



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

AUDIT MEETING

MONDAY, 19TH APRIL, 2021

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

Councillors: D Chaplin, J Davies, D Sammon, C Tovey and
J Thomas

Lay Member:
R Williams (Lay Member)

Other Councillors in Attendance:
A Barry (Cabinet Member), L Mytton (Cabinet Member),
D Hughes (Cabinet Member) and G Thomas (Cabinet Member)

Officers:
E Cooper (Interim Chief Executive), M Thomas (Head of
Regional Audit Service), S Jones (Head of Finance), A Owen
(Interim Deputy Chief Executive), C Dinham (Communications,
Consultation and Engagement Manager), F Donnelly (H R
Manager), L Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services)),
S Walker (Chief Education Officer), M Rivers (Business Change),
A Stephens (Cabinet Policy Officer) and H Harbord (Senior
Auditor)

Outside Bodies:
H Goddard, S J Byrne and I Phillips (Audit Wales)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
544	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Amos.

545	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.
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Agenda Items

The Chair advised that Item 4 on the agenda would be taken before Item 3 on the agenda.

546	Annual Risk Management Progress Report and Updated Corporate Risk Register 2020-21	<p>The Chair welcomed Cabinet Members and Officers to the Meeting.</p> <p>Councillor A Barry led the Committee through the 'Annual Risk Management Progress Report and Updated Corporate Risk Register for 2020-21' report and moved the recommendations as contained within the report.</p> <p>He also referred to the length of time in relation to reporting on the Corporate Risk Register to the Committee and sought the views of the Committee on this.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to by the Cabinet Members and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 3.3 – What Training is received by Members – Training via Bob's Business – How many Councillors are up to date with this Training in particular Risk Management • (Ellis Cooper advised that this information would be circulated to the Committee) • The opportunity for Lay Members to access this Training would be useful • Paragraph 4.1 – Using the Corporate Risk Register and process to assess the impacts of the Coronavirus Pandemic – Is there a list of impacts of the virus so far and could the Councillors have sight of this • (Matthew Rivers advised that a further in depth look could be undertaken and circulated to the Members) • Paragraph 5.8: • Risk 5 (i) – (April 2021 – Likelihood should read 3 not 4) – Reason for this reduction • Risk 5 (ii) – Where are the Single Points of Dependency (SPOD's) in the Authority – Is there a list available – Will spending on new staff reduce the risk score – How much would have to be spent to bring down the risk score significantly – Has any money been spent to fill the gap in Environmental Health – How much would the financial cost be of dealing with all SPOD's • Risk 7 – Brexit – How long will this be kept on the Risk Register – Was Brexit monies applied for and if so what was the amount • If Capacity now covers Governance where is the risk element in relation to Governance listed as there is a Statutory requirement in some areas • How is the financial impact assessed in risk
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk 2 – Reputation –Further details requested on this risk score • Paragraph 6.2 – March 2020 should read March 2021 • Appendix A – Some dates and Cabinet Member details need to be updated <p>The Committee then considered the frequency of reporting risk and agreed that a report be brought back to Committee in three months.</p> <p>Resolved subject to the foregoing that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The report be noted and this report (including the Corporate Risk Register for 2021-22) progresses to Cabinet for approval (b) The continued progress made in considering the Risk Management requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Socio-economy Duty be noted (c) Lead Corporate Management Team Officers be invited to attend Audit Committee on a rolling programme basis to report on progress in managing their Corporate Risks (d) The proposals to continue to present highlight reports on the Corporate Risk Register to Cabinet be noted
547	Audit Wales - 2021 Audit Plan - Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	<p>The Chair welcomed Helen Goddard, Sara-Jane Byrne and Ian Phillips (Audit Wales) to the Meeting.</p> <p>Helen Goddard and Sara-Jane Byrne referred the Committee to the '2021 Audit Plan – Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council' and responded to the following questions raised by the Committee on the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 38 – Grants Certification Work – 'List other schemes' should read 'Teachers Pensions Schemes' • Paragraph 26 – Local Projects – What is the likely project – What are likely to be the other local projects • Explanation of the McCloud Judgement <p>The Chair then thanked Audit Wales for attending and the update to the Committee.</p>
548	Internal Audit Charter 2021/22	<p>Mark Thomas referred the Committee to the 'Regional Internal Audit Service Charter 2021/22' report and advised of the change of title to Governance and Audit Committee with effect from the AGM.</p> <p>Questions were then raised on the scope and remit of the Committee and were responded to by the Chair and Mark Thomas.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p>

		The Regional Internal Audit Service Charter for 2021/22 be approved.
549	Information Reports	Mark Thomas referred the Committee to the Issued Internal Audit Reports and updated the Committee on the reports referred to in the report. No reports were referred for further consideration.
550	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected on the issues that had been considered at the Meeting.
551	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.