

## Councillor Training Sessions - 15th and 20th September 2011 - Topics for scrutiny

Category	Comment
Abbey Centre	Abbey centre - progress, consultation, overall economic development aims, balancing short term and long term (remember what is done will last 30-40 years)
Abbey Centre	Abbey Shopping Centre - economic vitality
Abbey Centre	I'd like to see the evidence that the idea of a departmental store was turned down by Scottish Widows in favour of a food store. Should we accept Scottish Widows analysis
Air Quality in Abingdon	Air Quality Action Plan in Abingdon
Air Quality in Abingdon	The impact of free parking on air quality in the centre of Abingdon.... As a result of more cars circulating looking for free spaces.
Air Quality in Abingdon	Effectiveness of "free parking" / air quality etc
Air Quality in Abingdon	The role of air quality and Abingdon AQAP in forming our Corporate Priorities
Benefits	Finance : Housing / Council tax benefits
Benefits	Benefit fraud management interesting to understand how it is tracked down, pursued, managed, and what return for work done here
Benefits	Benefits changes - challenges to address the program of change for 2013. Lead time, planning needed to impliment and manage the changes
Brown Bins	Brown Bins (billing)
Brown Bins	Brown bins - collection of fees etc
Budgeting	Budget outturn predictions
Committee System	Go back to the Committee system when Localisms Bill becomes law
Committee System	Look at the actual working of the Scrutiny Cttee. Do they have enough support from officers and general council members. Should the Cttee nos be increased ?
Committee System	Given effectiveness over Planning/housing/Land supply etc - are we educating members in Development Control adequately
Communication	Communication with residents given Unvaled is being cancelled - electronic and non-electronic
Community grants	Community grants process. Is the present system fair and equal in the current climate
Community safety	Look at success of the Community safety Plan (interesting to know what return for spend in that area)
Community safety	Community safety. To review the effectiveness of the liaison with the Police in tackling anti-social behaviour. In particular to "scrutinise" the success or otherwise of the Designated Public Places Order in Abingdon, frankly with a view to keeping it going, but also to re-visit the use of dispersal orders if necessary.

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Economic Development	Economic Development in particular process for involving the business community outside the market towns and tourism promotion district wide
Economic Development	Economic development because it is vital to our country's recovery from the recession
Economic Development	Tourism for the same reason (because it is vital for our country's recovery from recession) - it links into market towns renewal - all our market towns need help. Abingdon has made a great start last weekend - need to share good practice
Economic Development	Tourism -Vale needs to publish (more frequently) and monitor "footfall" in market towns. Faringdon Town footfall is reducing. Hence need to look at effectiveness of development plans
Elections	and still final view on ensuring perfect election services in future!
Energy Efficiency	Co2 and cost saving
Energy Efficiency	Green cost savings within Council (many depts)
Energy Efficiency	How can we encourage carbon cutting by Vale residents and businesses etc
Housing	Very concerned about the effect on the Vale of the new HMO regs, and Oxford's early adoption - landlords prob will spill over to Vale. Planning Policy.
Housing	ways to improve allocation of "council" housing to make system more transparent to users
Housing	What method is the housing department introducing a weighting factor into the calculation when allocating housing to local people ?
Housing	What plans do we have to cope with a possible influx of homeless people in the next year or two ?
IT	Value of IT projects vs business benefits - I'm not clear if IT project's are achieving their stated objectives.
IT	IT changes : To ensure innovation and changes are being made to systems to advance, be efficient and work across the 2 councils effectively
IT	Progress of the mapping systems used by planning and the impact of the Orcella system on improving efficiently
Parks	Parks. My hobby horse is the apparent low priority in dealing with invading species such as Himalayan Balsam, particularly in Abbey Meadows, though I know there have been sessions in Besseleigh.
Performance - Payroll	payroll outsource ? Capita. Needs to be a carefully constructed contract
Performance	The various groups who gather data and report on performance metrics. I think that whatever is measured is what improves and it's important to consider carefully unintended consequences of metrics

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Performance	"Internal Structures" HR etc - continued review of how the authority works internally, is it efficient ? Are targets being met ? Are budgets used effectively ? Staying accountable to both the corporate plan and public
Performance - Shared Accommodation	Economy. Leisure and property - especially important given the "current economic climate" - move towards shared accommodation with SODC ?
Performance - recharges	Internal re-charges have an impact on areas that charge for services ie planning and building control. How can these can be reduced. Perhaps renting out under-used accommodation at both sites
Performance - Leisure Contracts	Renewal of leisure centre contracts - the priorities for a contract -thinking ahead, but 2014 will come quickly
Planning	Planning : regardless of applications being assessed on its own merits, can planning demonstrate consistency with applications with determining a planning outcome
Planning	How officers can encourage and work with parishes to write "Parish type plans" re new Govt Localism Bill possibly difficult yet as there is not much to actually scrutinise)
Planning - exception sites	Housing - to research and discuss ways and means of identifying exception sites and to develop clear and simple communication with residents
Planning - exception sites	Rural exception sites are being considered for abolition under the Localism Bill. This is a concern and needs to be fed back through the consultation process
Planning	Planning - keep watching brief on upcoming new legislation to ensure that the Vale residents receive the best advice and guidance
Planning	What work is done at strategic level to promoted new housing developments
Planning - Section 106 agreements	When will the backlog of Section 106 agreements be published ? What method will be used to track payments
Science Vale UK - Enterprise Zone	Enterprise Zone : can we demonstrate that we "will" live up to expectations of ministers
Science Vale UK - Enterprise Zone	The New Harwell/Milton etc enterprise Zone
Science Vale UK - Enterprise Zone	Enterprise Zone
Science Vale UK - Enterprise Zone	Business development and Enterprise Zone and Didcot Science Vale UK - marketing strategy to promote this.
Science Vale UK - Enterprise Zone	Science Vale UK : optimisation of the opportunity - economic growth, housing/leisure, Joined up initiatives continue across partners
Service delivery	Handling service delivery in the future
Staff	HR and how well and happy staff are. Given austerity and may be limited promotion and pay rises, what is offered instead

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Street Cleaning	street cleaning in relation to areas outside the main towns and in rural village and roadside verges
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Street Cleaning	Street cleaning - although I understood that this is a current priority
Waste	Waste - potential to be more flexible with bins. Dependant on need.
Waste	waste - make sure service is maintained
Waste	waste services - after a fairly successful introduction of the new recycling/waste collection service, it would be good to review to ensure standards are kept and continued best value
Waste	Recycling - simply to keep up the pressure to do even more and whether something can be done about polystyrene packaging and containers. Also, may be litter picking, if resources are limited should be used in reports or complaints