



MINUTES OF MEETING

AUDIT MEETING

MONDAY, 9TH MARCH, 2020

PRESENT: Councillors C T Jones (Chair)
D Roberts (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: J Davies, G Lewis, D Sammon and J Thomas

Lay Member:
R Williams (Lay Member)

Other Councillors in Attendance:
A Barry (Cabinet Member)

Officers:
M Thomas (Head of Regional Audit Service), G Evans (Audit Manager), H Harbord (Senior Auditor), P H Davies (Purchasing Manager) and D Chaffe (Highways and Fleet Manager)

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

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
770	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Tovey.
771	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.
772	Strategic Procurement	Gary Evans referred to the 'Strategic Procurement' report and together with Paul Davies and Helen Harbord responded to the following questions raised by the Committee:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 6.0 Conclusion - Further explanation requested on why a grade of 'C' – Satisfactory had been awarded • Appendix C – Update requested on the follow through by Audit staff • Appendix C – Key 3 – Explanation requested in relation to the monitoring of Contracts under £5,000. <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The report be received.</p>
773	Strategic Procurement Action Plan Update	<p>Paul Davies referred the Committee to the 'Strategic Procurement Audit Progress report' and updated the Committee on the progress on the recommendations.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to by the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timescale for the recommendations • Procurement Policy – Are Local Business taken into consideration – How are Local Business able to apply for Council Contracts – Will there be another event similar to an event held previously • What is the time implication in relation to leaving the EU – Further information requested in relation to EU Procurement Rules • Paragraph 6.0 – Priority 2 – Staff levels • Priority 4 – Information requested on checks to ensure standards are met <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The progress to date be noted.</p>
774	Fleet Management	<p>Gary Evans referred the Committee to the 'Fleet Management' report.</p>
775	Fleet Management Action Plan Update	<p>Darren Chaffe referred the Committee to the 'Fleet Management Action Plan Update' report and advised that the report had been prepared prior to his appointment as Highways / Fleet Manager and gave details of staff numbers.</p> <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"> • Recommendation 3 – When will this be completed • Explanation of Priority 2 requested • Explanation requested on the 'Gateway Process' <p>A Committee Member then suggested that this item be deferred for an up to date report to be presented to the next Committee Meeting and this was agreed by the Committee.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p>

		This item be deferred.
776	Certification of Grants and Returns 2018 - 19	<p>Helen Goddard referred the Committee to the 'Certification of Grants and Returns 2018-19 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council' report and responded in detail to the following questions raised by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus Service free travel – How is data recorded on buses where there is no smart reader • Explanation requested on the service covered by the Local Transport Fund <p>The Chair then thanked Helen Goddard for the update to the Committee.</p>
777	Annual Audit Letter 2018 - 19	<p>Ian Phillips referred the Committee to the 'Annual Audit Letter Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council 2018-19' and together with Helen Goddard responded to the following questions raised by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements in place to secure Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness – External Advisors – Is the view being reserved until completion • Will there be an interim communication - Timescale for when information is available – When can the judgement be revisited • Is there anything to impede progress – Can short term planning proceed <p>The Chair then thanked the Wales Audit Officers for the update to the Committee.</p>
778	2020 Audit Plan	<p>Helen Goddard and Ian Phillips referred the Committee to the '2020 Audit Plan – Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council' report and responded in detail to the following questions raised by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibit 1 – Early submission of accounts – How did other Local Authorities do • Pressure on the Accounts Section due to earlier deadlines <p>The Chair then thanked the Wales Audit Officers for the update to the Committee.</p>
779	Information Reports	<p>The Committee received the Internal Audit report for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge Maintenance Systems and Procedures
780	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected on the items that had been discussed at the Meeting.
781	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.

