



MINUTES OF MEETING

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 14TH JULY, 2021

PRESENT: Councillors M Colbran (Chair)
D Sammon (Vice-Chair)

Councillors J Amos, H Barrett, A Barry, B Carter, D Chaplin, C Davies, J Davies, L Davies, E Galsworthy, K Gibbs, D Hughes, D Isaac, S Jago, C T Jones, D Jones, M Jones, G Lewis, L Mytton, G Richards, D Roberts, T Rogers, T Skinner, W R Smith, J Thomas, G Thomas, I Thomas, S Thomas and C Tovey

Officers:

C Kennedy (Head of Legal and Governance Services - Monitoring Officer), E Cooper (Interim Chief Executive), S Jones (Head of Finance), L Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services)), S Walker (Chief Education Officer), J Jones (Chief Officer Neighbourhood Services), A Owen (Interim Deputy Chief Executive), A Mogford (Head of Corporate Services), C Dinham (Communications, Consultation and Engagement Manager), C Long (Economic Development & Strategic Tourism Manager), T Stephens (Family Support), R Barry (Tourism Officer), D Chaffe (Highways and Fleet Manager), S Lewis-Abbott (Housing and Supporting People Manager), S Stephens (Housing) and Z Thomas (European & External Funding Support Officer)

Outside Bodies:

S Thomas CBE, C Salter, T Garthwaite and C Burns
(Core Team of the Improvement and Assurance Board)

I Phillips (Audit Wales)

M Phillips (Democratic Services Officer)
M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)*

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
167	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor H R Jones and Councillor C Barry.
168	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.
169	Council Update	<p>The Mayor welcomed Steve Thomas CBE Chair – Governance Overview, Reporting to Welsh Government, Christine Salter Finance, Central and Support Services, Tony Garthwaite Social Services, Housing and HR and Chris Burns Education and Economy the Core Team of the Improvement and Assurance Board to the Meeting.</p> <p>Steve Thomas then made the following Presentation to the Council giving details in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background – Pre Covid 19 – Chronology - 31 May 2019 to 30 March 2020 • Covid 19 • Generic Support within the Council – Help, Assistance, Support, Tips, Guidance and Advice • What has the Core Team ever done for us – Things arranged through Welsh Government • What was the Council like when we arrived • Accentuating the Positives • The Impact of Covid 19 – Community and Council • Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (SWOT) Analysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengths • Weaknesses • Opportunities • Threats <p>Christine Salter then gave details to the Council in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance: • Graph of Council Tax Band D Bills for 2021/22 £GBP for 22 Welsh Authorities <p>Tony Garthwaite then gave details to the Council in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Services <p>Chris Burns then gave details to the Council in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education <p>Steve Thomas then referred to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where next - Pointers set out for the Council's Initial Deliberation and Feedback: • Governance • Management and Performance

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance • Transformation and Specific Service Areas • Community Resilience • How can the Council Return to a situation of Self Sustaining Improvement <p>The following questions were then raised by the Members on the Presentation and were responded to in detail by the Improvement and Assurance Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Services Capacity – Key individual vacancies • Finance – Council Tax Collection • Governance – Sustainability • Size of the Authority • Exiting Strategy – Time required • Finance – Welsh Government Settlement - Medium Term Financial Plan • Council Tax Collection Rate - Deprivation Index • Longer Term Sustainability <p>The Mayor then thanked the Core Team of the Improvement and Assurance Board for attending and the Presentation and update to the Council.</p>
170	Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)	The Council approves as accurate (subject to any amendments) the Minutes of the following Meetings:
170a	Full Council: 16/06/2021	Resolved that: The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held 16 June 2021 be accepted as a correct record.
170b	Cabinet: 16/06/2021	Resolved that: The Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held 16 June 2021 be accepted as a correct record.
170c	Licensing Committee: 09/06/2021	Resolved that: The Minutes of the Licensing Committee held 9 June 2021 be accepted as a correct record.
170d	Planning, Regulatory and Licensing: 09/06/2021	Resolved that: The Minutes of the Planning, Regulatory and Licensing Committee held 9 June 2021 be accepted as a correct record.
170e	Scrutiny : Transformation, Commercialisation and Corporate Centre: 15/06/2021	Resolved that: The Minutes of the Transformation, Commercialisation and Corporate Centre Scrutiny Committee held 15 June 2021 be accepted as a correct record.
170f	Governance and Audit: 21/06/2021	Resolved that:

		The Minutes of the Governance and Audit Committee held 21 June 2021 be accepted as a correct record.
170g	Scrutiny : Neighbourhood Services, Planning and Countryside: 01/03/2021	Resolved that: The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services, Planning and Countryside Scrutiny Committee held 1 March 2021 be accepted as a correct record.
171	Medium Term Financial Plan Update – Financing the Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan	Resolved that: (a) The proposed investment requirements detailed in Appendix 1 be approved (b) To part finance the investment, the utilisation of £312,000 of the Digital Transformation monies received from Welsh Government be approved.
172	Cyfarthfa Heritage Area Special Purpose Vehicle	Resolved that: The contents of the report be approved.
173	Petition Received by the Authority	Resolved that: The report for Information be received.
174	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000	Resolved that: The report for Information be received.
175	Annual Scrutiny Report 2020 / 2021	Resolved that: The report for Information be received.
176	Homelessness and Housing Update	Resolved that: The report for Information be received.
177	Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan - Annual Update 2021-22	Resolved that: The report for Information be received.
178	To deal with any other urgent business or correspondence	The Mayor advised that there was no business deemed urgent.
179	To receive communications from Her/His Worship the Mayor	No Communications were received from His Worship the Mayor.
180	Exempt	Resolved that: The public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 under Part 4 of Schedule 12A Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.
181	Update on the Work	Resolved that:

	Undertaken in Supporting Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Trust	The report for Information be received.
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