dealt with include, Grit bin requests, pot holes, safeguarding, Anti-social behaviour, etc.

Cont'd...

My Work as a Local Councillor Cont'd...

I also have telephone calls and house visits on a regular basis where again advice, guidance and support is given to residents, follow up support is always given and I engage with third parties in order to get answers for my residents and ensure that they receive a satisfactory outcome.

I use social networking to inform residents throughout Merthyr Tydfil and wider afield about events and activities taking place within the borough, consultation events, and current issues facing the council. I have also sent out requests for suggestions from the public on scrutiny items that could be looked at.

I have organised and attended many charity events, supporting local charities and organisations with the services they provide.

I attend local PACT meetings, where over the last year I have highlighted many of our residents' concerns and ensured that action is taken as a result.

I attend the Vaynor Community Forum (every third Monday of the month). This Forum looks at the issues and concerns of the Vaynor Ward. Topics have included Tree Felling, Rights of Way's, Potholes and Waste and Recycling issues etc., which I take responsibility for along with my ward colleague.

I have attended and supported many local groups and organisations throughout the ward and county borough, such as dance groups, after school clubs, local village hall, churches, OAP's, theatre groups, etc., with advice, guidance and grant funding.

All of the above is undertaken in partnership with my fellow ward colleague Cllr Howard Barrett which I firmly believe the partnership supports our community and ensures that we can meet resident's needs.

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

Self-Assessment and Evaluation Workshops
Media Advice and Guidance
Questioning Techniques for Scrutiny Members
WLGGA Webcasting Training

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.

In May 2013 I undertook the role of Scrutiny Chair for Schools, following our Estyn Inspection we were put into special measures, I felt that this would be an opportunity for me to strengthen the role of Schools Scrutiny utilising the skills and knowledge I have. I took a fresh approach and wanted my committee to feel like a team, I start with pre meetings where everyone has the opportunity to gauge their feelings, discuss their findings and research and where everyone then takes responsibility to question officers. This ensures that everyone feels they are taking an active role in scrutiny. The results have been good we have definitely made great strides forward and we have been supported in training sessions on questioning techniques etc.

During 2012/13 I became the youngest ever Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil, this was both an honour and privilege to represent the people of Merthyr Tydfil. The experience allowed me to engage with a wider representative of people throughout the borough, gain understanding of some of the issues people face and also the fantastic work that is being undertaken by community groups, volunteers, schools etc. This has led to me

sitting on two charitable boards and more importantly to use the information gained to continuing to support residents with their needs, issues and concerns.

Over the last 6 years I have been instrumental in organising an annual Christmas event with my ward colleague which has grown year on year and feedback from residents say they feel it brings the community together.

Councillor Lisa Mytton
Date: August 2014