

## CABINET STATEMENT

**TITE: RETIREMENT OF THE COUNCIL CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)**

**DATE:- 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2015.**

**BY: - Councillor Andrew Morgan, Leader of the Council.**

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Last week, Members were made aware of our Chief Executive's decision to retire later in the year.

In the circumstances, can I as Leader, and on behalf of Cabinet and Council, place on record our grateful thanks to Mr Merritt for the service he has given to Rhondda Cynon Taf in particular and local government in general.

Mr Merritt has served us loyally for many years, most recently, in his role as Chief Executive, and for nine years before that as Group Director for Corporate Services.

I am sure Mr Merritt's contribution has been appreciated by everyone in this chamber and would want to place on record our good wishes to Mr Merritt for a long and happy retirement.

Whilst it is important that we place on record our thanks to Mr Merritt, his retirement does mean we have to consider our future corporate arrangements and this is why I have taken this opportunity to make a formal and recorded statement.

I firmly believe there is value in considering how the Council functions corporately as was demonstrated through the review of our wider senior management structure that I initiated which secured savings in excess of £1M.

We should not lose sight of the strong corporate governance arrangements we have in place nor undervalue the contribution they make to the services we deliver. This strong corporate core has been recognised by our independent inspectorates and any decision would need to demonstrate that it would not impact on these robust management arrangements.

I have asked the Director of Human Resources to undertake a full review of the options available to us following Mr Merritt's decision to retire, including taking account of the future shape of local government, the potential to make savings and the need to meet our statutory obligations. The review will be brought forward for consideration at a future Council meeting.

This is not a matter we should rush as it is so fundamentally important to our future success. We must consider constructively and decisively what is best for this Council which is why I have taken this opportunity to make this statement to full Council.