

Vale of Glamorgan Council Annual Self-Assessment 2023-24

Public Summary

Strong
Communities
with a Bright
Future



What is the Annual Self-Assessment?



The Annual Self-Assessment Report considers the Vale of Glamorgan Council's performance in delivering the Annual Delivery Plan commitments for 2023/24. These have been informed by Vale of Glamorgan residents and key partners ensuring that we have prioritised the services that matter to residents, especially the most vulnerable members of our community. **The Council's self-assessment comprises three main judgements:** an **Annual Delivery Plan performance** assessment, an assessment of the Council's **use of resources** (which includes its people, assets, finance and procurement, performance and risk and engagement insights) and an assessment of the effectiveness of the **Council's governance**, risk management and internal controls through an Annual Governance Statement.

What residents and service users said about us

The **Life in the Vale Public Opinion Survey 2023** commenced on 22nd August 2023 and concluded on 18th December 2023 with 4,009 residents completing the survey.

Overall, **people are generally happy with the Vale as a place to live**. 60% of respondents stated that they are either very or fairly satisfied with the **Vale of Glamorgan as a place to live**, and 80% would **recommend the Vale of Glamorgan as a place to live**.

The results also showed that the **Council's priorities** are broadly in line with those of residents with 78% of respondents stating that they are either very or fairly concerned with the **Cost-of-Living crisis**, 68% are either very or fairly concerned with the **climate emergency** and 65% are either very or fairly concerned with the **nature emergency**. 73% of respondents are also very or fairly concerned about services and **support for older people** and 61% are very or fairly concerned about services and **support for young people**. All of these are areas of priority for the Council as reflected in the Council's Annual Delivery Plan and the Budget Strategy for 2024/25.

However, the results also showed there is more work to be done in how we explain our work, public perception of our work, and engage residents in decision making. A higher number of respondents stated that they disagreed with statements that the services provided by the Vale of Glamorgan Council are of a high quality (29.3% strongly or slightly agreed); that the Council acts in the interest of local residents (25.5% strongly or slightly agreed); that the Council takes residents' views into account when making a decision (16.1% strongly or slightly agreed); and that the services provided by the Council represent good value for money (16.4% strongly or slightly agreed).

How effective were our governance arrangements?

The Council, as part of its arrangements for corporate governance, undertakes an annual review of internal control and governance. The review uses an externally recognised framework for Delivering Good Governance in Local Government.

There is **'Reasonable Assurance'** on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control for 2023/24, based on the Head of Internal Audit's annual opinion.

A **'Reasonable Assurance'** judgement means that from a governance perspective our systems and processes are generally sound and there are no significant weaknesses. It also indicates that the governance structures for the Vale of Glamorgan Council are considered suitable according to the governance framework.

How did we do against our Annual Delivery Plan 2023-24?

Combined total of Service Plan Actions and Performance Measures	PERFORMANCE STATUS			Overall RAG Status for all Well-being Objectives
	GREEN	AMBER	RED	
Total	Actions & Measures	Actions & Measures	Actions & Measures	Actions and Measures
591	502(85%)	12(2%)	77 (13%)	GOOD

How well have we used our resources?

Our overall judgement for 'how we are using our resources' is **GOOD**

Throughout the year we have continuously assessed how well we are using our resources to enable us to deliver on our commitments in the Annual Delivery Plan 2023/24. Annual Directorate Self-Assessments aligned to quarterly performance monitoring enable us at end of year to bring together key insights from across the council's services to inform an overall judgement of how well we have used our resources.

An internal peer 'critical friend' challenge of Directorate Self-Assessment findings has been undertaken, followed by further challenge through a moderation exercise led by the Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Resources and the Executive Leader of the Council to confirm the overall council judgement. The **'fair'** judgements reflect our need to further build on our engagement and insight to ensure consistency both in how we engage and in the use of that insight, as well as in recognition of the significant and ongoing financial pressures facing all council services.

Corporate enablers: Overall Council Summary	2021/22 Rating	2022/23 Rating	2023/24	Direction of Travel (DoT)
People	Good	Good	Good	↔
Finance, Commissioning and Procurement	Good	Good	Fair	↓
Assets	Good	Good	Good	↔
Performance	Good	Good	Good	↔
Risk	Good	Good	Good	↔
Engagement and Insight	Good	Good	Fair	↓
Overall rating for 'how we are using our resources'	Good	Good	Good	↔

How did we do against our Annual Delivery Plan 2023-24?

WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 1: To work with and for our communities

Overall performance (RAG) status for Well-being Objective 1 is **FAIR**

Our achievements during 2023-24:



- Launched the Council's Digital Strategy 2023-2028. Nine Vale libraries have Digital Champions to aid residents with digital skills.
- Invested £250,000 from the Welsh Government's Assets Collaboration Property Fund Pilot project in 3 community centres to help third sector/voluntary partners decarbonise leased assets. Successfully completed Eich Lle phase 1, including relocation of Council's Contact Centre (C1V) and various services to the Civic Offices enabling more efficient use of our office space.



- Elected Members received mandatory Equalities training after Local Government elections and engage in Council Equality staff network meetings. The Elected Members Champion Group supports members in advocating for key communities in the Vale.

- Let's Talk About Life in the Vale survey gathered 4,000+ responses to influence future Council decisions. Participate Vale platform hosted 83 projects for online engagement. E-petitions launched for residents and organisations to voice opinions. Public Services Board engaged 190 community members and 27 leaders to understand experiences in deprived communities.



- 88% of required savings totaling £4.139M achieved increasing from 79% in 2022/23. Despite the financial challenges the Council continues to plan to deliver an ambitious £388M Capital Programme, investing in the County's highways, schools and housing.



- Promoted engagement opportunities for young people with over 5,000 young people engaged in decision-making, such as the Youth Parliament campaign and Safe Places Scheme. 344 young people attended UNCRS workshops to help understand how they can shape decisions. Her Voice Wales won the Youth Excellence Award for promoting equality.

- Embedded the Council's new procurement policy with reference to a social value framework to ensure our activities contribute to the local economy, support work around climate change and deliver community benefits.

- Involved a variety of stakeholders to take forward climate and nature conversations including 6 primary schools received mini green and blue spaces from Vale Nature Partnership to enhance learning experiences and promote wildlife enjoyment. Project Zero Hub experienced a 1,654% increase in views, serving as a central point for citizen engagement in climate action.

- Achieved Silver Status in the Stonewall UK Workplace Equality Index. Recognised in the top 100 Inclusive Employers by Stonewall for supporting LGBTQ+ staff and customers.



- 25 young people participated in the Youth Council Climate Change Event to provide input for the Council's Annual Delivery Plan and Project Zero Challenge Plan.

- Supported nearly 100 staff members with financial wellbeing sessions, including pre-retirement planning. Reduced staff sickness rates to 10.32 days, down from 12.82 days last year. Long-term sickness days decreased to 6.69, the lowest since 2020/21.

- A Transgender Inclusion Toolkit has been approved and is being implemented in Vale of Glamorgan schools. 22 schools are working towards becoming Schools of Sanctuary. Silver Trailblazer Status awarded by Race Equality Matters.

- Collaborated with Cwmpas and engaged with stakeholders, including third sector organisations, to enhance relationships. 123 applications were received for the Shared Prosperity Fund, with 73 approved and awarded funds, benefiting social enterprises and community initiatives in the Vale of Glamorgan.

- Specialist equipment for residents with limited mobility at Barry Island and achieving Age Friendly Status were notable accomplishments. Events for Pride Month and Windrush Day were successfully held.

- 44 proposals have successfully received funding through the Vale Business Development grant to provide financial support to established businesses.



- Schools in the Vale of Glamorgan are recognised for promoting the Welsh language through awards like Siarter Iaith. Lunchtime clubs in 5 schools encourage pupils to learn Welsh. Increased number of adult Welsh learners, with 543 on courses of 60+ hours. A Council-wide campaign increased staff enrolment in Welsh courses, with 48 currently enrolled. 12.9% of Council staff self-report Welsh language skills, with 35.4% having competent to fluent speaking skills.

- Awarded the Defence Employers Recognition Scheme Gold Award

Our key areas of future focus:

- Implement the plan to address staff issues like diversity, hiring, keeping employees, planning for the future, and well-being.

- Create new ways to fund important services and find ways to save money to keep the budget in check.

- Help schools with financial problems to come up with balanced recovery plans.

- Understand customers better, especially those who are protected or disadvantaged.

- Use the Let's Talk survey results to improve how services are designed and delivered.

- Get more young people involved in the Council to have a say in different services.

- Update the website and look into using digital tools to make things easier to access and more efficient.

- Review the Capital Programme to help deal with the challenges facing our buildings and other physical assets.

- Consider community asset transfers and shared use of school facilities.

- Use the Digital Strategy to better connect with citizens and customers, and to understand data better.

- Create a new Corporate Plan and system for managing performance, focusing on results and making changes.

- Build stronger connections and work closely with Town and Community Councils and non-profit organisations.

WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 2: To support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth

Overall performance (RAG) status for Well-being Objective 2 is **GOOD**

Our achievements during 2023-24:

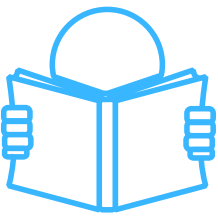
- Both Vale's Education Service and Youth Service received highly positive Estyn inspections. In the 2022/23 academic year, the Vale of Glamorgan saw improved results above national averages for A*-A, A*-C, and A*-E percentages at A level, as well as for A*-A, A-C, and A-E at AS Level.



- English medium schools in the Vale achieved awards for Welsh language provision at both primary and secondary levels.
- No vulnerable young people left compulsory education, training, or work without an approved external qualification.
- 97% of eligible childcare settings in the Vale are participating in the Childcare Offer program, benefiting 782 children. Guidance, advice, and training were offered to all childcare settings to enhance childcare provision in the Vale, with additional funding provided to 55 childcare settings.
- Luna Play conducted commissioned Play therapy in six primary schools with high participation. 91% of children mentioned that individual play therapy was beneficial for them. Additionally, 90% of children expressed that playing in the therapy room helped them understand their emotions and behaviours.



- The Vale's Whole School Approach (WSA) to Mental Health and Emotional Well-being was recognised as a significant strength, with over 94% of Vale schools implementing the WSA and completing the Self Evaluation Tool. Holton Primary School achieved School of Sanctuary status, becoming the first primary school in the Vale to do so.
- All schools have participated in Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo) training. Substantial investment in ALN has facilitated the expansion of specialised provisions, such as Ysgol Y Deri, Derw Newydd, Early Intervention Base, and Gwaun y Nant Welsh-medium base, enabling the retention of learners with complex needs within their localities.
- The construction of almost all Band B schools, including Cowbridge Primary, Derw Newydd, and Ysgol Sant Baruc, has been completed providing modern learning hubs for our learners and communities.



- The Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme has yielded various community benefits, such as: 8,373 individuals undergoing new entrant training, including graduates, work placements, and pupil placements, 3,500 hours of school engagements in STEM fields, Over 14,000 person-weeks of new entrant job opportunities, 71% of subcontractors are local to Wales, 78% of construction waste is diverted from landfills, 64% of construction expenditure is within Wales, 50% of the workforce is recruited locally, support for 74 community initiatives, including community gardens, donations to food banks, and nature restoration projects in Porthkerry Park. In addition, funding has been successfully secured for ten schools to enhance their outdoor green spaces under the scheme.

- The Big Fresh Catering Company saved the council approximately £400k last year and positively influencing learners' health and well-being. Surpluses generated are reinvested in schools, resulting in an additional £200k recently allocated to reduce budget deficits or purchase school equipment.



- 617 adult clients participated in employability services to enhance their skills and job prospects, resulting in 175 job placements. Successfully completed 12 QuickStart placements within the Council. Achieved a success rate of over 95% on accredited courses for priority learners, surpassing the national benchmark of 86% with 846 learners benefiting. Expanded options for apprenticeships and traineeships across council services, particularly for challenging recruitment posts, resulting in 41 individuals undertaking fully funded apprenticeship qualifications during the year.

- The Council attracted almost £6.373M in investment for transport improvement schemes in 2023/24, an increase from £3,685,632 in the previous year. Completed the Cogan Interchange project WelTAG Stage 2 development work. Introduced a new direct service from the interchange to key areas of Barry, including Gibbonsdown, western, and central Barry.



- Successfully obtained approval for £20 million in UK government funding over a decade for the revitalisation of Barry Waterfront. Secured funding and initiated the development of Placemaking strategies for the four main towns: Barry, Llantwit Major, Penarth, and Cowbridge, with a focus on economic growth.

- Nearly £8.7 million of Shared Prosperity Funding (SPF) has benefited 62 Vale projects, supporting Community and Place, Local Business Assistance, Skills Development for people, and contributing to town centre revitalisation, urban and rural area growth, volunteer community expansion, net zero goals, and culture, arts, and heritage events. The Vale's main town centers maintained an average vacancy rate of 10.9%, below the targeted 15%, surpassing the national average of 16%.



- Engaged with underprivileged communities in Buttrils, Gibbonsdown, and Court wards to establish connections and address their needs during regeneration projects.

- 615 businesses in the Vale received advice on funding, business planning, and new start-ups, a significant increase from 121 the previous year. Advice was provided to 170 community-led organisations, a notable rise from 29 the previous year. Financial support was extended to 24 community-led organisations, surpassing the target of 15. A total of 74 businesses benefited from the Vale Business Development Grant, Commercial Improvement Grant, and the Vale start-up Bursary Scheme, a substantial increase from 20 the previous year.

- Enhancements were made to green spaces, public areas, and transport infrastructure in Barry, Rhose, and Eglwys Brewis to support town centers.

Our key areas of future focus:

- Secure additional funding for community and business assistance, with a focus on revitalising vacant town centre buildings.
- Develop plans to enhance the appeal of key towns in the Vale for economic advancement.
- Work together to enhance bus services and improve Barry based on local needs and preferences.
- Improve project management oversight to aid major council initiatives.
- Expand apprenticeship opportunities for young adults aged 16-24 in partnership with local organisations.
- Work with the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service to monitor teaching quality and learner progress.

- Assist schools in boosting attendance, particularly in secondary education, and catering to EBSA and vulnerable learners.
- Strengthen school resources for Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) requirements and cooperate on therapeutic solutions.
- Introduce preventive actions to decrease school exclusions.
- Reduce the rate of learners not in education, employment or training (NEET) by implementing efficient monitoring and early intervention approaches.
- Guarantee sufficient support for learners with intricate requirements, especially those with neurodiversity and mental health challenges.

WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 3: To support people at home and in their community

Overall performance (RAG) status for Well-being Objective 3 is **GOOD**

Our achievements during 2023-24:

- As part of measures to support residents facing cost of living challenges, a £854K cost-of-living reserve has been established and this has supported existing and the creation of new warm spaces across the Vale.
- 31 community support organisations, including 14 schools, have benefited from a £25k cost-of-living grant from the Council this year while nearly 9,000 residents received assistance with their Council Tax through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- Over £100,000 of Welsh Government funding has also supported local food projects, distributing over 8,660 food parcels.
- Provided advice, support, information and signposted residents on a range of issues including illegal money lending, household energy efficiency, employment and training, benefits and housing. Over 773 individuals were supported via our One Stop Shop and over 880 individuals through the armed forces /veterans advice service.
- Our Family Information Service which responded to over 1,420 childcare queries, received the Families First Quality Award for exceptional support to families.
- Took action to protect our vulnerable residents with 90% of reported scams and doorstep crimes resolved or prevented through interventions and 97% of significant trading standards breaches successfully rectified. Additionally, 97% of all Vale food establishments achieved a food hygiene rating of 3 and above, above UK average.
- 329 vulnerable households were supported in resettlement schemes across the Vale of Glamorgan.
- Involved 268 partners in promoting and delivering inclusive leisure, play and sports activities with more than 42,500 participations in the Active Young People Programme alone.
- Successfully increased patronage at our leisure centres which exceeded pre-COVID levels for the first time with 741.5k visits. A further 3,500 people took up the offer of free leisure passes to try out our facilities as part of an ongoing offer to provide affordable opportunities for all residents to participate in leisure and sports activities.
- Successfully partnered across a number of sectors to prevent 61% of threatened households, 45 at-risk young people and a further 22 private tenancies from becoming homeless.
- Prioritised homeless households in temporary accommodation which has reduced time spent in temporary accommodation, with 176 people moved from hotel accommodation to more permanent accommodation.
- Vale of Glamorgan achieved Age Friendly Status, committing to work with partners and communities to support ageing well services and initiatives. From 74 pledges to date, 30 community/organisations are working towards Dementia Friendly status and nearly 900 people in the Vale are committed to being Dementia Friends.



- Further enhanced integrated approaches to care in response to residents needs including digitally upgrading Telecare services linked with falls response, delivering 3 SMART houses to support independent living for people with learning disabilities, providing short term residential reablement at the new Bay Unit at Ty Dyfan and tailored home care support for 1,016 residents.
- Our integrated health and social care single point of contact resolved 75% of calls received through information and signposting and referred 95% of urgent cases within 48 hours.
- 18 more agencies have moved to the 'Your Choice' model, giving individuals more control over their care arrangements. Around 46% of domiciliary care hours are now delivered through this model, supporting 48% of domiciliary care recipients in the Vale. The placement time for domiciliary care packages has decreased from 22 to 3 days as a result of our approach.
- Further embedded the 'Developing Services Together' approach in our work with children and their families to improve outcomes, with 72% of 3,600 children's assessments completed on time, a significant increase from 1746 last year.
- 86 CCTV cameras across the Vale were upgraded helping to capture incidents which assisted Police and council investigations, contributing to reduced levels of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour.
- 1142 adults and 109 children affected by domestic abuse were supported during the year with 95% satisfaction with services.
- Delivered 90 homes, with a further 226 under construction as part of our commitment to increase the supply of good quality affordable housing.
- Supported partners in acquiring 23 former social homes and expanded council rented accommodation by 250 units across 6 sites with a £29.1M development spend on the council house building programme.
- Took action to bring back into use 78 empty private sector properties .
- Our libraries delivered 4,559 activities /events over the year which contributed to 470k physical and 107.1k virtual visits.

Our key areas of future focus:

- Work with partners on projects to meet social care needs.
- Use the Vale Alliance Model to help residents.
- Take part in programs to address demand for children and young people's placements.
- Work in partnership to address workforce issues in Social Services.
- Provide programs to help at-risk young people early on.
- Give staff opportunities for growth to improve services.
- Use community care models to lessen hospital stays.
- Provide affordable homes to tackle housing and homelessness.
- Find ways to assist individuals at risk, especially young people.
- Coordinate prevention efforts with strategies against violence and abuse.
- Assess arts and culture provision and look to increase access in a cost-efficient manner.
- Tackle poverty and the challenges of living costs.

WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 4: To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment

Overall performance (RAG) status for Well-being Objective 4 is **GOOD**

Our achievements during 2023-24:



- Libraries have benefitted from infrastructure improvements for carbon neutrality, such as solar panels. A variety of events and activities in our libraries have promoted sustainability and climate change discussions.
- Collaborated with Sustran to provide Ebikes for carers.
- New recycling services target areas with low participation rates and assist businesses with new workplace recycling regulations.
- Improved energy performance in rental properties reducing CO2 emissions by 127.1 tonnes. Community centres undergo decarbonisation with solar panels, batteries, and LED lighting.
- Successful launch of the Project Zero hub which serves as a key contact point for citizens and staff.
- Contributed to developing a Food Strategy for the Vale.



- Completed refurbishments of rural properties with heat-pumps, solar PV, external wall insulation, and window upgrades for energy efficiency. Completed external wall insulation and window upgrades to 84 properties making them more energy efficient.
- Pedestrian improvements on various roads in Barry and Cogan. Construction of Active Travel routes in Rhoose and progress on Barry to Dinas Powys and Sully to Cosmeston routes. Implementation of timed school street closures and improvements to the Millennium trail and other routes across the Vale, promoting sustainable travel.
- Local Bus Service B3 (Barry) revised to serve the new Barry Dock Interchange. Upgrades to bus stops at Cardiff Airport and Cosmeston Country Park. Weekend free travel schemes introduced for the summer on Service 303. Promoted travel information, community transport and concessionary bus passes for 60+, disabled groups, my travel pass for 16-21 year olds.



- Installed 34 EV chargers in partnership with Cardiff Capital Region across various locations. Plans in place for an additional 24 EV charger bays to expand the network. Electric Vehicles in Council fleet increased by 8, now 6.8%.
- Held cycle to work scheme in the summer to promote uptake. Used the findings of the staff travel survey to increase use of active travel modes of transport and reduce use of private vehicle for daily commute.



- Investment in sustainable transport and community facilities through Section 106 developer payments and completed projects include new outdoor fitness equipment in St. Athan and fencing at tennis courts in Wenvoe. A modular classroom has been completed at Dinas Powys Junior School and a toucan crossing on Ffordd Mileniwm.
- Infrastructure improvements include street lighting in Llantwit Major and repairs to the Boardwalk in Cowbridge. Installations of benches, a bike pump/repair station in St. Nicholas, and a replacement bus shelter near Cosmeston Lakes.
- Public spaces enhancements include benches, bins, footpath extension, tree planting, and signage in various locations.
- Introduced a commercial service to increase recycling materials for reuse. Opened a reuse shop in Barry and exploring another site. Promoted the "Be Mighty" recycling campaign and supported waste reduction and recycling participation.
- A project improved parking at Treferad, addressing local road access and parking needs.



- Community initiatives are underway to combat litter and dumping, inspired by the Clean Slate project. Ongoing efforts to enhance Local Environmental Quality involve successful community engagement, litter picking projects, and education.
- As part of our Shoreline Management Plan, completed wave and meteorological monitoring at Penarth Pier, a Lidar survey of Penarth headland cliffs and a follow-up survey after recent cliff falls, visual inspections at Lavernock and Penarth headland to reduce the flooding risks to residents, our developed, historical and natural environments.
- 158 out of 210 noise and air pollution complaints were addressed within one working day, exceeding the target of 75%



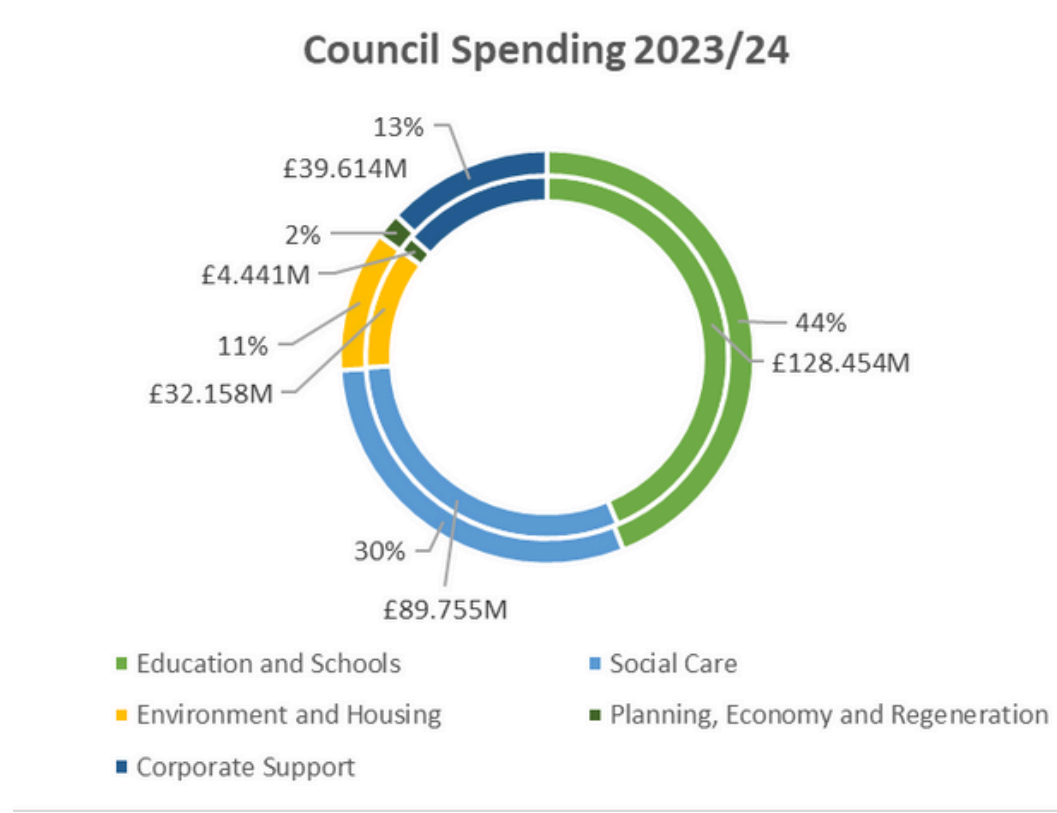
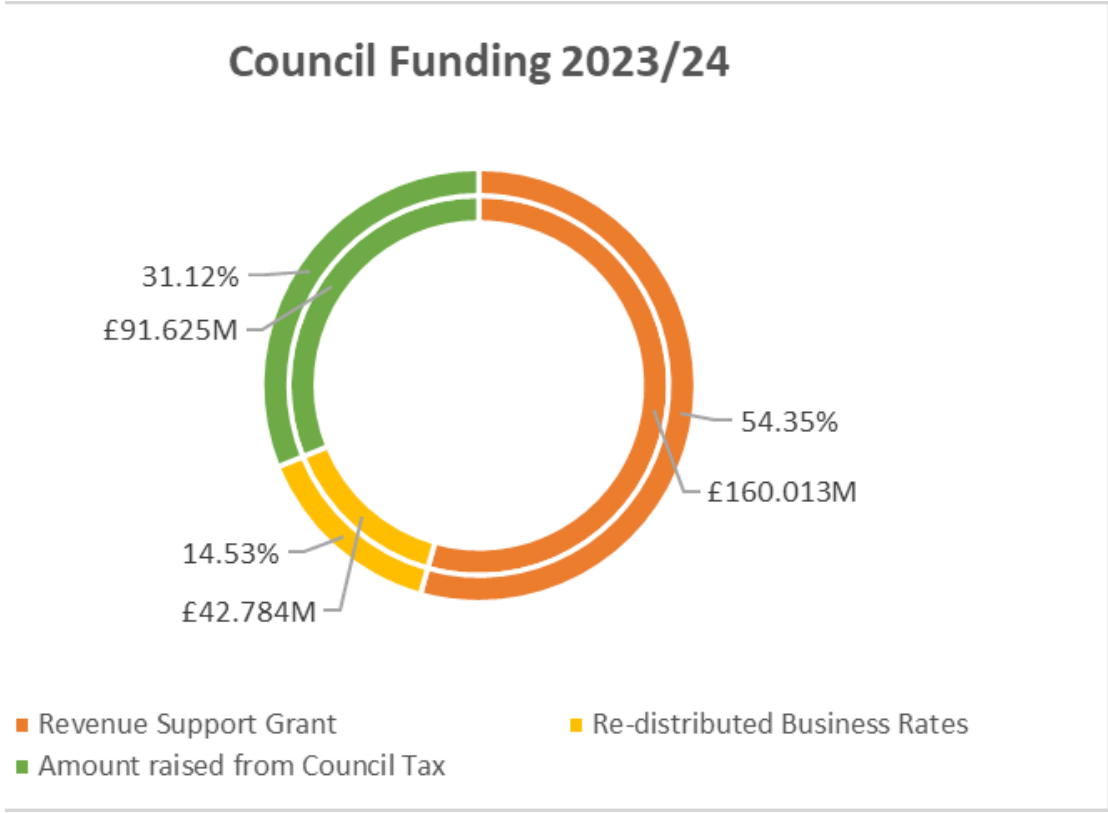
- Completed public consultation on the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Preferred Strategy.
- Completed rain gardens and a green roof cycle shelter along Station Road and at Romilly Primary School. Implemented tree planting projects like Restore the Thaw and a 15-year draft Tree Strategy.
- Planted over 320 trees in schools and nearly 21,900 trees throughout the Vale in partnership with the Local Nature Partnership.

Our key areas of future focus:

- Working together to promote sustainable practices in managing assets
- Making advancements outlined in the new Carbon Management Plan
- Enhancing focus on nature preservation in the PSB Climate Emergency Charter
- Adopting and implementing the Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Implementing the Project Zero Learning and Engagement Plan
- Promoting awareness and advancing the Biodiversity Forward plan
- Exploring ways to enhance building energy efficiency
- Supporting sustainable transportation through the Healthy Travel Charter
- Locating a new Household Waste Recycling Centre in Western Vale
- Enhancing local environmental quality in collaboration with community groups
- Progress transfers of assets to community organisations such as sports facilities
- Upgrade properties with low energy ratings (F or G) in collaboration with landlords and letting agents
- Transition the Council's fleet to electric vehicles, giving priority in procurement
- Conduct PAS2035 surveys for 4,000 Council homes by 2026
- Make our school buildings more sustainable
- Enforce Environment and Parking policies
- Review the Council's Local Development Plan
- Introduce new sewage arrangements after consulting with residents





























Where our money comes from and how we spent it

The Council's revenue budget is funded from Welsh Government, Council Tax and Business Rates, in 2023/24 the total revenue budget was £294.422 million. Spending in 2023/24 was spread across different services with education and schools and social care representing 74% of total spend.



What our budget was spent on in 2023/24 by the average Vale of Glamorgan council taxpayer (Band D property council tax: £1,464.75)

The below information illustrates how monies raised through council tax funds (which are just over 31% of the Council's revenue budget) contribute to the range of council services and activities provided during the year. Further details on spend can be viewed [here](#)

 £623.57 Education and Schools	 £440.66 Social Care	 £47.97 Black Bins and Recycling	 £15.63 Street Cleaning and Resort Management
 £8.45 Libraries	 £3.39 Swimming Pools, Leisure Centres and Play Schemes	 £10.89 Supporting Businesses and the Community	 £7.01 Homelessness Prevention
 £55.34 Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Business Rate Relief	 £29.23 School Transport & other Transport	 £30.38 Roads and infrastructure	 £1.87 Other housing including Disabled Facilities Grants
 £38.81 Fire Service and National Park Payments	 £12.23 Democracy	 £1.73 Tourism and Events	 £2.18 Public Protection, Licensing & Environmental Health (Shared Regulatory Services)
 £8.49 Parks and Gardens	 £10.79 Running our Buildings	 £3.65 Revenues and Benefits and Financial Assessment	 £1.75 Public Conveniences
 £4.03 Youth Services	 £5.29 Countryside Management	 £1.81 Community Safety and Resettlement	 £1.55 Adult and Community Learning
 £5.32 Planning and Building Control	 £1.88 Coroner	 £56.24 Corporate Support Services	 £30.20 Interest Costs and Asset Repayment

What our auditors said about us

The Auditor General annually undertakes an audit of the Council's financial statements to make sure the public money is being accounted for, examines whether the Council has put in place arrangements to secure value for money for the resources it uses and seeks assurance that the Council is complying with the sustainable development principle when setting and taking steps to meet its well-being objectives.

Find our [Annual Audit Summary](#) here

The findings from the reviews undertaken during the year have been largely positive. Our insight tracker monitors our response to external audit recommendations and we report this quarterly. For 2023/24, 47 out of 52 actions were on track.

