



MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : JOINT COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING WITH AUDIT

WEDNESDAY, 29TH JANUARY, 2020

PRESENT:

Councillors:

G Lewis, C T Jones, J Amos, H Barrett, B Carter, D Chaplin, M Colbran, J Davies, L Davies, K Gibbs, S Jago, D Jones, G Richards, D Sammon, W R Smith, S Thomas and I Thomas

Cooptees:

H Hopkins (Public Appointed), J McCarthy (Public Appointed), J Beard (Public Appointed), H Powell (Public Appointed), M Ellis (Youth Forum Representative) and T Butler (Youth Forum Representative)

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

Outside Bodies:

H Goddard (Wales Audit Office) and I Phillips (Wales Audit Office)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
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Chair

Councillor C T Jones as the Chair of Audit took the Chair for the Joint Committee Meeting.

652	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Skinner, Councillor H R Jones, Councillor M Jones, Councillor D Roberts (Audit Committee) and C Brown, R Holdaway, H Jackson, R Lazelle and K Phelan Co-opted Members.
653	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.
654	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">• Information on compulsory redundancy• Paragraph 5.6.5 – Is the £1m taken into account for the enhanced provision in Education• Paragraph 5.7.1 – Pay Award – Will there be an agreement on the percentage before the budget is set• Service Investment – What is the time line for this – Will there be a report to Cabinet and or Council• Llwydcoed Crematorium – Are the reserves allocated for anything specific• 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• Paragraph 6.4 – Explanation requested on the difference between the two figures (The figure in the paragraph and the figure in Table 1)• Appendix 4 – Net Additional Unavoidable Demands• 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

		<p>the consultation period commence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ref 11 – Explanation requested on the reasons for the increase • Ref 12 – How is the 6% increase made up – How was this figure arrived at • Ref 20 and 21 – Background and update requested on the Trade Unions disagreement • Ref 20 – Street Cleansing over the Christmas period • Ref 23 – Explanation requested on the restocking costs • Ref 25 – Demands on the Service • Ref 30 – Is there a Service Level Agreement with the Police • Ref 31 – Is there an increase in income due to an increase in Service users • Ref 34 – Explanation requested in relation to the administration grant • Ref 35 – When is the deadline in relation to staff • 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 • Ref 38 – What is the number of Fixed Penalty Notices that have been affected by carrying out other duties <p>Appendix 5 – Approved Service Budget Reductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ref 5 – Further information sought in relation to the proposed Public Inquiry • Ref 7 – Explanation requested on the Post • 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 • Ref 10,11,12 and 13 – Which Department does the deletion / vacancy relate to <p>Appendix 6 – Corporate Budget Reductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ref 7 – Explanation requested on this <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p>
655	Any Other Business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.