

# 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 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014. It is provided for the information of constituents and for no other purpose.

<b>Councillor:</b>	<b>BILL SMITH</b>
<b>Political Party:</b>	<b>LABOUR</b>
<b>Electoral Division:</b>	<b>GURNOS</b>

## 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: 92% attendance**

Full Council  
Customer Services Scrutiny  
Social Services & Social Regeneration Scrutiny (chair)

### **External Committees and Outside Bodies:**

Capita Glamorgan Consultancy Joint Committee  
Merthyr Valleys Homes  
Safer Merthyr Tydfil  
VAMT Small Grants Panel

### **Other:**

Anti Poverty Champion  
Carers Champion

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## 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 and will continue to hold weekly council surgeries on Friday afternoon between 2pm/3pm at the 3G/s Office at the Gurnos shopping Centre

I attend the old Gurnos Tenants and Residents Board meeting monthly

**Cont'd...**

### ***My Work as a Local Councillor cont'd...***

I attend the P.A.C.T.with the Police Monthly

I attend the new Gurnos Tenants and Residents Board Monthly

And regularly addressed any complaints or queries in a timely manner

I have supported individuals who have contracted me on a wide range of issues and acted on their behalf

Neighbourhood dispute involving Merthyr Valley Home and other Housing association with the Police, Highways matters, street lighting, Social Service and Housing repairs

I received a considerable number of telephone calls and E mail from residents seeking advice and assistance on a range of personal issues, always prepared to listen to their concern and offer appropriate support

Lead member in the project team in changing the use of the Gurnos Community Centre to a new early years Learning Centre call Fly start for the age of 2 year till 3 years old funding from Welsh Government and support by Merthyr Valleys Home Opening by March 2015

Working with the Leisure officers and the user group of the Gurnos Community Centre to make sure that all the Group have been relocated to other building for their needs

Woking with local school and the police on cars parking on the pavement outside their school

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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***

- Corporate Parenting
- Safe Guarding Children
- I.T. training
- School Governors Training
- Risk Management, Audit Management
- Training with Merthyr Valley Home
- Sport lot Community Chest Merthyr Tydfil chest
- Merthyr Care & Repair
- Safer Merthyr Tydfil
- Management account Green Horizon Recycling
- 3/Gs Community First
- Merthyr Valleys Home
- Scrutiny Training in questioning and debating in committee
- The only occasions I turn down an invitation to a training development course is if have other Council commitments

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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.*

I support the Forsythia Close Youth Club and Pen y Dre Youth Club for which I drive the mini bus in half term voluntary to take the youth members on away days

***Cont'd...***

***Other Activities and Issues Cont'd...***

I meet with Pen y dre High school teaching staff to interview pupils and parents on why their children are not attending school,

I also support the teaching staff at Pen y dre High School interviewing pupils and parents on anti-social behaviours in classroom

Partnership working with Merthyr Tydfil Council, and Ceredigion Council, and the Welsh Audit, to improve how scrutiny members asks question in committee meeting

Council members visited Denbighshire council to see how their improved and how their Education standards

Lead member of the project team in changing the use of the Gurnos Community Centre to a new Early years Centre from the ages two to three funding from the Welsh Government and funding from Merthyr Valleys Home by March 2014

Lead member in negotiated new office building for Merthyr Tydfil Care Repair

Support and working with youth offend service in partnership with Merthyr Valleys Home having areas in the Gurnos Ward litter pick on paths and open land, painting metal railing, and benches in the cemetery.

Lead member in negotiation with Merthyr Tydfil council for a new unit to operate Green Horizon Recycling furniture with community asset transfer.

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**Councillor Bill Smith**  
**Date: July 2014**