



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, 15TH JANUARY, 2024

PRESENT: Lay Members: M Veale (Chair)
C Prosser (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: B Carter, C Jones, D Sammon and C Tovey

Lay Member:

S Eriksen

Other Councillors in Attendance:

A Barry (Cabinet Member)

Officers:

L Hull (Chief Finance Officer / Section 151 Officer), L Cumpston (Audit Manager Regional Internal Audit Service), H Harbord (Assistant Audit Manager Regional Internal Audit Service) and S Jablaoui (Performance and Scrutiny Officer Officer)

Outside Bodies:

I Phillips (Audit Wales)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
564	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Scriven and Councillor D Roberts.
565	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.

566	Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) For Information	The Minutes of the Governance and Audit Committees held 27 November 2023 and 4 December 2023 were accepted as a correct record.
567	Governance and Audit Committee Action log	The Action Log was received by the Committee.
568	Final Self Assessment Report	<p>Liam Hull led the Committee through the Corporate Self-Assessment report for their information.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The content of the report be noted and that the report had been approved by Council.</p>
569	Audit Wales - Digital Strategy Review	<p>Ian Phillips Audit Wales led the Committee through the Audit Wales Digital Strategy Review – Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council report.</p> <p>Liam Hull and Councillor A Barry Cabinet Member also updated the Committee in relation to the Council.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to by Audit Wales, Councillor A Barry and Liam Hull:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practice across all 22 Local Authorities • Next Steps • Accountability / Capacity – Will there be a Lead identified for the Digital Strategy • Paragraph 13 – How much will this cost – Will extra staff be employed <p>The Chair then thanked Audit Wales, Councillor A Barry and Liam Hull for the update to the Committee.</p>
570	External Audit Recommendations	<p>Saeif Jablaoui led the Committee through the Progress against External Audit Recommendations report and advised that under Paragraph 6.0 it should read 6.1.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised on the report and were responded to by Saeif Jablaoui:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The balance in relation to overdue / realistic targets – To ensure addressed appropriately • Sharing of this information with the Scrutiny Committees <p>Councillor A Barry stated that it could be useful for this report to be referred to Cabinet / CMT to afford an opportunity to discuss and Saeif Jablaoui advised that he would raise this and respond.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>(a) The Committee reviews the Council’s progress to date in addressing existing recommendations and proposals for improvement made by our External</p>

		<p>Regulators</p> <p>(b) The Committee endorse the closure of recommendations dating back as far as 2014/15 where these have been implemented, superseded or are no longer applicable.</p>
571	Internal Audit - Progress against the Plan	<p>Lisa Cumpston led the Committee through the Progress against the Internal Audit Risk Based Plan (1 April 2023 to 31 December 2023 report.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The content of the report be noted together with the progress made against the Internal Audit Risk Based Plan 2023/2024.</p>
572	Internal Audit Recommendations	<p>Lisa Cumpston led the Committee through the Internal Audit Recommendation Monitoring 2023/24 report and gave an update to the Committee in relation to Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic School.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p>
573	Forward Work Programme	<p>Helen Harbord led the Committee through the Governance and Audit Committee Forward Work Programme 2023/24 report</p> <p>The Chair then referred to Appendix A and asked if the same procedure as last year would be undertaken in relation to the Questionnaire. The Chair also advised that draft future Committee dates were available.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Forward Work Plan for 2023/2024 be approved.</p>
574	Internal Audit Information Reports	<p>Helen Harbord led the Committee through the Issued Internal Audit Reports.</p> <p>The Chair also referred to the importance of follow up reports.</p>
575	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected on the items that had been considered at the Meeting.</p>
576	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>Regional Internal Audit Service</p> <p>Liam Hull advised the Committee that RCT were withdrawing from the Partnership and gave details on this.</p> <p>New Partners were being sought and that the Committee would be kept updated on the matter.</p>

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