

Meeting of:	Council
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 25 September 2023
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	All Scrutiny Committees
Report Title:	Scrutiny Committees' Annual Report 2022/23
Purpose of Report:	To present the 2022/23 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"> 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'. 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 new Corporate Plan 	

Recommendation

1. THAT Council receive the Scrutiny Committees' Annual Report for the Municipal year 2022/23.

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 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 new [Corporate Plan](#)'.
- 2.2 For information, Members are advised that the Annual Report is only "reported to Council" as opposed to it requiring actual approval. The Annual Report is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

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.

Vale of Glamorgan Council Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23

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

Welcome to the first 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 2022/23 Municipal Year (May 2022 – April 2023). The report also provides a summary of the work undertaken by scrutiny in 2022-23 and outlines future work programmes.

During the past year, the five Scrutiny Committees have been 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 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. It offers reassurance to local people, helps to develop policy, challenging the performance of the Council and its services and holds the Cabinet to account for its decisions.

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 being the challenging voice and by continuing a full programme of remote online meetings to ensure full accountability.

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 rising costs of living. I know that Scrutiny will contribute to meet these challenges by acting as a ‘critical friend’ to decision-makers, supporting innovation in how the council and its partners deliver services and acting as the voice of the people when important decisions are being made.

I conclude by offering my thanks to all the Members of the Vale of Glamorgan’s five 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 by speaking at Scrutiny Committee meetings or liaising with their local Members.

Councillor Neil Thomas

***Chair – Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group
and Vice-Chair – 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 Members to 54 Elected with a significant number of new Councillors being elected to office. Thereafter following the election a comprehensive Member Induction programme commenced which included for example training on Ethics and Standards, Financial matters, Equalities, Data Protection, Rules of Debate and Charing 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 2022 took place on 23 May..

Since the Covid-19 pandemic the Council has continued to undertake all its meetings on a remote basis with meetings being live streamed, recorded for archive purposes and uploaded to the Council's website for future viewing and having regard to the provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. Information relating to the management of such meetings can be found on the Council's website and in the Council's Constitution. The Council is also currently working with a new hybrid solution provider for the provision of hybrid meetings to be in place over the next few months. Hybrid meetings being meetings that take place in person and on a remote basis. A review of the Councils Multi Location meetings Policy has recently been undertaken and is to be reported to Cabinet for consideration in September 23.

With regard to the work of Scrutiny Committees, members of the public are able to register 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 as is the procedure for public speaking.

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 to hold them to account. Scrutiny Committees are not decision-making committees, but they are there to monitor and influence those that are, i.e. the Cabinet. Scrutiny Committees report their work back to the Cabinet who then decide whether recommendations will be accepted, and if not, 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 and set up Task and Finish Groups to carry out in-depth reviews. The Cabinet, in turn, consults with Scrutiny Committees on issues, and responds to Scrutiny Committee recommendations. There are five Scrutiny Committees within the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

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

How does Scrutiny work in the Vale?

There are five Scrutiny Committees in the Vale and the work of the Scrutiny Committees is closely aligned to the Council's four **Well-being Outcomes as below -**

The Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee is the overview Committee and deals with Corporate Health, the internal working of the Council, its finances and the Public Services Board and is also the lead Committee for Project Zero.		
Well-being Outcomes	Scrutiny Committee	Scrutiny Committee Objectives
<i>An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale</i>	Environment and Regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting regeneration, economic growth and employment. Promoting sustainable development and protecting our environment.
<i>An Active and Healthy Vale</i>	Healthy Living and Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Encouraging and promoting active and healthy lifestyles.</i> <i>Safeguarding those who are vulnerable and promoting independent living.</i>

<i>An Inclusive and Safe Vale</i>	Homes and Safe Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Providing decent homes and safe communities.</i> • <i>Reducing poverty and social exclusion.</i>
<i>An Aspirational and Culturally Vibrant Vale</i>	Learning and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Raising overall Standards of achievement</i> • <i>Valuing Culture and Diversity</i>

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 in turn can give an indication of its impact on the decision-making processes of the Council. These have been summarised below:

<u>Vale of Glamorgan Scrutiny Scorecard 2022-23</u>		
○ Number of Scrutiny Committee Meetings	:	47
○ Number of Scrutiny Committee Meetings which heard from Public Speakers	:	4
○ Members of the Public who have made verbal representations at Scrutiny Meetings	:	10
○ % of Cabinet Items with Scrutiny input <i>Items which have been referred to Cabinet by a Scrutiny Committee.</i>	:	43.3 %
○ % of Scrutiny recommendations agreed by Cabinet	:	63.3%*
*NB Out of 30 recommendations referred to Cabinet 19 were approved and 11 were noted.		

Scrutiny Support

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.

Scrutiny Committees and their Membership for 2022/23

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.

Chair: Councillor Joanna Protheroe;

Vice-Chair: Councillor Ewan Goodjohn;

Councillors: George Carroll, Pamela Drake, Christopher Franks, Stephen Haines, Howard Hamilton; Sally Hanks, Dr. Ian Johnson, Belinda Loveluck-Edwards and Nicholas Wood

Environment and Regeneration

Objectives:

- Promoting regeneration, economic growth and employment.
- Promoting sustainable development and protecting our environment.

Remit:

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

Chair: Councillor Sandra Perkes;

Vice-Chair: Councillor Julie Aviet;

Councillors: Charles Champion, Pamela Drake, Vince Driscoll, Anthony Ernest, Mark Hooper, Catherine Iannucci, Elliot Penn (from 13 December 2022), Ian Perry and Steffan Wiliam. (Councillor Ian Buckley until 13 December 2022)

Healthy Living and Social Care

Objectives:

- Encouraging and promoting active and healthy lifestyles.
- 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.

Chair: Councillor Janice Charles;

Vice-Chair: Councillor Neil Thomas;

Councillors: Gareth Ball, Christine Cave, Millie Collins, Marianne Cowpe, Robert Fisher, Susan Lloyd-Selby, Julie Lynch-Wilson, Jayne Norman, Helen Payne and Carys Stallard

Homes and Safe Communities

Objectives

- Providing decent homes and safe communities.
- 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.

Chair: Councillor Millie Collins;

Vice-Chair: Councillor Belinda Loveluck-Edwards;

Councillors: Julie Aviet, Gareth Ball, Ian Buckley, Samantha Campbell, George Carroll, Sally Hanks, William Hennessy, Michael Morgan and Sandra Perkes

One representative, as a non-voting observer, from each of the following organisations:

- Citizens Advice Cardiff and Vale
- four representatives from Tenant Working Group / Panel

Learning and Culture

Objectives

- Raising overall standards of achievement.
- 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.

Chair: Councillor Rhys Thomas;

Vice-Chair: Councillor Helen Payne;

Councillors: Anne Asbrey, Wendy Gilligan, Russell Godfrey, Emma Goodjohn, William Hennessy, Nic Hodges, Julie Lynch-Wilson, Naomi Marshallsea, Jayne Norman and Elliot Penn

Also invited to attend as co-opted members:
Roman Catholic Church

Also invited to attend as non – voting observers:
Reps from Primary and Secondary sectors

Church in Wales
Parent Governor - Secondary Sector
Parent Governor - Primary Sector

Welsh Medium Education
Headteachers
Vale Youth Council x 2
Vale Youth Forum x 2
Free Churches
Special school

Key Areas of Scrutiny Activity by each Scrutiny Committee in 2022-23

Scrutiny Committee: *Corporate Performance and Resources*

Procurement Policy and Strategy

Activity: A reference/report was presented for considered in March 2023 on the new Policy and Strategy for Procurement, subject to any material amendments by the Committee. This updated Policy and Strategy had moved on from its 2018 iteration and aligned with the latest Corporate Plan and also policy initiatives from Welsh Government (WG) in terms of procurement. The new Policy and Strategy also provided an opportunity to streamline and make 'punchier' its policy objectives, including extra prominence to Project Zero and greater support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and local businesses. The Strategy also placed extra emphasis on social values and to 'stretch' the Council's suppliers to help pursue the Council's objectives, including minimum expected and preferred standards as well as seeking to differentiate between small and large companies.

Outcome: The Committee scrutinised the Policy and Strategy with a number of points and queries raised, including the importance of recognising the Council's attempts to be a Net Zero Organisation by 2030, the need for greater clarification on what constituted excessive working hours, and the need to include a commitment that suppliers paid their employees the Real Living Wage.

Other queries raised included the shortage of relevant Council officers to assist with the Procurement Strategy and Policy and that value for money should be the 'underpinning' consideration for the Council and its objectives. The focus on Social Value in the Strategy was welcomed, but there needed to be a more specific Vale of Glamorgan vision on procurement included. Lastly, a plan of action was suggested to be included to cover the deliverables for the year, with the document to be a 'living' document, to be reviewed on an annual basis.

Subsequently these and the other points raised at the meeting were to be taken on board by Officers with the following recommendations being referred to Cabinet:

- That the Policy and Strategy includes the requirement that businesses, with which the Council engages with in terms of procurement, pay the Real Living Wage.
- That the Policy and Strategy includes greater clarification on what constitutes excessive working hours.

Cabinet, at its meeting on 13th April, 2023, subsequently resolved that the recommendations from the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee be endorsed and that the Strategy be amended accordingly.

Scrutiny Committee: *Homes and Safe Communities*

Stop Loan Shark Wales Presentation

Activity: As part of a follow-up and update from a previous meeting, a presentation was given to the Committee in January 2023 on tackling 'loan shark' activity in Wales, which highlighted recent activities, awareness raising campaigns and an update on the issue. The presentation was provided by the Stop Loan Shark Wales Unit (SLSW) (formerly the Wales Illegal Money Lending Unit), based in Shared Regulatory Services within the Vale of Glamorgan to investigate and prosecute illegal money lenders (also known as 'loan sharks').

Outcome: The Committee scrutinised the work of SLSW, querying the geographic 'reach' of loan shark activity, the number of perpetrators involved, the measures taken to remove the 'stigma' and fear of victims of loan sharks to come forward and the support available to victims of loan shark activities. Also raised were the dangers of 'in-work poverty' in terms of making people more vulnerable to loan shark perpetrators. Due to this, Members were asked to share any contacts they may have with Trade Unions, etc. with the SLSW unit in order to establish better links. Subsequently, Members of the Committee have also been involved in raising awareness and building links with unions and employee groups with SLSW i.e. the SLSW presentation would be shared with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Joint Consultative Forum (JCF). Members encouraged SLSW to reach out to schools and school governors in order to raise awareness about their work and the issues involved, and to distribute leaflets and posters in libraries, GP surgeries and social landlord receptions in order to reach out to residents who could not access social media. Following suggestions from the Committee, SLSW, in conjunction with Democratic Services, set up a briefing and training session, accessible to all Elected Members of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, in order to raise awareness of loan shark activities, etc. for the benefit of residents.

Scrutiny Committee: *Healthy Living and Social Care*

Rapid Response Falls Service

Activity: In November 2022, the Committee was presented with an update report on the work of the Telecare Service over the previous 18 months as well as Service Developments following the Telecare Service Review undertaken in Spring 2021. One of the longer term recommendations within the review report was to "explore the viability of a Rapid Response Falls Service for existing customers and to meet the expectations of new customers". The Committee recognised the pressures on emergency services for a rapid response service to attend to people who had fallen at home, but for whom the Welsh Ambulance Service would assess as low priority. The Council's C1V team responded to over 500 calls per year that resulted in Telecare making a call to Welsh Ambulance. Of these nearly 50% were a result of people falling at home, who often must wait hours if not days for an ambulance to

attend to them – this could have catastrophic impacts on people’s health if they could not get up themselves. A Rapid Response Service, activated through Telecare would be able to provide an early response and would be able to assist the person to a chair and/or undertake a wellbeing assessment to inform the ambulance prioritisation.

Outcome: Following the success of an Eastern Vale pilot (started on 1st March 2022 and ended on 31st October 2022) and with the ambition to provide a Fall Services throughout the Vale, the Council engaged St Johns Ambulance to provide a Rapid Response service to all areas of the county from 3rd October 2022. As with the pilot scheme, the service was accessed via a person’s Telecare Alarm, via the 24hr Telecare Monitoring Service. The advantages of engaging with St Johns Ambulance, was the reassurance provided by fully trained staff and existing links with other emergency services as required. This arrangement was at no cost to the customer and progress was closely monitored by the Scrutiny Committee.

Scrutiny Committee: *Environment and Regeneration*

Recycling and Waste Management

Activity: In February 2023, the Scrutiny Committee considered service changes to Recycling and Waste Management and also the Council’s Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2022-2032). With regard to service changes these included:

- The introduction of a subscription charge from 1st July for the collection of green waste.
- The subscription fee for green waste would include a charge of £36 per annum for up to 4 bags per fortnightly and £54 for 8 bags (within 72-hours).
- There was also a provision for one off collections at 50p per bag for the green waste subscribers and a half year charge would be available from August 2024.
- Change to the frequency of black bag collections to 3 bags collected every 3 weeks.

Outcome: The Committee being keen to track the impact of the service changes have requested an update monitoring report to be provided with the intention that this is received by October 2023, the report to include an assessment of service uptake and the impact on waste collections. In addition, as a follow up piece of work, Members of the Scrutiny Committee attended two site visits. The first took place on Monday, 27th March 2023 with a visit to the Cowbridge Waste Transfer Station and then a subsequent visit held on 28th April, 2023 to the new Barry Household Waste and Recycling Centre. Both visits allowed Members to see firsthand the waste and recycling operations in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Scrutiny Committee: *Learning and Culture*

Audit Wales National Study: Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs): more than a tick box exercise?

Activity: The report was presented to the Committee at its meeting in Thursday, 08 December 2022, the purpose of which was to advise Members of the findings of Audit Wales’s national study which looked at the overall approach to undertaking EIAs in public bodies in Wales. As part of the national audit work programme for 2021/22, the Auditor General for Wales looked at the approaches of 44 public bodies (subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015) in undertaking Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs), with a particular focus on identifying good or interesting practice and any common areas for improvement. The “Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs): More Than a Tick Box Exercise highlighted the key findings of this work. The review concluded that positively, many public bodies use non-statutory guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and the Equality Impact Assessment in Wales Practice Hub to shape their approaches, however, EIAs were not being used to their full potential, especially in terms of promoting equality and cohesion. Key areas of improvement were also outlined to the Committee. Four recommendations were made, one specifically aimed at public bodies, to review their current approach for conducting EIAs. In response to the above recommendation, the Director of Corporate Resources and the Corporate Equalities Officer would progress a review of the Council’s EIA process within the next six months and put in place a variety of actions to promote the process and its use within the organisation over the coming year.

Outcome: The Committee scrutinised the report and its findings, and in light of issues previously highlighted to Committee around how anxiety had negatively impacted some pupils’ reintegration into school settings post-pandemic, the Vice-Chair advised that they would welcome further emphasis on mental health-related disability, as an aspect of potential inequality. Due to this, the Committee recommended that the following comment be referred to the Governance and Audit Committee and thereafter on to Cabinet for its consideration and endorsement of the Council’s proposed actions to address the Audit Wales recommendation (R4): “Committee consider that mental health inequality is under-reported and this issue has a significant impact on the population and workforce. Therefore, a focus on mental health-related disability is importantly needed in Equality Impact Assessments. This is particularly important in light of the post-pandemic world and the difficulty in re-engaging some young people and adults back into school or work.” Cabinet, at its meeting on 13th April, 2023 endorsed the recommendations from both the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee on 8th December, 2022 and Governance and Audit Committee on 27th February, 2023 (which had also endorsed the previous comments from Learning and Culture) and would seek to include those views in work going forward

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 or 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 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 and following the publication of agendas on the website public speaking registration forms are made available on the website at the same time. 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 a review of the Council's Multi - Locations Policy that is scheduled to be considered by the Council's Cabinet in September 2023 any amendments to the Scrutiny public speaking guide, if required, will be made as soon as possible thereafter and following approval by Full Council also included in the Council's Constitution.

Members of the public who register speak at are also asked to provide feedback on the process however this is not a mandatory requirement but any information is considered when reviews of the Public speaking guide are undertaken.

Looking Forward

The Committees will continue to:

- Scrutinise how well the Council is meeting its objectives, as outlined in the Council's Corporate Plan with a change in Administration;
- Make positive contributions to policy development and to the continuous improvements to Council functions;
- Look at the impact of the financial savings that the Council has to achieve and scrutinising the implications of further reduction in resources;
- Evaluate proposals around services that will come out of the Council's Reshaping Services project;
- Monitor the attainment levels of our pupils and to assess challenges facing schools;
- Consider sustainable development and explore funding opportunities;

- Scrutinise the work and impact of the Public Service Board and the Central South Consortium and, through joint scrutiny, the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal;
- Build on the Council's detailed Member Development Programme, to consider looking at further innovative forms of scrutiny, and looking at how scrutiny can add value and encourage public participation;
- Undertake Task and Finish work as required having regard to the Council's objectives.

In addition to the above, a summary of some the items to be considered by the Scrutiny Committees going forward is presented below .

Corporate Performance and Resources:

- Update on the Council's efforts concerning Project Zero, in responding to the climate emergency and delivering its commitments as part of this project.
- Update on the progress made on developing this service at customer relations services at Contact One Vale (C1V), the Council's single point of contact for residents in the Vale of Glamorgan for information and advice about its services.
- A 'reflections' document in relation to the Oracle Fusion Project following implementation, including 'lessons learned' from the implementation of this key system for the operation of the Council.
- Glamorgan Voluntary Services Annual report. An overview of the areas of activities undertaken by Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) for the year 2022/23.

Environment and Regeneration:

- Replacement Local Development Plan – Preferred Strategy
- Update on Recycling and Waste Service Changes
- Project Zero – Update and progress monitoring
- Revised Highway Maintenance Three Year Plan 2022 – 2024.

Healthy Living and Social Care:

- Performance Evaluation Inspection of Vale of Glamorgan Social Services [Social Services] - Care Inspectorate Wales's assessment of the Vale of Glamorgan County Council's performance in exercising its social services duties and functions in line with legislation.

- Re-establishment of A Leisure Centre Working Group [Leisure Services] – To assist in addressing part of the Welsh Audit Report (January 2021) that highlighted some of the information that elected members should be aware of and regularly updated on in relation to the Leisure Management Contract.

Homes and Safe Communities:

- STAR Survey update. An update to Members on the results of the latest Customer Satisfaction STAR Survey. This is a large-scale survey of all Vale of Glamorgan Council tenants in order to find levels of satisfaction, including tenant feedback on what the Council was doing well and what areas needed improvement.
- Updates on the Tenant & Leaseholder Participation Strategy 2021 – 2026 and on the progress made in relation to the Council's digital self-service system, regarding housing and repairs.
- Youth Offending Service: 12 Month Performance Report for the period April 2022 – March 2023. To ensure Scrutiny are able to exercise oversight of the Youth Offending Service performance against UK/devolved/local indicators.

Learning and Culture:

- Education update on the Syrian Resettlement Programme and information on other pupils with refugee status – October 2023
- Education update on the children from Services Families – October 2023
- Youth Engagement and Progression Update – November 2023.

Committee Work Programmes -

A full list of all the items proposed to be discussed by the Scrutiny Committees on their work programmes during 2023/24 can be found on the Council's website [here](#)

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

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: **01446 709413 / 709856**

Email: democratic@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk