VALE of GLAMORGAN

BRO MORGANNWG

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Improvement Plan

Summary 2011/12

Improvement Plan Summary

Each year the Vale of Glamorgan Council produces its Improvement Plan, which details what the council has achieved over the previous year and what it aims to achieve in the coming year. This summary is a 'taster' of the information available in the plan. You can read the full plan on the council's website www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/our_council

Your local library also has a copy of the plan.

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

The Heritage Coast

Happy teens

Whitmore Bay

The Hub, Barry

Market and Town Hall, Barry

Old Hall, Cowbridge

Corporate Priorities

As well as providing hundreds of services, the council has a key role to play in shaping the future of the Vale. The council's directorates work together to improve and develop seven areas of corporate priority:

- Community Leadership
- Children & Young People
- Lifelong Learning
- Health, Social Care & Wellbeing
- Community Safety
- Regeneration
- Corporate Resources

Community Leadership

Our aim is to work with partners to promote good governance and ensure a coordinated approach to delivering the shared vision for the future of the Vale.

Some key achievements:

'Vale on the Road' events were staged in Barry, Llantwit Major and Penarth giving local people the chance to meet and question the council's Cabinet members and senior officers.

The Council is now using social media channels such as Twitter and Facebook to communicate with its customers and use of these channels is steadily increasing.

Some key aims:

Develop local libraries as 'contact points' for the public, where a whole range of council services can be accessed.

Develop partnerships with other councils to promote shared service provision.

Children & Young People

Our aim is to work with partners to ensure that children and young people in the Vale are well informed and supported to access a broad range of quality services.

Some key achievements:

A NEET (young people not in education, employment or training) group has been established and has developed links with Barry (now Cardiff and Vale) College. Provision to young people in this group has increased and existing services are becoming more accessible.

The Vale has seen the largest decrease in Wales of first time entrants into the youth justice system, with a massive 75.6% reduction.

Some key aims:

Provide young children and their families with access to suitable childcare information, places and activities, which meet their particular needs.

Work with housing providers to improve the provision of housing for vulnerable young people.

Cowbridge Library

Looking to the future

Lifelong Learning

Our aim is to work with partners to improve the skills, knowledge and abilities of the citizens of the Vale to help them maximise opportunities, and improve their quality of life.

Some key achievements:

Family literacy and numeracy programmes have been offered in schools where there is the highest number of ESOL parents. (ESOL - English as a second or other language)

Two new Welsh medium primary schools have opened in the Vale of Glamorgan – one at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and the other at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

Some key aims:

Improve the educational attainment of more able and talented pupils, especially those from deprived families.

Develop special schools as centres of excellence to support the work of mainstream schools.

Health, Social Care & Wellbeing

Our aim is to work with partners to meet the diverse needs of our residents in ways that will safeguard and support those who are most vulnerable and in greatest need, to help people to keep fit and healthy, and increase social cohesion and equality of opportunity for all.

Some key achievements:

Overall attendance at leisure centres has increased, despite a downturn in attendance during December and January because of weather conditions.

100% of high risk food premises have been inspected and action taken to improve compliance where necessary.

Some key aims:

Promote compliance with anti-smoking legislation and guidance.

Increase the supply of special forms of accommodation, including additional extra care housing, to meet the varied needs of older people.

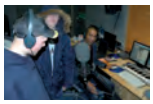
The VPOD Activity Bus

Visit to the fire station

Walking the coast

Football for a cause

Making music



Community Safety

Our aim is to work with partners to make the Vale of Glamorgan a safer environment, free from crime and disorder and the fear of crime through prevention and positive action.

- **Some key achievements:**

CCTV operators have been trained with the relevant skills to undertake their roles effectively, leading to increased detection rates for crime and anti-social behaviour.

Cadoxton House has been re-built to provide a one-stop facility that supports victims of domestic abuse and their families.

- **Some key aims:**

Increase support for prolific and priority offenders with the aim of reducing offending for those groups.

Develop a programme to promote key community safety messages.

Regeneration

Our aim is to work with partners to develop a sustainable community which maximises opportunities for economic growth, social improvement and environmental regeneration and protection.

- **Some key achievements:**

A successful bid for Heritage Lottery funding was made for Dyffryn House. As a result £600,000 will be available to refurbish the principal ground floor rooms.

A walking festival has been held in conjunction with Valeways to promote and safeguard public rights of way.

- **Some key aims:**

Increase waste recycling rates to 50 per cent and reduce levels of residual waste.

Reduce vehicle emissions from the council fleet.

Corporate Resources

Our aim is to manage the council's workforce, money, information and assets efficiently, effectively and securely.

- **Some key achievements:**

The Council's efficiency savings met from procurement reached a total of £1,933,105, well above target.

A diagnostic tool has been introduced in the contact centre for the building repairs service. This has led to more accurate, first time diagnoses of, and response to, building repair issues.

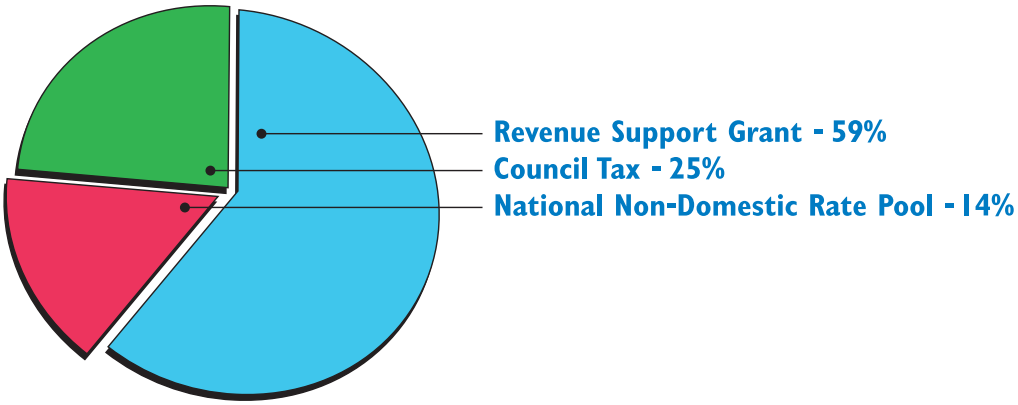
- **Some key aims:**

Review the Council's emergency procedures and develop a staff training programme.

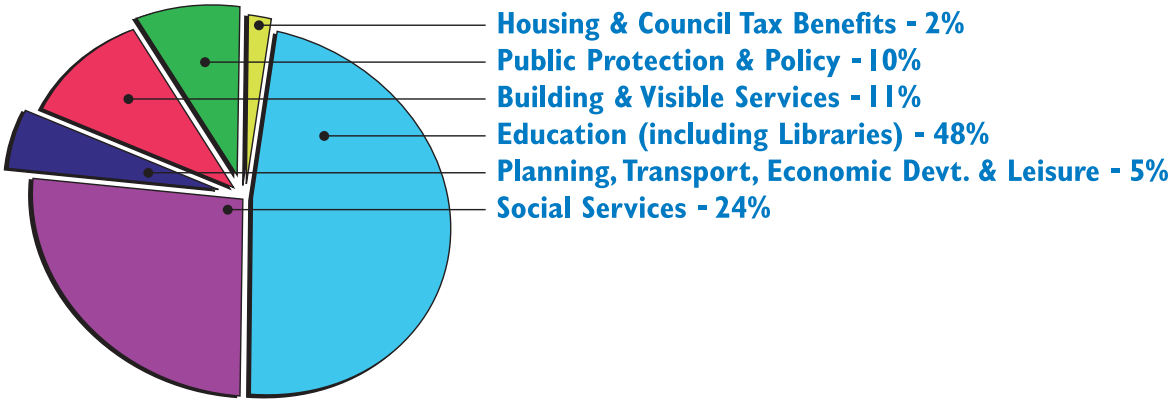
Develop a shared strategic approach to asset management with the Local Service Board.

The council's budget

Where the council's money comes from:



What the council spends your money on:



Comments

If you have any comments about the Improvement Plan please contact:

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Dramatic light at Penarth

Crowds at Waterfront Festival, Barry

Old Harbour, Barry

Llisworney in the Vale

Orchid Fields, Wenvoe

Physic Garden, Cowbridge