



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

AUDIT MEETING JOINT MEETING WITH JOINT SCRUTINY

WEDNESDAY, 23RD JANUARY, 2019

PRESENT: Councillors C T Jones (Chair)

Councillors: D Roberts, J Amos, J Davies, G Lewis,
D Sammon, C Tovey and J Thomas

Lay Member:
R Williams (Lay Member)

Other Councillors in Attendance:
K O'Neill (Cabinet Member), D Hughes (Cabinet Member) and
G Thomas (Cabinet Member)

Officers:
G W Chapman (Chief Executive), E Cooper (Deputy Chief Executive), S Jones (Head of Finance), C Evans (Chief Officer (Neighbourhood Services)), L Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services)), C Kennedy (Head of Legal and Governance Services - Monitoring Officer), A Owen (Chief Officer (Regeneration and Public Protection)), S Walker (Chief Education Officer), F Donnelly (H R Manager), C Dinham (Communications, Consultation and Engagement Manager), P Lewis (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager) and G Evans (Audit Manager)

Outside Bodies:
H Goddard (Wales Audit Office)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
762	Apologies for absence	No apologies for absence were received as all Members of the Audit Committee were present.
763	Declarations of Interest	Mr R Holdaway Co-opted Member on the Joint Scrutiny Committee Declared his Interest in Item Three – Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 – Update January 2019 – Citizen’s Advice Bureau as he is a Director.
764	Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 - Update January 2019	<p>Steve Jones referred the Committee to the ‘Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 – Update January 2019’ report and also made a Presentation in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised Budget Deficits 2019/20 to 2022/23 • Corporate Additional Demands • Corporate Budget Reductions • Further Revised Budget Deficits • Local Government Revenue Settlement • Welsh Local Government Revenue Settlement 2019 -2020 • Schools Budget Reductions • Proposals to Address Budget Deficit 2019/20 <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in cost of school meals • Paragraph 3.1 – What is the projected deficit – Could the figure be included in the report • What are the current reserves • What is the cost of the Additional Learning Needs Bill • Clarification sought in relation to Budget and general reserves • Timing of grants from the Welsh Government • Further details requested in relation to Phase 2 – VR/VER • Teachers Pensions • Position next year in relation to Children Looked After – Demands • Cost of a Residential Placement per annum • Explanation requested in relation to Weekly Placements • Level of Placements – Reasons for the increase – Is this UK wide • Clarification sought on Supported Placements (Individual Care Packages) • Clarification sought in relation to Financing of a permanent Energy Officer <p>A Member then enquired why there was no Member of the Cabinet present at the Meeting to respond to questions raised.</p> <p>Another Member then advised that the Cabinet Members were currently in another Meeting and would be attending</p>

		<p>shortly.</p> <p>A Member then moved the motion that 'this Committee was disappointed that there was no Cabinet Member present at the Meeting' and this motion was seconded.</p> <p>Councillor K O'Neill, Councillor D Hughes and Councillor G Thomas then entered the Meeting at 3.10pm.</p> <p>A vote was then taken on the Motion and it was</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>To note the disappointment of the Committee that there was no Cabinet Member present at the Meeting.</p> <p>Further Resolved that:</p> <p>The report be noted.</p>
765	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	Councillor K O'Neill addressed the Committee regarding the attendance of the Cabinet Members at the Meeting.