



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT MEETING

MONDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2021

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

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

Other Councillors in Attendance:
A Barry (Cabinet Member)

Officers:
S Jones (Head of Finance), M Thomas (Head of Regional Audit Service), R James (Information Security Officer / Clerk to Bedlinog & Trelewis Community Council), A Lewis (Chief Accountant), R Evans (ICT Operations Manager) and C Davies (Regional Audit Service)

Outside Bodies:
H Goddard, I Phillips and N Hollis (Audit Wales)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
216	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Amos and R Williams Lay Member.
217	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made. The Chair advised that he was an LEA Governor and had Dispensation.
218	Provisional Statement	Steve Jones led the Members in detail through the

	of Accounts 2020/21 including Draft Annual Governance Statement	<p>'Provisional Statement of Accounts including Draft Annual Governance Statement 2020-21' report and advised of an amendment to Paragraph 3.5 of the report as the 'Sign off' of accounts would now be considered at the Council Meeting scheduled for 3 November 2021 and therefore this item would now be considered at the Governance and Audit Committee scheduled for 18 October 2021.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee on the report and were responded to by in detail by the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue Outturn to Budget - Provision for Further Commitments – Explanation requested of Commitments • Corporate Vacancy Factor – Are we sure of delivery of Services if the vacancies are unfilled • Capacity – What are the plans for this – What will be the further costs – Will there be an impact on the 2022/2023 budget • Submission of Accounts to Committee – What is the reason for the change of Committee date • Riverside Phase 3 – Further details requested on this <p>Resolved subject to the foregoing that:</p> <p>(a) The Provisional Statement of Accounts 2020/21 be noted</p> <p>(b) The draft Annual Governance Statement of 2020/21 be recommended for adoption by the Leader and Chief Executive.</p>
219	Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21	<p>Mark Thomas led the Committee in detail through the 'Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21' report and together with Councillor A Barry responded to the following question raised by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Audits – Is it normal to have a high number of recommendations when undertaking school audits <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>Members give due consideration to the Annual Internal Audit Report for the Financial Year 2020/21 including the Head of Audit's Annual Opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of Governance, Risk Management and Internal Control.</p>
220	Governance and Audit Committee Updated Forward Work Programme 2021/22	<p>Mark Thomas led the Committee in detail through the 'Governance and Audit Committee Updated Forward Work Programme 2021/22' report and advised of an amendment in relation to Paragraph 4.2 as some proposed agenda items would now be considered at the Committee scheduled for 18 October 2021.</p> <p>Resolved subject to the foregoing that:</p>

		<p>(a) Members approve the updated Forward Work Programme for 2021/22</p> <p>(b) Members endorse the schedule of items for the next Meeting, 4 October 2021 (Special Meeting) and confirm the list of people it would like to invite for each item (if appropriate) and indicate whether any additional information is required.</p>
221	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected on the items that had been considered at the Meeting.
222	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there were no items deemed urgent.

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 18 under Part 4 of Schedule 12A Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

223	Information Report - Cyber Resilience in the Public Sector	<p>Ryan James led the Committee through the 'Issued Internal Audit Reports' report and responded in detail to the questions raised by the Members on the report.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The recommendation as contained within the report be accepted.</p>
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