



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# AUDIT MEETING

**MONDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Councillors D Roberts (Chair)

Councillors: C T Jones, G Lewis, D Sammon, J Thomas and C Tovey

D Chaplin (Substitute Committee Member)

**Lay Member:**

D Gibby

**Other Councillors in Attendance:**

A Barry (Cabinet Member)

**Officers:**

S Jones (Head of Finance), A Lewis (Chief Accountant), G Evans (Audit Manager), H Harbord (Senior Auditor) and E Lewis (Auditor)

**Outside Bodies:**

H Goddard and Caitlin Smith (Wales Audit Office)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
305	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Barry and Councillor J Amos.
306	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.
307	Statement of Accounts 2017/18	The Chair welcomed Steve Jones and Adele Lewis to the Meeting.

Steve Jones then led the Committee in detail through the 'Statement of Accounts 2017-18' report.

The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by the Officers:

- Paragraph 8.0 – Examples requested on the type of Interest Payments that make up the figure
- Paragraph 23.0 – Pengarnddu Provision – Further details requested on this

The Chair advised that he would seek clarification with the appropriate Officers on the situation in relation to Pengarnddu and advise the Committee.

- Paragraph 4.0 – Council Tax – Sundry Debtors – What is the Council trying to do to reduce that figure particularly in the first two years

The Audit Manager advised that the Revenue Manager could be invited to attend a Committee Meeting to update the Committee on this.

The Committee then agreed that the Revenue Manager be invited to attend an Audit Committee Meeting in relation to Council Tax and Sundry Debtors.

- Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it (e) – Sickness absence – Compliment made by a Member to the Council in relation to the figure achieved
- Paragraph 7.1.3 – Earmarked Reserves – Capital Financing Reserve – What can these be used for
- Reserves – Percentage of Annual Turnover – Welsh Government recommendation
- How does the percentage compare with other Local Authorities in Wales
- Explanation requested in relation to short term borrowing and investments
- Explanation requested in relation to 'Unusable Reserve'
- Paragraph 1.6 – Explanation requested in relation to 'Bonuses' and 'Non- Monetary Benefits'
- Paragraph 16.0 – What are the investment properties
- Further explanation requested on 'Corporate Vacancy Factor'
  
- Extra Responsibility Payments

The Audit Manager advised that he would seek clarification from H R and advise the Committee in relation to these payments.

**Resolved that:**

		The Audited Statement of Accounts for 2017/18 being the financial year ended 31 March 2018 be recommended to the Council of 26 September 2018 for approval.
308	Audit of Financial Statements Report - Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	<p>The Chair welcomed Helen Goddard and Caitlin Smith of the Wales Audit Officer to the Meeting.</p> <p>Helen Goddard led the Committee in detail through the 'Audit of Financial Statements Report – Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council' and together with Caitlin Smith responded in detail to the following questions raised by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paragraph 9 – 106 agreements</li> <li>• Paragraph 12 – Committee Dates</li> </ul> <p>The Chair then thanked Helen Goddard and Caitlin Smith for the update to the Committee.</p>
309	Annual Governance Statement 2017/18	<p>Gary Evans led the Committee in detail through the 'Annual Governance Statement for Financial Year 2017/18' report and responded in detail to the following questions raised by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff vacancies</li> <li>• When in the month does the Budget Board meet – Are the Meetings Minuted and are these Minutes available for anyone to see</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>A recommendation be made to Full Council that The Annual Governance Statement 2017/18 be approved.</p>
310	Internal Audit Strategy and Plan 2018/19	<p>Gary Evans led the Committee through the 'Internal Audit Strategy and Plan 2018/2019' report and responded in detail to the following questions raised by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Auditing of Schools – The number of Audits undertaken per annum</li> <li>• Attendance at Audit Committees of the Regional Auditor</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The Internal Audit Strategy and Plan be approved.</p>
311	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the issues that had been considered at the Meeting.</p> <p>The Chair also advised that this was the last Committee Meeting for Mr David Gibby Lay Member and on behalf of the Committee thanked Mr Gibby for his service over the past six years.</p> <p>Gary Evans also endorsed the comments made by the Chair and advised that Mr Robert Williams had been appointed as the new Committee Lay Member.</p>

312	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.
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