

CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

12th November 2014

Chairman: Councillor D.W.Davies

Vice Chairman: Councillor A.Jenkins

Councillors: Mrs P.Bebell, A.Carter, Ms.C.Clement-Williams,
M.Harvey, Mrs.L.H.James, A.Llewelyn,
Mrs.S.M.Penry, J.Warman and I.D.Williams

Officers In Attendance S.Phillips, A.Evans, N. Jarman, G.Nutt, D.Rees and
Mrs.A.Manchipp

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors A.H.Thomas, E.V.Latham, P.A.Rees,
J.Rogers, A.J.Taylor and A.N.Woolcock

1. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members made declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting:-

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| Councillor Mrs P.Bebell | Report of the Corporate Directors' Group re Revenue/Capital Monitoring as she is a Member of the Bro Morgannwg Community Health Council and confirmed her dispensation to speak but not vote. |
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| Councillor A.Llewelyn | Report of the Corporate Directors' Group re Revenue/Capital Monitoring as he is a former employee of Gwalia. |
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2. PRE SCRUTINY

The Committee scrutinised the following matter:-

Cabinet Proposals

(i) Budget Monitoring Report 2014/15

Members received the report of the Corporate Directors, outlining the significant variances from the current budget position, including details of the actions taken to manage them.

Members noted details of the new monitoring arrangements which included Scrutiny Committee Chairman, and Members of the Committees, identifying area within today's report for further more indepth scrutiny.

Following the presentation Members raised the following issues:-

In relation to the disposal of Trade Waste, Members questioned whether this was being taken to sites by Contractors and the effect this was having on the budget. A further report would be considered at the next meeting of the Environment and Highways Scrutiny Committee on 17th December.

In relation to the Economic and Community Regeneration items, these would be raised where relevant at the next meeting.

The increase in Domiciliary Care Costs was as a result of an increase in demand, but this would be offset by budget savings elsewhere in the Directorate.

Members also discussed the high costs of out of county placements, whereby it was explained that due to the specialist nature of the support required, each case was assessed closely, and was linked to either disability of specialist educational needs.

The amount of insurance reserve was discussed, wherein it was noted that due to the potentially large costs of insurance claims it was necessary to hold a large reserve.

Members were advised that any underspends were paid back into the general reserves and some of this would be used to fund the current ER/VR scheme which was a priority in order to avoid, where possible, compulsory redundancies. Welsh Government had recently written to

all Welsh local authorities requesting details of how reserves were being used.

The Chief Executive advised Members that via the Western Bay vehicle, ABMU was being asked to contribute financially to the initiative.

Members paid tribute to the frontline staff in Waste Management and specifically to the rolling out of the new way of recycling at domestic properties.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by Cabinet.

(ii) Capital Budget Monitoring 2014/15

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by Cabinet.

CHAIRMAN