

Meeting of:	<b>Council</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Monday, 29 September 2025</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	All Scrutiny Committees
Report Title:	Scrutiny Committees' Annual Report 2024/25
Purpose of Report:	To present the 2024/25 Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report to Council in accordance with the Council's Constitution
Report Owner:	T. Bowring, Director of Corporate Resources
Responsible Officer:	E. Whitaker, Assistant Democratic Services Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	All Scrutiny Committee Members have been consulted
Policy Framework:	Section 7.4.4 of the Council's Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees' Annual Report to be presented to Full Council and to include details of future work programmes.
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Annual Report has been produced in accordance with Section 7.4.4 of the Council's Constitution which states that 'Scrutiny Committees must report annually to Full Council on their workings, with recommendations for their future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate'.</li> <li>The report details the role of Scrutiny, how Scrutiny is undertaken in the Vale of Glamorgan and highlights key achievements from the work of each Scrutiny Committee, significant events during the municipal years and future working, specifically in relation to the Council's agreement that the work of Scrutiny should be closely aligned to the four Wellbeing Outcomes of the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-25, and subsequently the four Wellbeing Objectives that form the main basis of the Council's <a href="#">Corporate Plan</a></li> </ul>	

## **Recommendation**

1. THAT Council receives the Scrutiny Committees' Annual Report for the Municipal year 2024/25.

## **Reason for Recommendation**

1. To receive the Scrutiny Committees' Annual Report as required under the Council's Constitution.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Annual Report has been produced in accordance with Section 7.4.4 of the Council's Constitution which states that 'Scrutiny Committees must report annually to Full Council on their workings, with recommendations for their future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate'.

## **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1 The Annual report attached at Appendix A to this report details the role of Scrutiny, how Scrutiny is undertaken in the Vale of Glamorgan and highlights key achievements from the work of each Scrutiny Committee, significant events during the Municipal years and future working, specifically in relation to the Council's agreement that the work of Scrutiny should be closely aligned to the four Wellbeing Outcomes of the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-25, and subsequently the four Wellbeing Objectives that form the main basis of the Council's [Corporate Plan](#)'.
- 2.2 All Members of the Council's Scrutiny Committees have been consulted on the Annual report and any comments / suggestions included as appropriate.
- 2.3 Examples of what future work programmes items the Scrutiny Committees will be considering going forward can be found in the Looking Forward section of the report.
- 2.4 An executive summary version has been produced and is available in Appendix B.
- 2.5 For information, Members are advised that the Annual Report is only "reported to Council" to be received by Full Council as required under the Constitution as opposed to it requiring actual approval.
- 2.6 The Annual report will also be uploaded to the Council's website.

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1** The Annual Report contributes to the long term future by ensuring that Scrutiny Committees adhere to their Wellbeing Objectives and Wellbeing Outcomes through ongoing monitoring and reporting.
- 3.2** The Annual Report contributes to the prevention of problems through the monitoring and reporting of issues and the work of the Scrutiny Committees in this regard.
- 3.3** The Annual Report ensures collaboration/involvement through the monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of Scrutiny Committees in working with external partners, stakeholders and the public in achieving Wellbeing and other Objectives for the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

### **4. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

- 4.1** There are no direct climate change and nature implications.

### **5. Resources and Legal Considerations**

#### **Financial**

- 5.1** There are no direct financial implications.

#### **Employment**

- 5.2** There are no direct employment implications.

#### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

- 5.3** The Council is required to comply with the Local Government Act 2000, the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and the subordinate legislation in relation to the Scrutiny function.

### **6. Background Papers**

None.

# Annual Scrutiny Report

2024/25





## Foreword from the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group

Welcome to the third annual scrutiny report since the Members of the Vale Council were appointed in May 2022 at the Local Government Elections. The report highlights the key scrutiny activities and developments in the Vale of Glamorgan Council during the 2024-25 Municipal Year (May 2024 – April 2025). The report also provides a summary of the work undertaken by scrutiny in 2024-25.

While reading this report, Elected Members will be aware of the recent changes that have taken place since the 2024-25 municipal year, as a result of Reshaping Scrutiny, which have adjusted the structure and format of scrutiny in our Council, to strengthen the Scrutiny function in the Vale of Glamorgan. This followed a range of strategic drivers, as outlined within the Reshaping Scrutiny Cabinet Report, including the Council's Performance Panel Assessment. These changes, as a result of Reshaping Scrutiny, will be reflected in the next iteration of this report. Although work is currently underway to further improve the impact of scrutiny in the Vale, looking back to 2024-25, varied and significant scrutiny work took place during the municipal year. The five former Scrutiny Committees were involved in a broad range of work, including providing challenge on key decisions in advance of consideration by Cabinet, monitoring service improvements, carrying out visits to enhance understanding of provision, and working with partners on key areas affecting the residents of the Vale.

Scrutiny Committees carry out important work for the Vale of Glamorgan Council and its partners. They offer reassurance to local people, help to develop policy, to challenge the performance of the Council and its services, and to hold the Cabinet to account for its decisions.



## Foreword from the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group

Scrutiny acts as a ‘critical friend’ to Cabinet, standing back from the day-to-day decision-making, to look at and review outcomes for local residents. Scrutiny in the Vale has played its part in this regard, offering the crucial challenging voice of the electorate, and by continuing a full programme of hybrid and remote meetings, to ensure the full accountability of the Council.

Looking forward, Local authorities continue to face significant financial pressures on top of existing demographic challenges, rising costs of care for vulnerable children and adults, and continuing concern around the costs of living. I know that Scrutiny will contribute to meeting these challenges by acting as a ‘critical friend’ to decision-makers, by supporting innovation in how the council and its partners deliver services, and by acting as the voice of the people when important decisions are being made as it continues its work to develop the Vale of Glamorgan Council’s ambition of building “Strong Communities with a Bright Future”.

I conclude by offering my thanks to all the Members of the Vale of Glamorgan’s Scrutiny Committees who were part of the work covered in this Annual Report, and to the Officers and Democratic Services Team for their support. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank residents, local partners, key stakeholders and witnesses who gave their time to assist the Scrutiny process throughout the year, whether this was by speaking at Scrutiny Committee meetings, by taking part in Task and Finish work, or through liaising with their local Members.

**Councillor Neil Thomas**

***Chair for 2024-25 – Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group***

***Vice Chair for 2024-25 – Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee***



## Introduction

At the Local Government Elections in May 2022, the Council saw the membership of the Council increase from 47 to 54 Elected Members, with a significant number of new Councillors being elected to office. Thereafter, following the election, a comprehensive Member Induction Programme commenced. This included, for example, training on Ethics and Standards, Financial Matters, Equalities, Data Protection, Rules of Debate and Chaining Skills. Member development is also an ongoing process within the Council and continues as required throughout the Elected Members' term of office.

The membership of each of the Council's Committees, including the membership of Scrutiny Committees, is agreed on an annual basis at the Annual Meeting of the Council, which usually takes place in May of each year and in 2024 took place on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has now implemented a combination of remote and hybrid Scrutiny meetings with these being broadcast live and also recorded for archive purposes and uploaded to the Council's website for future viewing, having regard to the provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, and in line with the Multi-location Meetings Policy. Information relating to the management of such meetings can be found on the [Council's website](#) and in the [Council's Constitution](#).

With regard to the work of Scrutiny Committees, members of the public are able to participate in meetings and debate by registering to speak on agenda items (except where matters of an exempt or confidential nature are to be discussed). Agendas for the meetings are published on the Council's website, along with the procedure and access for public speaking at meetings.



## What is Scrutiny?

Scrutiny is a way of achieving open and democratic accountability for the provision of public services. Local Authorities operating an Executive Leader and Cabinet model, have an overview and scrutiny function which is carried out by non-Cabinet members, who act as a critical friend to the Cabinet, and hold them to account. Scrutiny Committees are not decision-making committees but do monitor and influence those that are – the Council's Cabinet. Scrutiny Committees report their work back to the Cabinet, who then decide whether recommendations that arise from the Committee's work will be accepted, and explain their reasons for their decisions.

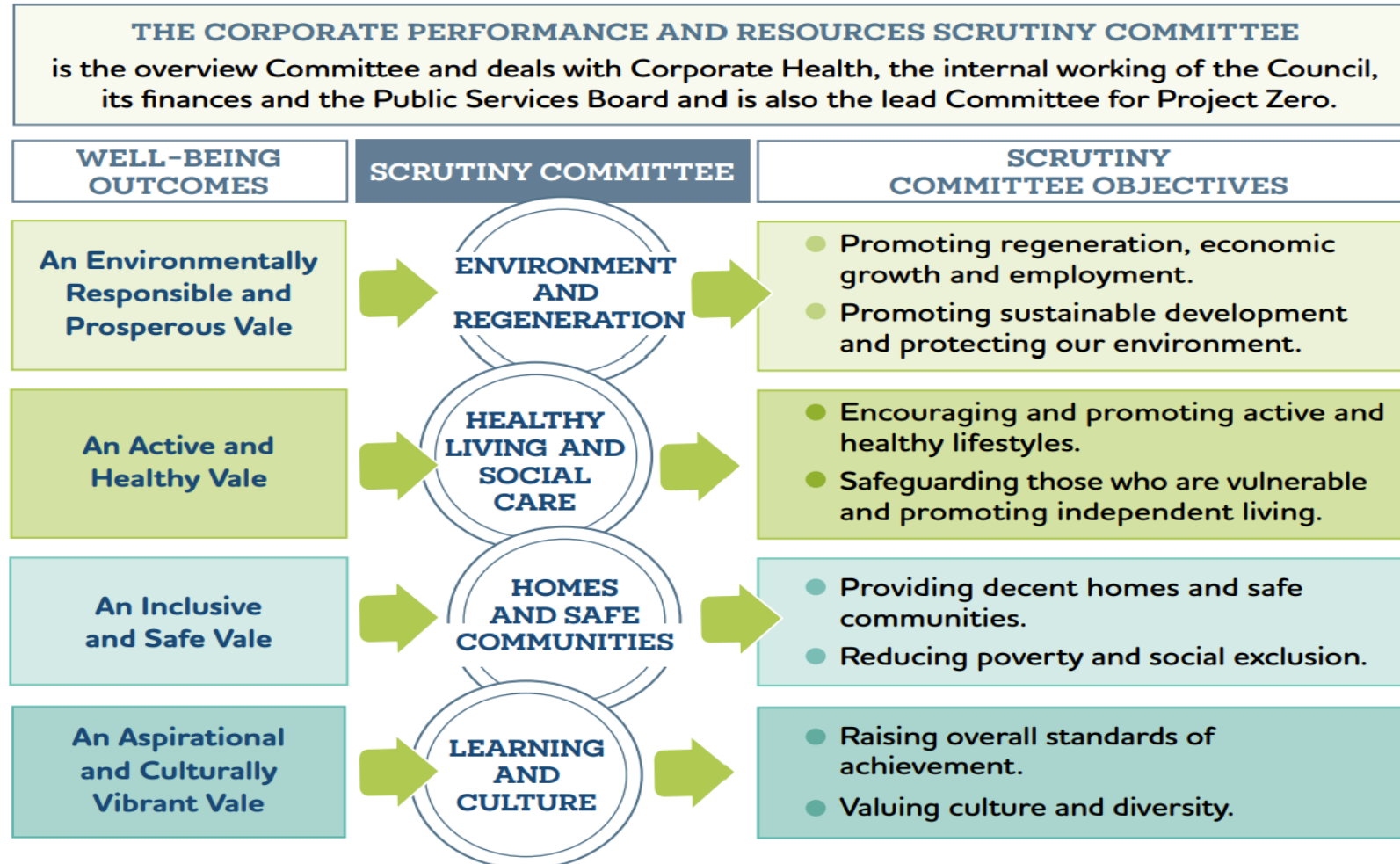
Scrutiny Committees scrutinise the budget and performance management information of the Council and its partners and examine areas of concern. They can also hold key decision-makers to account by way of 'calling in' decisions taken by Cabinet within 5 days of the decisions being made, for this decision to be scrutinised at the Scrutiny Committee overseeing the particular area of work. Scrutiny Committees can also set up Task and Finish Review Groups, to carry out in-depth reviews of certain topics. The Cabinet, in turn, consults with Scrutiny Committees on various issues, and responds to Scrutiny Committee recommendations. There were five Scrutiny Committees within the Vale of Glamorgan Council in 2024-25 and these are outlined below.

It is important to note that decisions regarding certain other functions of the Council are determined by its 'regulatory' committees, such as the Planning Committee; Licensing Committees and Full Council. Such decisions do not fall under the remit of Scrutiny.



## HOW DOES SCRUTINY WORK IN THE VALE?

The work of the Vale of Glamorgan's five Scrutiny Committees is closely aligned to the Council's four Well-being Outcomes *as per below* -



## Impact of Scrutiny

During the previous and current Municipal years our Scrutiny Committees have placed greater focus on measuring the impact of the work they carry out. However, it has been important to acknowledge the challenges faced when trying to assess the impact of Scrutiny, given that its positive outcomes are not always easily measured, and often only become apparent over longer periods of time, and therefore cannot be easily captured via the Council's usual Quarterly Decision Tracking or Annual Reporting Procedures.

There are, however, some metrics that can be used to monitor the direct outcomes of Scrutiny, which can give an indication of its impact on the decision-making processes of the Council.

### Key Facts

Number of Scrutiny Meetings – **53**

Number of Scrutiny Meetings Which Heard from Public Speakers – **2**

Members of the Public who have made verbal representations at Scrutiny Meetings – **8**

Percentage of Cabinet items with Scrutiny input Items which have been referred to Cabinet by a Scrutiny Committee – **51% (49/126)**

Percentage of Scrutiny Recommendations Agreed by Cabinet – **51% (26/51)**



Scrutiny is supported by officers from Democratic Services, who are tasked with looking after the democratic process within the Vale. The support includes:

- Providing support and constitution advice to the Council's Scrutiny Committees and to Members of those Committees as well as producing minutes of their meetings and ensuring items arising from those meetings are actions;
- Giving support and advice in relation to the functions of the Council's Scrutiny Committees to Executive and Non-Executive Members of the Council and its Officers.
- Managing the strategic development of scrutiny in the Vale through engaging with national and regional Scrutiny networks and initiatives, supporting the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group;
- Advising and supporting the implementation of the requirements of legislation, in particular the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and Welsh Government Statutory and Non-Statutory Guidance published in June 2023;
- Managing the co-ordination and development of the Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes in conjunction with Scrutiny Members;
- Managing and co-ordinating Scrutiny review work, including the operation of Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups, authorising reports in conjunction with the Groups and assisting in the implementation and monitoring of completed reviews;
- Managing the Scrutiny Member Development Programme;
- Despatching agendas for Scrutiny Committee meetings a minimum of five clear days (including weekends) prior to a meeting.





## Corporate Performance and Resources

Objectives and Remit: Overview Committee that deals with Corporate Health, the internal workings of the Council including Governance, its finances and the Public Services Board.

Membership: Councillor Joanna Protheroe (Chair); Councillor Ewan Goodjohn (Vice-Chair); George Carroll, Pamela Drake, Robert Fisher; Christopher Franks, Howard Hamilton; Sally Hanks, Dr. Ian Johnson, Belinda Loveluck-Edwards and Nicholas Wood

### Key Facts

Number of Scrutiny Meetings – **12**

Number of Scrutiny Meetings Which Heard from Public Speakers – **0**

Members of the Public who have made verbal representations at Scrutiny Meetings – **0**

Percentage of Cabinet items with Scrutiny input *Items which have been referred to Cabinet by a Scrutiny Committee* – **19% (47/246)**

Percentage of Scrutiny Recommendations Agreed by Cabinet – **50% (11/22)**





What work did the Committee undertake during the year?

The Committee reviewed several areas during the year, with the agendas, minutes and recommendations available on the Council’s website. Highlights include:

Areas Considered	What did Scrutiny recommend?	What was the impact?
Let’s Talk About Life in the Vale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further work be undertaken to engage residents in decision making process</li> <li>• Need for Local consultation</li> <li>• Priorities identified be addressed as soon as possible</li> </ul>	Recommendations have informed a number of workstreams, including exploring engagement within Reshaping Scrutiny arrangements, the development of new Corporate Plan (Vale 2030), Brilliant Basics, whilst also informing the next iteration of the survey.
Audit Wales Financial Sustainability of Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobbying to WG surrounding multi-year settlements</li> <li>• Further exploration of high-cost areas such as ALN</li> <li>• Improving the public understanding of Council finances</li> </ul>	The Council continues to lobby surrounding multi-year settlements. There is also planned task and finish activity exploring ALN including school budgets in 2025-26 to understand service provision and cost. Future budget processes have also given additional consideration as to how the Council ensures a robust understanding.



## Environment and Regeneration

Well-being Objectives: Promoting regeneration, economic growth and employment and Promoting sustainable development and protecting our environment.

Remit: Waste Management, Highway Maintenance, Planning (but not matters such as planning applications), Transportation and Economic Development.

Membership: Councillor Susan Lloyd-Selby (Chair); Councillor Catherine Iannucci-Williams (Vice-Chair); Charles Champion, Pamela Drake, Vince Driscoll, Anthony Ernest, Mark Hooper, Jayne Norman; Elliot Penn; Joanna Protheroe; and Steffan Wiliam

## Key Facts

Number of Scrutiny Meetings – **12**

Number of Scrutiny Meetings Which Heard from Public Speakers – **2**

Members of the Public who have made verbal representations at Scrutiny Meetings – **8**

Percentage of Cabinet items with Scrutiny input *Items which have been referred to Cabinet by a Scrutiny Committee* – **11% (26/246)**

Percentage of Scrutiny Recommendations Agreed by Cabinet – **58% (7/12)**



What work did the Committee undertake during the year?

The Committee reviewed several areas during the year, with the agendas, minutes and recommendations available on the Council’s website. Highlights include:

Areas Considered	What did Scrutiny recommend?	What was the impact?
Removal of School Crossing Supervisors (Petition Submission)	The Committee considered a petition surrounding the proposed removal of school crossing supervisors and explored the impact to the existing workforce and opportunities to review crossing spots.	Communities and the workforce were reassured that there were no plans to remove school crossing supervisors, and this was communicated to the wider public.
Tourism and Events	Recommendations were made concerning additional information being provided on the following: the resilience of the tourism sector within the Vale of Glamorgan, the impact of the new legislation on this sector, how to improve internet, Wi-Fi and overall digital connectivity for the local tourism industry, and events going forward, how the local tourism industry will be impacted by climate change and how this can be mitigated.	The Council considered tourism and events as a key part of developing its new Corporate Plan, Vale 2030. As the recommendations are cross cutting, these have been passed to Services to consider how they can support, including Digital Services and Project Zero.



### What work did the Committee undertake during the year?

The Committee reviewed several areas during the year, with the agendas, minutes and recommendations available on the Council’s website. Highlights include:

Areas Considered	What did Scrutiny recommend?	What was the impact?
Rights of Way Improvement Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members to be trained on GIS to be able to support community queries</li> <li>Greater prominence to information on the Council’s website</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training has been provided to a wide range of Members and will become part of future induction programmes</li> <li>The Council is reviewing its website content</li> </ul>
Car Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving the use of Equality Impact Assessments to inform the decision-making process</li> <li>Further work should be given to on street parking proposals</li> <li>Work should be done to improve car parking facilities at Cliff Walk and Bryn Y Mor prior to implementation of any charges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equality Impact Assessments were undertaken surrounding all Car Parking proposals to address impacts upon those with protected characteristics, particularly older people and those with disabilities</li> <li>Two new disabled parking spaces and limited resurfacing work was agreed for Bryn Y Mor Car Park alongside resurfacing walk at Cliff Walk Car Park</li> <li>A document entitled “Car Parking – Guiding Principles” was produced and published on the Council’s website</li> </ul>



## Healthy Living and Social Care

Well-being Objectives: Encouraging and promoting active and healthy lifestyles and Safeguarding those who are vulnerable and promoting independent living.

Remit: Adult Services (such as Care Homes), Children and Young People Services (such as the Adoption Service), Leisure, Parks, Sport and Play.

Membership: Councillor Janice Charles (Chair); Councillor Neil Thomas (Vice-Chair); Gareth Ball, Ian Buckley; Christine Cave, Millie Collins, Marianne Cowpe, Russell Godfrey; Susan Lloyd-Selby; Julie Lynch-Wilson, Jayne Norman and Carys Stallard.

### Key Facts

Number of Scrutiny Meetings – **12**

Number of Scrutiny Meetings Which Heard from Public Speakers – **0**

Members of the Public who have made verbal representations at Scrutiny Meetings – **0**

Percentage of Cabinet items with Scrutiny input *Items which have been referred to Cabinet by a Scrutiny Committee* – **6% (14/246)**

Percentage of Scrutiny Recommendations Agreed by Cabinet – **0% (0/1)**



## What work did the Committee undertake during the year?

The Committee reviewed several areas during the year, with the agendas, minutes and recommendations available on the Council's website. Highlights include:

Areas Considered	What did Scrutiny recommend?	What was the impact?
Cardiff and Vale Market Stability Report 2022-27: Annual Delivery Plan	The 'Invest to Save' strategy / approach that is being taken across the Social Services area of provision is vital and should be supported as far as possible within the current financial challenges	The Council as part of the RPB continues to invest in preventative activity as much as possible, including in the provision of its approach to commissioning including accommodation such as the purchase of additional properties alongside further plans to develop future Children's residential provision and supported accommodation for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children.

The Committee also review a number of statutory and non-statutory reports throughout the year including the Annual Director's Report, DOLS Annual Report alongside Family Information Service Annual Report, alongside key strategies relating to areas such as care and support and commissioning, which included the work of Regional Partnership Board.

There was also a budget working subgroup which worked to further understand the financial position within social care, and supported the directorate in identifying opportunities for improvement to support the budget management process.



## Homes and Safe Communities

Well-being Objectives: Providing decent homes and safe communities and Reducing poverty and social exclusion.

Remit: Council Housing and related maintenance, Private Sector Housing, Community Safety, Crime and Disorder (including Youth Offending Services) and Shared Regulatory Services functions.

Membership: Councillor Millie Collins (Chair); Councillor Belinda Loveluck-Edwards (Vice-Chair); Councillors: Julie Aviet, Gareth Ball, Stephen Haines, Sally Hanks, William Hennessy, Susan Lloyd-Selby, Michael Morgan; Helen Payne (plus two vacancies). Representatives, as non-voting observers, one representatives from Citizens Advice Cardiff and Vale and four representatives from Tenant Working Group / Panel

### Key Facts

Number of Scrutiny Meetings – **11**

Number of Scrutiny Meetings Which Heard from Public Speakers – **0**

Members of the Public who have made verbal representations at Scrutiny Meetings – **0**

Percentage of Cabinet items with Scrutiny input *Items which have been referred to Cabinet by a Scrutiny Committee* – **6% (14/246)**

Percentage of Scrutiny Recommendations Agreed by Cabinet – **75% (3/4)**



## What work did the Committee undertake during the year?

The Committee reviewed several areas during the year, with the agendas, minutes and recommendations available on the Council's website. Highlights include:

Areas Considered	What did Scrutiny recommend?	What was the impact?
Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA 2023)	Committee recommended that consideration should be made on the importance of the Council considering the provision of suitable housing for older persons, and that this be embedded within Council policies, strategies and planning	This is incorporated as a core consideration of the Council's strategic planning process, and a consideration for the Replacement Local Development Plan.
Community Safety	The Committee consider elements such as identifying anti-social behaviour 'hot spots' and how to combat this, to ensure that the police maintained a strong community presence and community engagement levels, and to enhance and protect neighbourhood policing. A letter was also sent to the PCC on the Committee's behalf, following the presentation, highlighting key areas such as CCTV funding.	This work contributed to securing funding for CCTV for both the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years.





## Learning and Culture

Well-being Objectives: Raising overall standards of achievement and Valuing culture and diversity.

Remit: All School matters, (which includes School Improvement, Post-16 Education, Community Education), Youth Services, the Library Service, Equalities, Welsh Language and Arts Development.

Membership: Councillor Rhys Thomas (Chair); Councillor Helen Payne (Vice-Chair); Councillors: Anne Asbrey, Samantha Campbell; Wendy Gilligan, Emma Goodjohn, Ewan Goodjohn; Stephen Haines; William Hennessy, Nic Hodges, Julie Lynch-Wilson, and Naomi Marshallsea. Also invited to attend as Co-opted Members: Roman Catholic Church, Church in Wales, Parent Governor (Primary) and Parent Governor (Secretary). Also invited as non-voting observers: Representatives from Primary and Secondary sector, Welsh Medium Education, Head Teacher, Vale Youth Council (2), Vale Youth Forum (2), Free Churches and Special School.

## Key Facts

Number of Scrutiny Meetings – **10**

Number of Scrutiny Meetings Which Heard from Public Speakers – **0**

Members of the Public who have made verbal representations at Scrutiny Meetings – **0**

Percentage of Cabinet items with Scrutiny input *Items which have been referred to Cabinet by a Scrutiny Committee* – **11% (12/146)**

Percentage of Scrutiny Recommendations Agreed by Cabinet – **42% (5/12)**



## What work did the Committee undertake during the year?

The Committee reviewed several areas during the year, with the agendas, minutes and recommendations available on the Council's website, including ESTYN inspection reports. Highlights include:

Areas Considered	What did Scrutiny recommend?	What was the impact?
Initiatives to improve reading in Schools	The Committee wrote to Welsh Government to lobby for improved data sharing arrangements.	Welsh Government acknowledged this and stated that arrangements were being continually assessed around data sharing and school improvement.

## Youth Participation – Learning and Culture

Young residents of the Vale of Glamorgan are represented on the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee, at each Committee Meeting, by two youth groups – The Vale Youth Council and The Vale Youth Forum. These young people act as non-voting Members of the committee and make very valued contributions to the live meeting debate on a multitude of the issues discussed.



## Scrutiny Task and Finish Work

In 2024-25, Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee continued its in-depth Task and Finish Review of the Council's procurement function. This thorough and broad-ranging piece of work brought together seven Members of the Committee to scrutinise the Council's existing procurement strategy, policies and practice, as compared to examples of good practice in the field, and particularly in relation to sustainability, decarbonisation and social value.

The review took in a wide range of evidence and included presentations from subject matter experts and other Local Authorities, covering best and innovative practices, with the aim of informing and improving the Council's Procurement Policy and Strategy document. There was a particular emphasis on the capture and monitoring of social value, decarbonisation, fair working practices, and working collaboratively with partners and suppliers.

The work of the group culminated in a final report of its findings, which, through the lens of the Vale of Glamorgan Council cutting its Carbon Emissions from the Supply Chain and maximising social value outcomes for the Authority, made a series of recommendations for Cabinet to consider when reviewing the Procurement Policy and Strategy. The work of the group has enhanced Members' understanding of the role of procurement in achieving the Council's Project Zero goals, and the report's findings have helped to shape the development of the new draft of the Council's Procurement Policy and Strategy, which will contribute to working towards a decarbonised supply chain.



## Development of Vale 2030 – the Council's Corporate Plan

All five of the Council's scrutiny committees helped to shape the direction, design and development of Vale 2030 - the Council's new Corporate Plan for 2025-30 - through discussion and debate at each committee, resulting in a variety of recommendations, comments and suggested amendments being forwarded to officers and referred to Cabinet ahead of its final consideration of the Plan, several of which were added to the final draft of Vale 2030, and are detailed in the Cabinet report [here](#)



## Hearing from You

The Scrutiny Committees are keen to hear from members of the public and other interested parties on matters before the Committees, and for suggestions of topics for future consideration and scrutiny. The Committees are keen to understand the views and experiences of customers, service users and carers, using Task and Finish review projects, workshops, consultation exercises and survey results to gather feedback. The link to the topic suggestion form can be found [here](#).

Opportunities are also afforded to members of the public, partners, key stakeholders to contribute evidence and speak at meetings to broaden understanding and inform discussions. All meetings, together with the reports (save for confidential matters), are advertised on the Council's website. Following the publication of agendas, public speaking registration forms are also made available on the Council's website. The link to the minutes and agendas on the website can be found [here](#).

The Link to the Scrutiny Public speaking guide can also be found [here](#). It is important to note that following any review of the Council's Multi-Locations Meetings Policy, any amendments to the Scrutiny Public Speaking Guide, if required, will be made as soon as possible thereafter and, following approval by Full Council, will also be included in the Council's Constitution.

Members of the public who register to speak at a Scrutiny Committee, are also asked to provide feedback on the process. This is not a mandatory requirement, but any information is considered when reviews of the Public Speaking Guide are undertaken.



## Reviewing and Looking ahead - Reshaping Scrutiny

During the year, the Council commenced a review of its existing arrangements, “Reshaping Scrutiny”. This was driven by a range of feedback including resident feedback, Member feedback, recommendations from Audit Wales and the Council’s Performance Panel Assessment.

A significant amount of consultation was undertaken with Members through various meetings across the years to agree how Scrutiny could be enhanced moving forward, with the Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chair group being a pivotal space in helping to shape ideas. A summary of key changes include:

- Changing from 5 Scrutiny Committees to 4 Scrutiny Committees, with defined remits based upon the Council’s new Corporate Plan (Start Well, Live Well, Place, Resources)
- Changing to bi-monthly meetings to release capacity for the Council to undertake more frequent Task and Finish Scrutiny
- Changes to how Members receive information, including the introduction of briefings and information items to allow for Scrutiny to focus upon its role and functions
- Introduction of joint Scrutiny arrangements for Committees to consider cross cutting items such as Corporate Plan Performance and Finance
- Guidance to Members and Officers surrounding the forming of recommendations
- Enhancing the Recommendations tracking process and developing a clear feedback loop
- Exploring how to enhance participation in Scrutiny and promote the value of this function within the Vale of Glamorgan.

These changes were approved at Full Council in April 2025, to be implemented during the 2025/26 municipal year, and future reports will consider this implementation.



## Want to Know More?

Should you wish to find out more about the work of Scrutiny, you can do so at:  
[http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our\\_council/Council-Structure/scrutiny/scrutiny.aspx](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/Council-Structure/scrutiny/scrutiny.aspx)

Please look at our website to see the dates, times and venues of forthcoming Scrutiny meetings:  
[http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our\\_council/council/minutes,\\_agendas\\_and\\_reports/minutes,\\_agendas\\_and\\_reports.aspx](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/council/minutes,_agendas_and_reports/minutes,_agendas_and_reports.aspx)

## **Can I view a Scrutiny Committee meeting?**

Scrutiny Committees are currently live streamed as they take place on the Council's website and recorded for archive purposes.

The link to view a Scrutiny Committee meeting can be found [here](#).

Alternatively, you can contact Democratic and Scrutiny Services using the details below:

Telephone: 01446709394

Email: [democratic@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)







# ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2024/25 - SUMMARY

The report highlights the work of Scrutiny, a key way for Members of the Council to provide views and options around a range of areas, and to make recommendations to Cabinet.

A full version is available [here](#).

During 2024/25, the Council had 5 Committees, which are aligned to certain areas of work including:

- Environment and Regeneration
- Healthy Living and Social Care
- Home and Safe Communities
- Learning and Culture
- Corporate Performance and Resources

## KEY FACTS FOR THE YEAR

- **53** meetings held
- **2** meetings featuring public speakers
- **8** verbal representations made by the Public
- **51%** of Cabinet items receiving Scrutiny input
- **51%** of recommendations agreed by Cabinet

## CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES

- Held 12 meetings
- Considered 19% of Cabinet items
- Made 22 recommendations with 50% agreed by Cabinet
- Explored areas including developing engagement, the Council's finances the work of the Public Service Board
- Led on Procurement Task and Finish group, with a series of recommendations due to be presented to Cabinet in Summer 2025.



## ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION

- Held 12 meetings, with 2 meetings featuring 8 public speakers
- Considered 11% of Cabinet items
- Made 12 recommendations with 58% agreed by Cabinet
- Explored areas including tourism, rights of way and car parking, making recommendations taken forward such as promotion, and maintenance work.

## HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE

- Held 12 meetings
- Considered 6% of Cabinet items
- Made 1 recommendation to Cabinet
- Explored areas including Market Stability Report, Annual Director's Report, and Social Care Budget.

## HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

- Held 11 meetings
- Considered 6% of Cabinet items
- Made 4 recommendation to Cabinet, with 75% being accepted
- Explored areas including Local Housing Market Assessment and Community Safety, helping to secure funding for additional CCTV.

## LEARNING AND CULTURE

- Held 10 meetings
- Considered 11% of Cabinet items
- Made 12 recommendation to Cabinet, with 42% being accepted
- Explored areas including ESTYN monitoring outcomes, school budgets and initiatives to improve reading
- Involved representatives of Vale Youth Council and Youth Forum, alongside a range of other Co-opted Members

All Scrutiny Committees supported the Council in developing it's new Corporate Plan, Vale 2030 alongside monitoring performance and finance information.





## GETTING INVOLVED

It is very important to the Council to hear from the Public surrounding the decisions we are making. All meetings are broadcast on [YouTube](#) with Agendas published on the Council's [website](#). Upcoming meeting dates are publicised on the Council's social media pages.

Opportunities for the public to get involved include:

- [Asking questions](#)
- [Suggesting topics to be considered](#)
- [Submitting e-petitions](#)
- Getting involved in Task and Finish
- Writing to us to share your views

## LOOKING HEAD: RESHAPING SCRUTINY

During the year, we have reviewed how Scrutiny works and will be introducing a number of key changes in 2025/26 including:

- Changing from 5 to 4 Committees with new remits aligned to the Corporate Plan
- Changing how often Committee's meet
- Undertaking more Task and Finish work
- Developing briefing and information items
- Bringing all Committees together to look at how the Council is performing
- Developing the recommendations process
- Exploring ways for the public to participate more in the Scrutiny process

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If you would like to know, please contact us using the details below.

Alternatively, for further information, please visit:

[Vale of Glamorgan Council Scrutiny](#)

[Vale of Glamorgan Council Minutes, Agendas and Report](#)

[Vale of Glamorgan YouTube Channel \(including live and recordings of meetings\)](#)

[Vale of Glamorgan Scrutiny Participation Guide](#)

