The Vale of Glamorgan Council





Scrutiny Committees' Annual Report 2008/09





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FOREWORD

The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Scrutiny Committees wish to acknowledge all the work that has been undertaken by Members of the Scrutiny Committees in 2008/09, and officers and external witnesses who have provided the Committees with their professional knowledge and expertise.

The report not only highlights various aspects investigated by the Committees, but also shows the development and improvements made within service areas and Members' development.

CHAIRMENS' COMMENTS

Councillor J.F. Fraser, Chairman, Scrutiny Committee (Corporate Resources):



"With the economic downturn it became even more essential for the Committee to ensure that the Council's policies, practices and priorities met the challenge and the work of the Scrutiny Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen Group helped focus the individual Scrutiny Committee's work programmes. The Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee has made many recommendations regarding policy changes (e.g. procedures for the sale of surplus land) as well as ensuring the Council tax payer receives "best value" from the Council with the knowledge that savings across the Council will have to be made in both the long and short term."

Councillor C.J. Williams, Chairman, Scrutiny Committee (Economy and Environment):



"The Committee can feel justly proud of its achievements this year.

Since Scrutiny began in 2002 it has slowly improved and is now a crucial part of the democratic process. Since I was first involved in early 2000 we have seen Scrutiny change from being a body with little power to a powerful and valuable aid to the workings of the Council.

We are also now fortunate to have many of the present Cabinet who have a more intimate knowledge of Scrutiny and conversely the previous Cabinet now has a broader knowledge of Cabinet workings, which both act to make the Council Membership stronger and more informed.

We have made some key decisions this year and the Extraordinary Meeting which evolved from an initiative from Councillor Curtis stands out as a bold idea to aid local businesses and has formed the precedent for similar initiatives to come. The attendees were all keen to be involved and we need to now debate how we follow on from that event.

The Extraordinary Meeting of Social Care and Health, which addressed the single issue of Bryneithin Care Home was also a notable success in engagement with the public and served to show ratepayers that they do have a voice in our Authority.

The Task and Finish Group for Penarth improvement has shown that Members are keen to explore new ways to engage with stakeholders and to look "outside the box" to improve our environment.

I look forward to this new year and to progress with the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen Group, the prioritisation of work programme projects and issues which we need to address.

We enjoy keen debate and have an excellent membership in Economy and Environment and we are ready to play our part in aiding the Cabinet in its decisions to take us through and out of these difficult economic times."

Councillor Mrs. M.R. Wilkinson, Chairman, Scrutiny Committee (Housing and Public Protection):

Review of Domestic Abuse Services -

"I am pleased that the Council promotes policies in relation to Domestic Abuse. The court processes has set aside one day a week to deal with these issues, which can only be beneficial."

Tenant Engagement Strategy Action Plan -

"The Council has developed a Tenant's Action Plan. It is hoped that more tenants will get involved in representing their communities which is crucial in developing future housing services."

Disabled Facilities Grants - Occupational Therapy Assessment Waiting Times -

"I recognise and appreciate the very good work that has been done by the Scrutiny Committees (Social Care and Health) and (Housing and Public Protection) and the Cabinet. However, much work is still to be done to reduce the waiting lists for the wider benefit of those who require this service. The Council would then reap the public appreciation."

Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen Group -

"I believe that this Group makes a significant contribution to the development of the Council's scrutiny function and therefore a valuable contribution to the workings of the Council."

Councillor J. Clifford, Chairman, Scrutiny Committee (Lifelong Learning):



"The Scrutiny Committee (Lifelong Learning) continues to fulfil an important statutory role in ensuring that School Budget Forum views on spending priorities are presented and considered as part of the budget cycle.

I would wish to commend the Task and Finish Group which examined the needs of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs), within the Vale of Glamorgan. We look forward to this work being progressed.

The Scrutiny Committee has also played an important role in refining Education 2015, a vision for Education Services. We will continue to monitor progress against agreed priorities.

I am grateful to Committee Members and the Vice-Chairman for their support during the year and for setting a challenging work programme for the future. As part of the work of the Scrutiny Committee, I will be keen to see further progress as a purposeful engagement with young people and improved arrangements to assist the voice of the learner.

I would also like to thank the Director and staff of Learning and Development for their support and for the efforts of all officers who have contributed to the work of the Committee.

I hope the next year will be as interesting and our three new staff will give their professional expertise to the Committee."

Councillor Miss. S.J.C. Williams, Chairman, Scrutiny Committee (Social Care and Health):

"Throughout 2008/2009 the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen's Group has met regularly to discuss the ongoing development and progress of the scrutiny function within the Council. New initiatives have been discussed and trialed with a view to enhancing the scrutiny performance, better engaging with the public and fulfilling the core commitments of the Council for example:

- The Group is supportive of the reduction of unnecessary waste within the Council and is therefore encouraging the reduction of carbon copies of Committee papers in favor of electronic means.
- The Group is active in encouraging new means to progress and strengthen the role of scrutiny and meetings provide an opportunity for proposals to be explored.

Members of Scrutiny Committees also met early in 2009 with Assembly Members and officials of the Local Government Committee from the National Assembly for Wales to discuss the role of scrutiny in general. The contributions will assist in an ongoing inquiry across Wales.

As Chairman of the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee I am committed to the key principals of scrutiny and keen to investigate new means to engage with the public to ensure a platform is provided for their voice. The Social Care and Health Committee is a key example of this in that a public committee meeting was held in early February to hear representations on a consultation exercise. New means and opportunities will be tried and tested in the coming year to further engage with the public and I would also encourage and welcome further participation from members of the public. Any requests for consideration can therefore be e-mailed to the Scrutiny and Committee Services Officer, Mrs. Karen Bowen on kbowen@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Over 2008/2009 the Committee has covered a wide range of areas within the service and has made a number of positive recommendations which have been accepted. I take this opportunity to thank all Members of the Committee for their continued commitment to the Committee's work programme.

I am pleased that the Director now has a complete and very capable Heads of Service team and I look forward to seeing further progress within Social Services in the Vale of Glamorgan in the coming year. I would like to extend my thanks to the Cabinet Member, Director and all officers for their continued support to the Committee."

INTRODUCTION

This report focuses on the impact made by Scrutiny using the established "4 Principles of Effective Scrutiny". The report details those via illustrations of various case studies.

The Principles propose that good scrutiny:

- Provides a "critical friend" challenge;
- Enables the voice and concerns of the public and its communities;
- Is carried out by 'independent minded governors" who lead and own the scrutiny process;
- Drives improvement in public services

CASE STUDIES

Challenge - (Helping to develop policy) -

Illustrates Scrutiny's impact in helping to shape policies.

What were the outcomes?



Enabling the Public Voice -

Scrutiny's work in raising its profile in the Vale.

How can you get involved?



Leading the Scrutiny Process -

An example of an issue raised by a Scrutiny Member.

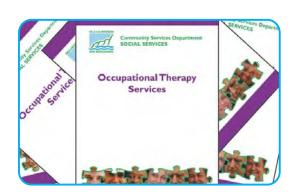
How will the Executive respond?



Driving Improvement -

The role of Scrutiny in managing the Council's performance.

We asked ..."Is the Council improving?"



CHALLENGE - HELPING TO DEVELOP POLICY

Children and Young People not in Education, Employment or Training ("NEETS")

This study illustrates how Scrutiny had a direct impact on the work of the Executive by helping shape policies that need to engage a range of agencies to provide the variety of support required to meet the disparate needs of young people not in education, employment or training.



NEETS Toolkit booklet

Background

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) is a multi-disciplinary team that was established in 1998 following the enactment of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Its purpose is to reduce reoffending by children and young people (aged 10-18 years) who are referred by the Court system. The YOS is made up of staff from the Council, police, health, probation, careers service and voluntary sector. The work of the YOS is directed and monitored by a Management Board made up of partners to the service.

Scrutiny Committee (Lifelong Learning) received a report with details of an action plan that had been put in place in response to an inspection of the YOS by HM Inspectors of Probation in 2007. At that time, Committee requested regular briefings regarding educational issues of young offenders of school age.

Having raised concerns regarding such children the Committee included in its work programme a review of children and young people not in education, training or employment. To this end a Task and Finish Group was established by the Committee to undertake such a review.

The review was also to be undertaken in the knowledge that the YOS was to receive reduced financial investment from The Youth Justice Board for 2008/09. In addition, new national standards to be implemented in 2008/09 would require extra time being spent by staff with young offenders. Whilst funding had been received for preventing first time entrants to the youth justice system, other resources were still to be identified to adequately fund the work of the YOS.

The Committee began by looking at the Service in light of the inspection alluded to above. The inspection report was released in May 2008 and identified a number of weaknesses with the service.

The main focus of the review was to consider existing services aimed at preventing children and young people from becoming NEET and the steps taken to assist them in returning to education or to accessing employment or training and to identify any gaps in service provision. It was agreed that the review would focus on work being undertaken in the Vale by Careers Wales and teams within the Council and to utilise the research undertaken in 2007 by Cordis Bright

regarding post 16s who are NEET.

The Task and Finish Group Members were briefed by the Head of Service (School Improvement) who gave an assessment of the current situation with a view to the Group developing proposals for the way forward.

The intended outcome of the Review was the formation of evidence based recommendations that could be used to inform how the Council and partners could address the issue of those children who are not in education, employment or training and to identify improvements to the provision of education, training and employment options for children referred to the YOS. The review enabled Scrutiny Members to directly contribute to the development and improvement of a frontline service. The final report can be viewed on the Council's website at: http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/our_council/scrutiny/scrutiny_review.aspx

Milestones

November 2008

Members met with officers from the Youth Offending Service to gain a more rounded perspective of service issues. At the same meeting Members also had an opportunity to discuss service issues with the Careers Wales Co-ordinator for Cardiff and the Vale and invited guests had attended the meeting in order to assist in the process, and a briefing note was provided

December 2008

Members received the results of research undertaken by Cordis Bright on Post-16 NEETS as presented by Mr. M. Davies, Young People's Partnership Co-ordinator. They also received presentations from Ms. S. Rogers, Careers Wales on the role of Careers Wales in assisting Post-16 NEETS and Mr. D. Prosser, Head of Lifelong Learning relating to training provision in the Vale.

January 2009

Members examined the role of the Access and Inclusion Service and the support provided to children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. They also looked at how services were delivered by practitioners with a secondary school environment to prevent children and young people becoming NEET. Issues surrounding why Looked After Children become NEET, and the support provided were also analysed.

February 2009

Members received a presentation on the work of the Corporate Training Service and the role it played in overseeing / providing in partnership with Barry College, work experience and training opportunities to young people through the Foundation Modern Apprenticeship Scheme.

April 2009

Final report and recommendations considered by the Scrutiny Committee and forwarded to the Cabinet.

May 2009

Review report approved by Cabinet.

What Have Been the Outcomes?

The Task and Finish Group has received evidence from a range of officers within the Council and Careers Wales and considered research undertaken in this complex area. Key issues that have been identified include the need for early identification and intervention, a multi-agency approach, individual pathways, personal support and resources. Many of the issues identified as part of this review are consistent with "Delivering Skills that work for Wales: Reducing the Proportion of Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training" which was published by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) in March 2008.

The Children and Young People's Partnership has a major role to play in bringing key players together to address the needs of those at risk of becoming NEET and to help those who are NEET to re-engage in education or access suitable training or employment.

Policy Development - Scrutiny can make a difference!

Members should regard policy review and development as an opportunity to engage with the Executive in a constructive "critical friend" role.

This element of Scrutiny allows responsibility and ownership for developing Council policy and helps shape the eventual delivery of services.

Evidence based findings and recommendations arising from a Scrutiny review assist the Council's decision - making process.

The Cabinet at its meeting on 20th May considered 14 recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee and has asked for further information on the implications of the Scrutiny recommendations.

The I4 recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee are on the Council's website at http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/our_council/council/minutes,_agendas__reports/reports/cabinet/2009/09-05-20/references/review_of_children_neet.aspx



Area 41 Youth facility bulding Holton Road, Barry

"ENABLING THE PUBLIC VOICE"

BRYNEITHIN

This case study illustrates the way in which key stakeholders and the public can have an involvement in the work of the Council by providing their views, observations and comments on issues prior to the Council making its final decision on a matter.



Bryneithin Residential Home, Dinas Powys

Background

In May 2008 the Council's Cabinet authorised the Director of Social Services to begin work on developing a strategy that would enable the Council to identify accommodation options for older people. To this end an appraisal of the three Council-owned residential care homes for older people was undertaken to inform future service planning and to ensure that proper provision was made. The outcome of the appraisal identified that, of the three homes, Bryneithin was the least viable. As a result preliminary briefings were held with Bryneithin residents, relatives and staff. Following reports to Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet a more detailed and formal consultation exercise was agreed. This was to provide proper opportunities for all key stakeholders and others to make representations in advance of any decision by the Council.

The Scrutiny Committee (Social Care and Health) approved the consultation process and requested that a consultation programme / timetable be prepared. The programme detailed the principles and the process of consultation, indicating how communication and contribution would be promoted and facilitated.

In addition key stakeholders and others with an interest in the future of Bryneithin were invited to a meeting (February 2009) and afforded the opportunity to make direct representations to the Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee was fully committed to ensuring that all stakeholders and the public had an opportunity to ask questions or raise specific issues. To this end considerable awareness raising of the meeting also took place, including placing posters in communities throughout the Vale, adverts in the press and via the Council's website. Following the period of consultation an interim report detailing the contributions to the consultation has been prepared (June 2009) and will also inform the final report for decision making. It provides answers to those questions raised in verbal and written representations.

Milestones

November 2008

Report received by the Scrutiny Committee detailing the work that was being undertaken to develop an accommodation strategy together with details of an appraisal of the Council's three residential care homes. Consultation timetable requested.

December 2008

Consultation proposal programme presented to Scrutiny Committee for approval. Consultation period confirmed by Committee as 5th January 2009 to 31st March 2009.

February 2009

Invitations extended to all key stakeholders and the public to attend the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 5th February to make verbal and / or written representations to Committee on options relating to the future of Bryneithin.

June 2009

Interim report following consultation and providing answers to questions raised in verbal and written representations to be presented to Scrutiny Committee on 22nd June 2009.

Outcomes

The discussions on Bryneithin have enabled the Council and the Scrutiny Committee to engage with the public as well as those directly involved with the Home. This has meant that the views of the main stakeholders and the wider public can be incorporated, not only within the consultation programme but in the final report*, when this is completed.

The Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet are committed to ensuring that any decision about the future of the Home should only be made following a proper consultation process and with due regard to the specific and assessed individual needs of residents.

The final report*, for developing and appraising options in respect of Bryneithin, is expected to be completed by September 2009.

"LEADING THE SCRUTINY PROCESS"

PENARTH TOWN CENTRE

The following case study highlights the proactive approach by Members in developing and leading the role of Task and Finish Groups in the Scrutiny process.

Background

In light of unsuccessful funding bids to the Welsh Assembly Government the Scrutiny Committee (Economy and Environment) took the decision to continue addressing how improvements and regeneration could be progressed in town centres within the Vale. To this end a Task and Finish Group was established to undertake a review in respect of Penarth Town Centre.



Members and Officers on a site visit to Penarth 20/01/09

Milestones

October 2008

The Group considered that an important part of the review was to gain insight from users, service providers, retailers and the public to fully understand the issues they faced. The focus for the review was to assist in the development of an holistic approach to the economy of Penarth Town Centre by examining various aspects.

December 2008 and February 2009

Meetings were held with stakeholders, the first meeting focusing on traffic and transport, car parking, signage, anti - social behaviour issues and attractions, etc. The second focused on traffic issues, signage and accessibility. At the third meeting various representatives from schools, retailers, local societies, forums and residents associations were invited to offer their views and suggestions for the regeneration of the town centre and to consider, in their view, the top priority for the area. The top priority agreed by all present was traffic management.

January 2009

Three site visits undertaken by Group Members.

April 2009

Visit to Weston Super Mare and Clevedon (Local Authority).



Members visit Weston Super Mare on 23/04/09

The site visits undertaken included the main town centre of Penarth, its surrounding locality, the Esplanade and visits to Weston Super Mare and Clevedon in order to ascertain how other local authorities considered regeneration in their areas. Clevedon was considered a suitable site to visit in that it had very similar features to the Penarth Esplanade.

Outcomes

The Group are currently awaiting the outcome of a recent retail study of a number of the town centres, in particular Penarth's, which will add to the review. The findings of the review are due to be communicated to the Scrutiny Committee (Economy and Environment) in June 2009 with the proposal that recommendations then be forwarded to the Council's Cabinet for consideration / approval.

Members have fully engaged in the scrutiny process in undertaking this study and concur that the involvement to date has proved extremely advantageous and eye-opening.

The Group are well on their way to completing their research and will shortly be meeting with officers and Members of Penarth Town Council to engage in dialogue to discuss their initial findings and suggestions.

DRIVING IMPROVEMENT

Occupational Therapy (OT) and Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)

The Scrutiny Committee (Social Care and Health) established an Occupational Therapist Task and Finish Group with the purpose of facilitating an examination of the Occupational Therapy Service and to assess the current provision of occupational therapists within the Vale of Glamorgan.



Occupational Therapy Services booklet

Background

Occupational Therapy is a health and social care profession that enables people to participate in activities required for self care, work and leisure. Users of the service are assisted to develop, maintain and regain functional performance and the skills required for healthy living. It provides a cost effective alternative solution to providing care.

Like others throughout the country, the occupational therapy service within the Vale had been faced with a growth in demand. This was due to a number of reasons, for example, increasing expectations on behalf of the public and an ageing population. The establishment of a Task and Finish Group to undertake a service review allowed for the optimum use of limited resources. Five Members of the Group were appointed who not only undertook site visits but also received evidence from a range of officers within the Council and outside organisations. A final report with 17 recommendations in order for both service areas to manage more effectively and ensure improvements could be made was presented to the parent Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet in January 2009. The final report can be viewed on the Council's website at http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/our_council/scrutiny/scrutiny_review.aspx

Milestones

February 2008

The Committee received an overview of the current service from the Team Manager.

March 2008

Committee considered a study on the review of delivery of adaptations for People with Disabilities that had been undertaken in 2005;

Two Members of the Group also visited the OT service on a fact finding mission on behalf of the Group.

September 2008

Committee considered the performance of the Vale in relation to other local authorities.

November 2008

Draft review report approved by Group.

December 2008

The Scrutiny Committee (Social Care and Health) considered the review report and forwarded it to the Scrutiny Committee (Housing and Public Protection) for their consideration.

January 2009

Final report considered by Scrutiny Committee (Social Care and Health) and forwarded to Cabinet.

21 January 2009

Review report approved by Cabinet.

Outcomes

The recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee were endorsed and agreed by the Cabinet, subject to the Director of Finance, ICT and Property Services being requested to confirm that there would be no cost implications as a consequence of abolishing means testing below £8,000 for disabled facilities grants.

Although the report has been finalised the role of the Scrutiny Committee has not concluded and the Committee will review progress by receiving reports on the action plan that was developed on a bi-annual basis.

As a result of the review the Council has recognised its responsibility to improve on performance in respect of disabled facility grants and is committed to achieving the current Welsh average on performance by 2011 being from first contact to completion 453 days. It is anticipated that this will also become part of the Council's Improvement Agreement with the Welsh Assembly Government later in the year. Improvement Agreements are being linked to a pro-rata grant that would be paid to the Council according to the level of improvement they achieved and the outcomes they had delivered under the Agreement.

Members and officers were in agreement that the situation regarding occupational therapy assessment waiting times needed to continue to be improved as long waiting lists and waiting times caused problems for the public, staff and the department as a whole.

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS, PROGRESS AND INITIATIVES IN 2008 / 2009

FFYNNON

In December 2007 Ffynnon was introduced to the Council. Ffynnon is a performance management software tool currently used to collect and report the Council's performance indicator information. The software is an invaluable asset, allowing officers and Members access to a wealth of information in a centralised, electronic system for the first time.



Ffynnon Report

All users can view graphical comparisons of historical performance data, in addition to comparing the Council's performance with that of other authorities in Wales. The system also provides a commentary for underperformance. As a result the performance of service areas is more transparent allowing for closer, informed analysis at Scrutiny Committees.

In September 2008, interactive reports produced by Ffynnon were introduced at Scrutiny Committee meetings - the first Council in Wales to do so. This allowed officers to present more detailed comments for their current performance to Members, helping to facilitate discussion and further enhance the level of questioning and officer accountability.

The risks and actions from the 2009/10 Departmental Service Plans were incorporated into Ffynnon, enabling actions to be monitored electronically by all Members of the Council.

PERFORMANCE PANELS

Following the successful Performance Panel pilot from the then Community Wellbeing and Safety Scrutiny Committee in November 2007, Performance Panels for all Scrutiny Committees commenced in September 2008.

Each of the five Panels has a small number of Members nominated from the relevant each Scrutiny Committee. The Panels enable performance-focussed discussions to take place which help to develop and enhance Members' expertise using the reports submitted for Scrutiny. To date three cycles of Panels have been held, focussing on: Ffynnon reports, mid-year action monitoring and 2009/10 Departmental Service Plans, with members of the Improvement and Development Team providing guidance.

Initial feedback has been positive, with Members finding the sessions useful and informative, enabling them to transfer the skills developed at the Panel to ask more challenging questions and scrutinise performance information in more detail.

Scrutiny Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen Group

This Group promotes good cross-party working and information sharing.

They agreed in 2008 that the Council's Citizens' Panel be utilised in terms of being asked to express views on a range of key issues / priorities which could in turn inform the consideration of Work Programmes for all Scrutiny Committees.

A Scrutiny Champion was also appointed who now attends meetings of the South East Wales and All Wales Scrutiny Champions Network on behalf of the Group.

Scrutiny Champions' Network

Councillor C.J. Williams, Scrutiny Champion

"It is clear to me following the regional meetings that I have attended as the Vale's Scrutiny Champion, that we are obviously limited in what we can aim for, given the number of "Scrutiny-dedicated" Officers and our specific financial challenges, but I am sure that, with the quality of those Officers and the enthusiasm of Members, we will be punching above our weight to achieve greater things in Scrutiny."

Public Stakeholder Engagement in the Scrutiny Process



All Members of Scrutiny are keen to promote public stakeholder engagement in the process and have requested that more "themed" meetings be arranged, with press releases and advertising of such meetings on a regular basis to encourage public attendance.

The Scrutiny Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen Group will shortly be considering proposals on further public involvement in Task and Finish Groups and review work.

Further work on engaging the public has also been prepared with the development of Scrutiny leaflets devised by the Scrutiny and Committee Services Section, copies of which are available at various Council establishments, libraries and via the Council's website.



Scrutiny Committees members with various stakeholders prior to the meeting held on 24/03/09 to discuss the impact of the current economic slowdown.

Scrutiny Committee

Corporate Resources

Month / Report Title

May -

 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

July -

- Appointments to Outside Bodies / Joint Committees.
- Retail Unit at 57 Winston Road
- End of year reporting 2007/08.
- Revenue Monitoring.
- Capital Monitoring.
- Closure of Accounts 2007/08.
- Forward Work Programme 2008/09.
- Land at Cemetery Road, Barry.
- Scrutiny Review Action Plan - Year 2 Actions.
- Scrutiny Committee -Performance Panels.
- Medium Term Financial Plan 2008/09 - 2011/12 and Budget Strategy 2009/10 (Including Budget Review).
- Tracking of Recommendations 2007/08.

August -

 Disposal of Land in Support of the Housing Investment Strategy.

September -

- Corporate Plan 2006 -2010 - Annual Monitoring.
- Improvement Plan 2008/09.
- Revenue Monitoring.
- Capital Monitoring and Treasury Management.
- Management of Sickness Absence.

Performance Monitoring - 1st Quarter.

Month / Report Title

November -

- Sickness Absence Report 2007/08 and 1st Quarter.
- Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance on Planning Obligations.
- Promoting Sustainable Development Through Major Projects.
- Revised Procurement Strategy, Policy and Guidance.
- Revenue Monitoring.
- Capital Monitoring.

December -

- Initial Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals 2008/09 - Scrutiny Committees.
- Initial Revenue Budget Proposals 2009/10.
- Initial Capital Programme Proposals 2009/10.
- Bro Radio.
- 2nd Quarter Service Plan 2008/09 Action Monitoring.
- 2nd Quarter Key Performance Indicators.
- · Revenue Monitoring.

December -

 Tracking of Recommendations - 2nd Quarter, 1st Quarter and 2007/08.

January -

- Council Jargon.
- Sickness Absence
 Report: Half Year 1st
 April 30th September,
 2008.
- Revenue Monitoring. Capital Monitoring.

Month / Report Title

January -

Legal Action taken by Mr.
 M. Roberts against the
 Vale of Glamorgan
 Council - Foreshore at
 the Old Harbour and the
 Boundary Dispute at
 Friars Point House, Barry.

February -

- Bro Radio.
- Draft Service Plans 2009/10

March -

- Wales Audit Office (WAO) Annual Letter 2007/08.
- Regulatory Plan 2008/09.
- Final Proposals for Revenue Budget 2009/10 and Proposed Budget Strategy for Period to 2012.
- Draft Service Plan 2009/10.
- 3rd Quarter Performance Monitoring.
- Revenue Monitoring.
- Management of Sickness.
- Tracking of Recommendations - 3rd Quarter, 2nd Quarter, 1st Quarter and 2007/08.

- Bro Radio.
- Job Evaluation Progress.
- International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Implementation.
- Management of Sickness.
- Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2009/10.
- Tracking of Recommendations - 4th Quarter, 3rd Quarter, 2nd Quarter, 1st Quarter and 2007/08.

Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Environment

Month / Report Title

May -

 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

July -

- Waterfront Public Liaison Group.
- Barry Waterfront Development Principles.
- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.
- Regional Waste Plan -1st Review.
- Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance County Treasures.
- Tracking of Recommendations -2007/08.
- Sustainable Integrated Public Transport Task and Finish Group.
- Forward Work Programme.
- Collection / Treatment of Household Waste Trial.
- Scrutiny Committee Performance Panels.
- 4th Quarter Performance Indicators.
- Section 106 Legal Agreements 2007/08.

September -

- Corporate Plan 2006 -2010 Annual Monitoring.
- Improvement Plan.
- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.
- Collection and Disposal of Household Clinical Waste.
- Recycle storage boxes in Penarth.
- 1st Quarter Performance Monitoring.
- Penarth Town Centre -Scope and Terms.
- Tracking of Recommendations - 1st Quarter, 2007/08.
- Sports Pitches.

October -

- Land at Rhoose Point.
- Health and Safety and Environmental Issues surrounding Rhoose Point.
- Wales Spatial Plan -Update.
- Draft SPG on Planning Obligations.
- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.

Month / Report Title

October (cont) -

 Penarth Town Centre Task and Finish Group -Scope.

November -

- Fleet Management Review.
- Draft SPG on Planning Obligations.
- Initial Revenue Budget Proposals.
- Initial Capital Programme Proposals.

December -

- 2nd Quarter Service Plan.
- 2nd Quarter Key Performance Indicators.
- Revenue Monitoring.
- Tracking of Recommendations - 2nd Quarter, 1st Quarter, 2007/08.
- Free Access to Council Owned Leisure/ Sporting Facilities for All Serving Service Personnel.

January -

- Building on the success of Gavin & Stacey and other Media Productions.
- Changing Economic Circumstances -Supporting Business and the Local Economy.
- Service Plans.
- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.
- Cwrt-Y-Vil Playing Fields. **February** -

Revenue and Capital

- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.
- Household Waste -Recycling Participation Survey 2008.
- Leisure Centres.
 Leisure Centre Charges -2009/10.
- Dyffryn Gardens and Arboretum, Cosmeston Medieval Village, Cosmeston Country Park and Porthkerry Country Park - Charges 2009/10.
- Catering Services, Dyffryn Gardens and Cosmeston Country Park.

Month / Report Title

February (cont) -

- Kerbside Battery Collections.
- Cardiff Road / Merrie Harrier Junction Improvements.

March -

- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.
- 3rd Quarter Performance Indicators.
- Service Plans.
- Graffiti Removal.
- Fees and Charges 2009/10 - Visible Services.
- Tracking of Recommendations - 3rd Quarter, 2nd Quarter, 1st Quarter and 2007/08.
- Changing Economic Circumstances: Supporting Businesses and the Local Economy.

- Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on Planning Obligations - Response to Public Consultation.
- The Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan (LDP) Results of the Consultation on the Draft Preferred Strategy and Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report.
- Rhoose Point Update on Land Transfers, Drainage and Highway Matters.
- Blue Bag Trial for Week 2
 Plastic and Cardboard
 Recycling Collections.
- Severn Tidal Power Phase One Consultation.
- Prosiect Gwyrdd -Continued Joint Scrutiny Working.
- Collection and Treatment of Household Kitchen Food Waste Pilot -Interim Report.
- Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2009/10.
- Tracking of Recommendations.

Summary of Issues Discussed during the year May 2008 / April 2009

Scrutiny Committee

Housing & Public Protection

Month / Report Title

May -

 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

June -

- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.
- Penarth Central Renewal Area: Progress Report.
- PACT Meetings in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- Meeting Wales Housing Quality Standards 2009 -2014.
- Voids Management Policy.
- Housing Investment Implementation Plan.

July -

- End of Year Reporting 2007/08.
- Tracking of Recommendations 2007/08.
- Scrutiny Committee Performance Panels.

September -

- Corporate Plan 2006/10 -Annual.
- Improvement Plan 2008/09.
- Performance Monitoring -1st Quarter.
- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.
- Landlord Accreditation in Wales Scheme (LAWS).
- Emergency Plan Review Framework.
- Rent Setting and Service Charge Policy.
- Tenant Engagement Strategy and Action Plan 2008-10.
- Housing Client Function.

October -

- Welsh Housing Quality Standard to be Met and Completed by 2015.
- Wales Housing Quality Standard - Update.
- Review of Homes4U Allocations Policy.
- Social Housing Grant Programme.
- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.
- Review of In-House Stores and Support Function.

Month / Report Title

November -

- Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance on Planning Obligations.
- Wales Housing Quality Standards Improvement Costs.
- Review of Domestic Abuse Services.
- Extreme Weather Event -4th / 5th September, 2008.
- Risk Assessment and Structural Survey of the Non-Traditional Council Housing Stock.
- Initial Revenue Budget Proposals 2009/10.
- Initial Capital Programme Proposals 2009/10.
- Initial Housing Revenue Account Budget Proposals 2009/2010 and Revised Budget 2008/2009.
- Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008.
- WHQS Improvement Costs

December -

- Revenue Monitoring.
- 2nd Quarter Service Plan 08/09 Action Monitoring.
- 2nd Quarter Key Performance Indicators.
- Occupational Therapist Task and Finish Group.
- Tracking of Recommendations - 2nd Quarter, 1st Quarter, 2007/08.

January -

- Safer Vale Annual Report.
- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.
- Tackling Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) on Council Housing Estates.
- Council Housing -Contractors Code of Conduct.
- Revised guidance for Social Landlords on Interpretation and Achievement of Welsh Housing Quality Standard and the Implications for the Council.
- Council Housing Welsh Housing Quality Standard (Housing Revenue Account Asset Management Strategy) Action Plan.

Month / Report Title

February -

- E.Coli Public Inquiry -Local Government's Response.
- Affordable Housing Opportunities in the Economic Downturn.
- Housing Stock and Welsh Housing Quality Standards.
- Service Delivery Study of Building Services.
- Welsh Housing Quality Standard - Sustainability Tests.
- Wales Audit Office Report: Follow Up Report on Achieving the Welsh Housing Quality Standard.
- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.

March -

- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.
- Draft Service Plan 2009/10.
- 3rd Quarter Key Performance Indicators.
- Tracking of Recommendations - 3rd Quarter, 2nd Quarter and 2007/08.
- Controlling the Consumption of Alcohol in Public Places.

- Scrutiny Review of Domestic Abuse Services.
- Scrutiny Review of CCTV.
- Extreme Weather Event 4-5th September 2008.
- Emergency Planning Procedures for Flooding/ Severe Weather following the Extreme Weather Event 4-5th September 2008.
- Tenant Engagement Strategy Action Plan.
- Tenants Incentive to Move Scheme.
- Welsh Housing Quality Standard - Sustainability Test on No. 1 The Butts, Cowbridge.
- Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2009/10.
- Tracking Of Recommendations.

Summary of Issues Discussed during the year May 2008 / April 2009

Scrutiny Committee

Lifelong Learning

Month / Report Title

May -

 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman following Local Government Elections

July -

- The Strategic Agenda.
- Tracking of Recommendations -2007/08.
- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.
- School Investment Strategy.
- Foundation Phase.
- Inspection of the Youth Offending Service.
- End of Year Performance Reports.
- Work Programme 2008/09.
- Children and Young People's Plan (Draft).
- Performance Panels.

September -

- Work Programme 2008/09.
- Corporate Plan 2008 -2010 Annual Monitoring.
- Improvement Plan 2008/09.
- Revenue and Capital.
- Free School Breakfast Clubs.
 Common Franciscotion
- Summer Examination Results
- Children & Young People's Plan.
- Performance Monitoring -1st Quarter.
- Annual Report on Library and Information Service Performance 2007/08.

October -

- Youth Offending Service Education Issues -Update.
- 14 19 Learning Pathways.
- Community Focussed Schools.
- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.
- Vacant Posts.

Month / Report Title

November -

- Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance on Planning Obligations.
- Tracking of Recommendations - 2nd Quarter, 1st Quarter, 2007/08.
- Voluntary Action Scheme Priorities for Funding 2009/10.
- Re-development of Cowbridge Comprehensive School.
- Pulse Project -Presentation.

December -

- Education Welfare Service.
- School Budgets 2009/10.
- Initial Revenue Budget Proposals 2009/10.
- Initial Capital Programme Proposals 2009/10
- 2nd Quarter Service Plan 2008/09 Action Monitoring.
- 2nd Quarter Key Performance Indicators.
- Revenue Monitoring.
- Pupil Achievement -Presentation.
- Looked After Children -Update.
- Operational Procedures within the Directorate of Learning and Development.

February -

- Tracking of Recommendations - 3rd Quarter, 2nd Quarter, 1st Quarter, 2007/08.
- Welsh Assembly Government's Funding Methodology - Letter from Brian Gibbons A.M.
- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.
- Healthy Schools Initiative.
- Job Shop Extra Update.
- Service Plan Lifelong Learning Service.

Month / Report Title

February (cont) -

- Progress Report on the Action Plan Submitted in Response to the Estyn Inspection of Youth Services.
- School Buildings Improvement Grant Applications.

March

- Transformation 14-19.
- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.
- Progress Report on the Action Plan Submitted in Response to the Estyn Inspection of Adult and Community Based Learning.
- Service Plan Additional Learning Needs.
- Performance Monitoring -3rd Quarter.
- Education 2015.
- Job Shop Extra Update.April -
- Work Programme.
- Decision Tracking 4th Quarter January - March 2009.
- Scrutiny Review of Children and Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training.
- Service Plans:
 - (i) School Improvement.
 - (ii) Planning and Performance.
- Eco Schools (Presentation).
- Foundation Phase

Summary of Issues Discussed during the year May 2008 / April 2009

Scrutiny Committee

Social Care & Health

Month / Report Title

May -

 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman following Local Government Elections.

June -

- SSIW Joint Review Update.
- Response to Joint Review Update by Director of Social Services.
- Proposals to Change the Structure of NHS in Wales: Consultation Paper.
- Occupational Therapists
 Task and Finish Group.
- Social Services
 Directorate Services.

July -

- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.
- Children and Young People's Services
 2008/09 - Service Plan.
- Updated Social Services Change Plan 2007/2010.
- Tracking of Recommendations -2007/08.
- End of Year Monitoring Reports 2007/08.
- Scrutiny Committee Performance Panels.

September -

- Corporate Plan 2006-2010 - Annual Monitoring.
- Improvement Plan 2008/2009.
- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.
- Tracking of Recommendations -1st Quarter, 2007/08.
- 1st Quarter Performance Monitoring.
- Performance Evaluation -Self Assessment Questionnaire for year ending 31st March, 2008.
- Victoria Climbié Inquiry -Where are we now?

Month / Report Title

- Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance on Planning Obligations.
- Proposals to change the structure of the National Health Service in Wales.
- Progress Report on the Social Services Change Plan 2007-2010.
- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.
- Tracking of Recommendations - 2nd Quarter, 1st Quarter, 2007/08.
- Initial Revenue Budget Proposals 2009/10.
- Initial Capital Programme Proposals 2009/10.
- Accommodation Strategy for Older People: Outcome of an Appraisal Exercise in Respect of the Council's In-House Residential Care Provision.
- Response to the Ombudsman's Report in Relation to a Complaint.

December -

- Setting of Care Home Fees in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- Review of Older People's Residential Care in the Vale of Glamorgan - Draft Consultation Proposal.
- 2nd Quarter Service Plan 2008/09 Action Monitoring.
- 2nd Quarter Key Performance Indicators.
- 2nd Quarter Cross Cutting Performance Indicators.
- Revenue Monitoring.
- Revenue Budget 2009/10.
- Occupational Therapy Task and Finish Group Report

Month / Report Title

January -

- Occupational Therapist Task and Finish Group Report.
- Revenue and Capital Monitoring.
- v Programme for Changing the Structure of the NHS in Wales.
- Update Social Services Change Plan 2007/2010.

February -

 Consultation in relation to Bryneithin Residential Care Home.

March -

- Performance Evaluation of Local Authority Social Services for the year ended 31st March 2008.
- Revenue and Capital Monitoring
- Progress Report on Implementing the Action Plan Produced in Response to the Complaint By Mr. R.
- Tracking of Recommendations - 3rd Quarter, 2nd Quarter, 2007/08.
- 3rd Quarter Performance Monitoring Reports.

- Review of Safeguarding Arrangements in Local Authority Areas in Wales
- Telecare Service.
- Day Care Services for Adults in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- Adult Services Service Plan 2009/10.
- Business Management and Innovation Service Plan 2009/10.
- Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2009/10.
- Scrutiny Committee -Tracking of Recommendations.

Statistical Information

The following matters relate to the statistical information of the work of the five Scrutiny Committees during the current municipal year.

Total Number of Scrutiny Committee Meetings held between May 2008 – April 2009

Scrutiny Committee	Extraordinary	Scheduled	Site visits
Corporate Resources	2	12	0
Economy & Environment	2	12	0
Housing & Public Protection	0	12	 **
Lifelong Learning	0	12	0
Social Care & Health	1	12	3 *

^{*2} site visits to residential care premises with EMI Provisions

Call-In Statistics

May 2008 April 2009

Scrutiny Committees	Corporate Resources	Economy & Environment	Housing & Public Protection	Lifelong Learning	Social Care & Health
No of call-ins Received	8 (3 of which were on the same issue)	3	I	0	0
Withdrawn	1	2	0	0	0
Refused	0	0	0	0	0
Approved for call-in purposes	7	3	I	0	0
Cabinet decisions endorsed by SC	0	I	0	0	0
Recs referred to Cabinet	1	0	0	0	0
Cabinet Final Rejected Decisions -	1	0	0	0	0
Noted -	3		1	0	0
Endorsed -	0		0	0	0
Decisions Pending	0	0	0	0	0
Referred to Full Council	0	0	0	0	0
Recs referred to other Committees	0	0	0	0	0

^{*}I site visit to telecare demonstration facility

^{**} I site visit to Non-Traditional Housing Stock, Cowbridge

Requests for Consideration of Matter May 2008 – April 2009

Scrutiny Committee	*No. of requests received	Requests withdrawn	Pending	No. of requests for further info.	No. of requests noted by Committee	No. of recs referred to Cabinet	No. of requests referred to other Committees
Corporate Resources	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
Economy & Environment	12	3	1	5	2	1	0
Housing & Public Protection	3	0	1	0	1	1	0
Lifelong Learning	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Social Care & Health	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Total Number of References Received - 18

References from Cabinet to Scrutiny Committee (Consultation) May 2008 – April 2009

Scrutiny Committee	No. of references	No. Recs Scrutiny Committee Noted / Endorsed	No. of Recs referred to other Committees or Council or for further reports	No. Recs referred to Cabinet	No. Recs Noted by Cabinet	No. of Recs accepted (a)/ rejected (r) by Cabinet
Corporate Resources	6	5	0	5	2	3 (a)
Economy & Environment	7	7	0	0	0	0
Housing & Public Protection	2	2	0	0	0	0
Lifelong Learning	0	0	0	0	0	0
Social Care & Health	2	1	1	1	0	1 (a)

Total Number of References Received - 17

References from Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet May 2008 – April 2009

Scrutiny Committee	Total No. of References & Requests received	No. of recs Noted by Cabinet	No. of recs (a)accepted/(e) endorsed/ (n) noted	No. of recs pending	No. rejected by Cabinet	No. partially agreed	Recs Referred to other Committees/ Working Groups
Corporate Resources	6 Refs (14 Recs)	0	9 (a) 5 (n)	0	0	0	0
Economy & Environment	10 Refs (12 Recs)	0	12 (a)	0	0	0	0
Housing & Public Protection	4 Refs (7 Recs)	0	7 (a)	0	0	0	1
Lifelong Learning	2 Refs (4 Recs)	0	2 (a) 2 (n)	0	0	0	0
Social Care & Health	5 Refs (22 recs)	0	22 (a)	0	0	0	0

Total Number of : References received - 27 Recommendations received - 59

References received from Scrutiny Committee to Scrutiny Committee May 2008 – April 2009

Scrutiny Committee	No. of references received / Forwarded to Scrutiny Committee	No. of Scrutiny Committee Recs Noted / Endorsed	No. Recs referred to Cabinet/ or referred back to committee	No. Recs Endorsed by Scrutiny Committee
Corporate Resources	5	2 endorsed 14 noted	10 (Budget) (referred to Cabinet)	0
Economy & Environment	10	2	1	1
Housing & Public Protection	1	1	0	0
Lifelong Learning	3	2	1	2
Social Care & Health	3	19	2 referred back to Committee	19

Total Number of References received – 22

Outcomes of Performance Indicators May 2008 - April 2009

PI Description	Target 08/09	Actual 08/09
Number of hits on the Scrutiny web pages (L523)	1,500	1.383
Percentage of all Scrutiny recommendations accepted by the Executive including call-ins (L526)	65%	78.69%
Percentage of all recommendations arising from call-ins during the year accepted by the Executive (L525)	45%	45.45%
The number of planned reviews completed during the year (L519(A))	3	2

SCRUTINY COMMITTEES 2008/09

Corporate Resources

Councillor J.F. Fraser (Chairman); Councillor C.L. Osborne (Vice-Chairman); Councillors Mrs. P. Drake, K. Hatton, G. John, Mrs. K.A. Kemp, Mrs. A.J. Moore, N. Moore, Mrs. A.J. Preston, A.C. Williams* and Miss. S.J.C. Williams.

Economy and Environment

Councillor C.J. Williams (Chairman); Councillor Mrs. M. Kelly Owen (Vice-Chairman); Councillors Ms. M.E. Alexander, J.C. Bird, R.F. Curtis, G. John, Mrs. S.I. Sharpe, W.C. Vaughan*, M.R. Wilson, E.T. Williams and Ms. M. Wright.

Housing and Public Protection

Councillor Mrs. M.R. Wilkinson (Chairman); Councillor J.C. Bird (Vice-Chairman); Councillors Mrs. S.M. Bagstaff, Ms. B.E. Brooks, J. Clifford, S.C. Egan, Mrs. K.A. Kemp, J.W.Thomas, W.C. Vaughan*, S.T. Wiliam* and A.C. Williams*.

- * Councillor W.C. Vaughan deceased 13 January 2009; replaced by Councillor Mrs. M. Kelly Owen
- * Councillor S.T. Wiliam replaced by Councillor N.P. Hodges from 11 March 2009.
- * Councillor A.C. Williams replaced by Councillor R.P. Thomas from 23 March 2009.

Lifelong Learning

Councillor J. Clifford (Chairman); Councillor Mrs. K.A. Kemp (Vice-Chairman); Councillors Mrs. M.E.J. Birch, Mrs.V.L. Ellis, C.P.J. Elmore, J.F. Fraser, E. Hacker, Mrs.V.M Hartrey, F.T. Johnson, C.L. Osborne and Mrs. S.I. Sharpe.

^{*} Councillor A.C. Williams replaced by Councillor R.P. Thomas from 23 March 2009.

^{*} Councillor W.C. Vaughan deceased 13 January 2009; replaced by Councillor Mrs. K.A. Kemp.

Social Care and Health

Councillor Miss. S.J.C.Williams (Chairman); Councillor Mrs.V.L. Ellis (Vice-Chairman); Councillors Mrs. S.M. Bagstaff, R.J. Bertin, Mrs. M.E.J. Birch, J. Clifford, S.C. Egan, Mrs. M. Kelly Owen, Mrs. A.J. Preston*, Mrs. M. Randall* and J.W.Thomas.

For more information on Overview and Scrutiny in the Vale, visit the Council's scrutiny web pages at:

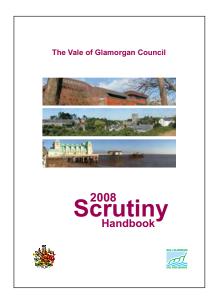
http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/our_council/scrutiny/more_about_scrutiny.aspx

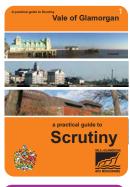
^{*} Councillor Mrs. M. Randall replaced by Councillor Mrs. V.M. Hartrey from 23 September 2008

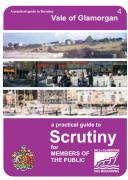
^{*} Councillor Mrs. A.J. Preston replaced by Councillor Ms. M. Wright from 6 January 2009.

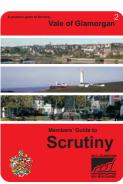
Other useful information available on the Council's website http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Hard copies can be obtained from the Scrutiny & Committee Services Section, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry Tel no: 01446 709413 Fax: 01446 738779



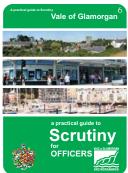












Scrutiny Committees' Annual Report 2008/09

