



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# AUDIT MEETING JOINT MEETING WITH JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**WEDNESDAY, 29TH JANUARY, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Councillors C T Jones (Chair)

Councillors: 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), L Mytton (Cabinet Member), A Barry (Cabinet Member), C Davies (Cabinet Member), D Hughes (Cabinet Member) and G Thomas (Cabinet Member)

**Officers:**  
C Kennedy (Head of Legal and Governance Services - Monitoring Officer), E Cooper (Interim Chief Executive), S Jones (Head of Finance), A Owen (Interim Deputy Chief Executive), J Jones (Chief Officer Neighbourhood Services), L Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services)), S Walker (Chief Education Officer), G Evans (Audit Manager), D Chaffe (Highways Officer), P Lewis (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager), C Long (Economic Development & Strategic Tourism Manager) and A Mogford (Head of Corporate Services)

**Outside Bodies:**  
H Goddard (Wales Audit Office) and I Phillips (Wales Audit Office)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
648	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Roberts and Councillor T Skinner, Councillor H R Jones, Councillor M Jones, C Brown, R Holdaway, H Jackson, R Lazelle, K Phelan Co-opted Members (Joint Scrutiny Committee).
649	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.
650	Revenue Budget 2020/21	<p>Steve Jones referred to the 'Revenue Budget 2020/21' report and together with the Cabinet Members and Officers responded in detail to the following questions that were raised by the Committee on the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on compulsory redundancy</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.6.5 – Is the £1m taken into account for the enhanced provision in Education</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.7.1 – Pay Award – Will there be an agreement on the percentage before the budget is set</li> <li>• Service Investment – What is the time line for this – Will there be a report to Cabinet and or Council</li> <li>• Llwydcoed Crematorium – Are the reserves allocated for anything specific</li> <li>• Extra costs in relation to Vaynor and Penderyn School – Where is this money from – Will this be subject to a Cabinet report – Will it be an open report</li> <li>• Paragraph 6.4 – Explanation requested on the difference between the two figures (The figure in the paragraph and the figure in Table 1)</li> <li>• Appendix 4 – Net Additional Unavoidable Demands</li> <li>• Demands and Proposed Savings: A lot of proposed changes are currently out for Consultation and are due to be brought back to Council – Update requested on the current consultation process - Will the consultations be brought back to Council and will it be before the final budget is set – When did the consultation period commence</li> <li>• Ref 11 – Explanation requested on the reasons for the increase</li> <li>• Ref 12 – How is the 6% increase made up – How was this figure arrived at</li> <li>• Ref 20 and 21 – Background and update requested on the Trade Unions disagreement</li> <li>• Ref 20 – Street Cleansing over the Christmas period</li> <li>• Ref 23 – Explanation requested on the restocking costs</li> <li>• Ref 25 – Demands on the Service</li> <li>• Ref 30 – Is there a Service Level Agreement with the Police</li> <li>• Ref 31 – Is there an increase in income due to an increase in Service users</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ref 34 – Explanation requested in relation to the administration grant</li> <li>• Ref 35 – When is the deadline in relation to staff</li> <li>• Ref 36 – Why has the Service Level Agreement been terminated by the Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Trust – What is the level of Service to the Trust</li> <li>• Ref 38 – What is the number of Fixed Penalty Notices that have been affected by carrying out other duties</li> </ul> <p>Appendix 5 – Approved Service Budget Reductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ref 5 – Further information sought in relation to the proposed Public Inquiry</li> <li>• Ref 7 – Explanation requested on the Post</li> <li>• There are a number of Consultations taking place in relation to staff – Can Councillors have an update – Are the Consultations likely to meet deadlines – Will there be an effect on the overall report</li> <li>• Ref 10,11,12 and 13 – Which Department does the deletion / vacancy relate to</li> </ul> <p>Appendix 6 – Corporate Budget Reductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ref 7 – Explanation requested on this</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p>
651	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.