Ceredigion County Council Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2010/11

Introduction

What is Overview and Scrutiny?

The Local Government Act 2000 provided executive arrangements which replaced the old committee system of local government with a system in which a small, clearly identified executive (the Cabinet) is responsible for providing leadership and taking decisions within a framework agreed by the full council; and where new overview and scrutiny committees review the performance of the executive and seek continuous improvement and development.

The current structure of Overview and Scrutiny in Ceredigion is based on the Council's six original departments.

The *Statutory Guidance for County and County Borough Councils in Wales on Executive and Alternative Arrangements* (2006) sets out that Overview and Scrutiny committees are an essential and integral part of executive arrangements. Under section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 they are given wide-ranging powers of review and scrutiny and the ability to make reports and recommendations on any matters relevant to the area and its inhabitants. The guidance sets out the role of councillors exercising overview and scrutiny as being:

- to hold the executive to account for the efficient exercise of executive functions – especially the performance of the executive as measured against the standards, objectives and targets set out in the policies and plans which it is implementing;

- to assist in the improvement and development of the council's policies by evaluating whether they are achieving their stated objectives, whether those policies and the way they are being implemented reflect the needs and priorities of local communities and by reporting and making recommendations to the executive or the full council;

- to review and make reports on issues which affect the authority's area or its residents; and

- to examine whether the systems the executive has in place to deliver its functions are robust and are being properly observed.

In addition, they are able to review the discharge of non-executive functions and to report on matters of more general local concern. This could link with the authority's power under Part 1 of the Act to promote economic, social and environmental well being, by identifying areas which the executive could address using this power.

The more recent Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 sets out a clear role for an authority's scrutiny function in its improvement processes: as part of its role in holding local decision makers and policy makers to account, and in its policy development role. This should extend to:

- scrutiny of the processes that an authority has gone through in the discharge of the general duty to improve;

- scrutiny of the fitness of the organisation to discharge the general duty to improve;

- scrutiny of the processes that the authority has gone through in the selection of its improvement objectives, including a review of the level of engagement with stakeholders;

- scrutiny of the monitoring of the progress of the delivery of the authority's improvement objectives;

- promoting innovation by challenging the status quo and encourage different ways of thinking and options for delivery.

Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee met on six occasions during the municipal year 2010/2011.

Standard items that are considered at each Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee include an update on developments in the Scrutiny field, and an update by the Chairmen on the work of their Committees.

Key Issues considered in 2010/11

The Committee received a presentation on the Draft Improvement Plan 2010/11 and Members were reminded of the new audit regime being introduced under the provision of the Wales Programme for Improvement. The Committee highlighted the need to progress restructuring proposals, the need to emphasise corporate working throughout the Authority and the need to tie-in the service priorities with the budgetary process.

The Committee received a briefing on the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 and the obligations relating to Child Poverty to the partnerships including the County Council. Following this it was agreed that the Committee would contribute to the production of the revised Children and Young People's Plan.

The Committee received an update on the progress of the draft Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2011-14, and also received an update on the monitoring process for the current Children and Young People's Plan 2008-11. The input of the Committee would be taken into account in the development of the CYPP 2011-14.

The proposed 2011-12 budget was presented to the Committee by the Leader, they considered it as a whole before the individual committees considered the draft budgets for their respective services. The budget for 2011-12 had been produced through involving members at an early stage by holding three budget workshops.

The proposed Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy for 2011-14 was considered by the Committee, who received the information from Council officers and representatives from Hywel Dda Health Board. The Committee recommendations would be taken into consideration in developing the action plan for including in the Strategy once the priorities had been finalised.

The Committee considered the Development of the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes for 2011/12. The role of the Co-ordinating Committee is to oversee the Forward Work Programmes and ensure that they are relevant to corporate priorities and focusing on the key areas, coordinated to avoid duplication, realistic and manageable within the resources available, and that they will add value. The Committee agreed that each committee should consider their individual Forward Work Programmes in accordance

with the guidance in the report. Members of the Committee also considered what was necessary to develop member support and development initiatives with the aim of achieving charter status in the near future.

Crime and Disorder matters

Sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 together with the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 came into force on the 1 October 2009.

They require the Council to have in place:

- A 'crime and disorder scrutiny committee' with the role of scrutinising the work of the Ceredigion Community Safety Partnership and its constituent bodies (the Council, Dyfed Powys Police, the Dyfed Powys Police Authority, the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, and the Hywel Dda Health Board which are the responsible authorities) in respect of their community safety functions

- A procedure for the overview and scrutiny committee and the partnership and its constituent bodies to deal with councillor calls for action (dealing with community safety matters) from Councillors.

The Councils existing Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee undertook the responsibilities for crime and disorder matters.

Crime and Disorder Matters and the work of the Ceredigion Community Safety Partnership

Community Safety Partnerships were originally created by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to develop and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder. The aim of the Ceredigion Partnership is to 'work with individuals, organisations and communities to build a safe, just and tolerant society for those who live and work in and who visit Ceredigion'. In addition to representatives of the responsible authorities, the Partnership also includes representatives of the Ceredigion Youth Offending Service, the Dyfed-Powys Probation Trust, the Local Public Health Team, Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Agencies, Aberystwyth University, the Substance Misuse Commissioning Coordinator and the Community Safety Manager.

Following the 2007 Strategic Assessment, the main themes of the current Community Safety Strategy 2008-11 are:

- The Evening and Late Night Economy
- Alcohol Related and Violent Crime
- Burglary and Auto-Crime
- Anti-Social Behaviour and the Fear of Crime
- Road Safety

Key Issues considered in 2010/11

The Committee received a presentation by the Community Safety Manager on the Ceredigion Crime and Disorder Strategic Assessment for 2010/11. Following the concerns of the Committee on road safety, the appropriate officers along with a representative from Mid Wales Road Trunk Roads Agency attended to give a presentation on the reviews being undertaken of existing speed limits on County roads and trunk roads.

The Committee also received information on the Anti Social Behaviour Procedures for Ceredigion from the Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator which had recently been adopted by Cabinet.

Member Attendance

Attendance by members of this Scrutiny Committee during the 2010/11 municipal year for their six meetings is shown in the table below.

Name of Scrutiny Member	**Number of Meetings Attended**
J.D.R. Jones MBE (Chair)	6
E.E. ap Gwynn (Vice Chair)	6
I. ap Dewi	6
I.Ll. Davies	1
D.W. Edwards	4
B.T. Evans	6
D.J. Evans	3
G.E. Evans	5
P.B.J. Hinge	4
C.J. Hughes	4
R.G. Lloyd	0
W.D.L. Lloyd	6
C. Miles	4
J.E. Roberts	5

Economic Development, Tourism and Europe Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Economic Development, Tourism and Europe Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on ten occasions during the municipal year 2010/2011.

Key Issues considered in 2010/11

The Committee proceeded with their review of regeneration in Ceredigion which began in 2009/10. The Committee gathered evidence from a representative of the Carmarthen Valuation Office on the recent re-valuation process of National Non Domestic Rates, representatives from the Ceredigion Chambers of trade/commerce also attended to contribute to the discussions.

The focus of one meeting was on the rural economy, a representative from FUW, the NFU Cymru Farm Policy Advisor and the Ceredigion NFU County Chairman attended to provide evidence to the Committee. The ways in which the County Council could help farmers were outlined, these included:

- making its employment conditions flexible so that part time farmers were able to obtain employment at the Council and work around farm duties;
- to encourage the Welsh Assembly Government to keep working on the road networks;
- to give priority to keeping small roads open during severe weather conditions especially for milk producers, in order to reduce the financial loss to the farmer;
- to encourage diversification by means of green energy production and micro generation;
- to encourage rural tourism e.g. holidays with horses;
- to encourage Local Procurement (services may cost more but would in the long term save local employment);
- to consider means of encouraging enterprise rather than curtailing services during the likely budget squeeze e.g. if a library costs £50K per year to run consider giving a young couple £30K to run the service.

Following the evidence gathered from this meeting it was decided that the local procurement process would be included on the Committee Forward Work Programme. The Committee also agreed that the County Farm Estate would be included on the Forward Work Programme.

Following on from the review into regeneration within Ceredigion, the Committee considered the Council's procurement strategy. This issue was raised due to the concerns of the Committee that local residents were losing out on tenders, and requested whether there were means of giving local businesses an advantage. The recommendations made by the Committee were considered by the Procurement Officers Group, who agreed that both

Members and Officers would benefit from sessions clarifying the opportunities which the current Procurement Strategy provided for procuring supplies and services. A briefing session on the current Procurement Strategy was held by a member of the legal team.

The Committee monitored the recommendation of the Highways Property and Works Overview and Scrutiny Committee on parking at weekends in Canolfan Rheidol from 2009/10 which was originally referred by the Economic Development, Tourism and Europe Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee considered the budget being recommended by Cabinet for 2011/12.

At the beginning of the year the Group Manager, Marketing and Communications updated members on Tourism and Marketing within the County. This was followed up with a presentation on the preparation of the draft Ceredigion Tourism Strategy later in the year, followed by the Committee receiving a presentation from the Director of the Tourism Company, Head of Research and Development at Trinity University College along with officers from within the Authority regarding the production of the strategy and its content. It was agreed that the Committee would continue to monitor the strategy during the next municipal year.

The Committee received an up-date on the current position with regard to the Aberystwyth Strategic Regeneration Area. Following this the Committee looked into matters relating to corporate estate dilapidations, namely addressing key vacant and underutilised properties on the seafront and in town, in particular the Bay Hotel. Following the Committee review it requested a comprehensive report on the Bay Hotel including all options available to the Council to remedy the situation, including taking action under the lease to require all necessary repair works to be undertaken for the Committee to consider prior to reporting to Cabinet.

The Committee monitored the review on the Civil Registration Service throughout the year, which will also continue into the forthcoming year. The key issues identified for improvement included staff succession planning, the role of the county training officer and county-wide training strategy, improving technical proficiency of registration staff, introducing new governance arrangements, and the unification of the three current districts.

During 2010/11 the Committee began their review into the County Farms Estate, through gathering evidence from the Estates team. The need to consider farm business plans and the possibility of achieving added value in farm diversification, use of turbines for energy production and making use of the Food Centre at Horeb and contributing to farm shops, were highlighted as areas for further consideration. The review would proceed into the next municipal year.

The Committee considered the Development of the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programme for 2011/12, which would be monitored and developed throughout the next municipal year.

Member Attendance

Attendance by members of this Scrutiny Committee during the 2010/11 municipal year for their ten meetings is shown in the table below.

Name of Scrutiny Member	**Number of Meetings Attended**
G.E. Evans (Chair)	10
R.G. Lloyd (Vice Chair)	7
T.J. Adams-Lewis	6
G. Davies	8
I.Ll. Davies	2
J.A. Davies	1
I. ap Dewi	10
D.W. Edwards	7
R. Gorman	7
S.G. Hopley	8
J.D.R Jones MBE	9
O. Llywelyn	0
D.R. Rees-Evans	10

Education, Culture and Leisure

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Education, Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on nine occasions during the municipal year 2010/2011.

Key Issues considered in 2010/11

The Committee considered and supported the Consultation draft of the Welsh Education Scheme 2010-15. Consideration was given to the key data of raising standards.

The feedback from the consultative meetings held at Tregaron and Llandysul on the Feasibility Study for 3-19 all-through school was considered by the Committee. Following this the decision of the Cabinet on developing Education in the Llandysul and Tregaron areas was called in by the Committee. Here, it was proposed that the decision be referred to Council, this was not supported by the Committee as a whole and the decision of the Cabinet was endorsed. However the Committee agreed to request Cabinet when implementing minute C490(ii), to consider an alternative pattern for the provision of 3-19 education in the Llandysul area.

The Committee were kept informed of the position with regard to the bids to be submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government for capital funding under the '21st Century Schools' scheme. The Committee received updates on the Lampeter 3-19 School Pilot Scheme. Later in the year the review and impact assessment on the Lampeter 3-19 pilot was presented to the committee.

The Committee were informed of the current position with regard to the implementation of the Council's Primary Schools strategy. There was a call in of the Cabinet decision regarding Ysgol Gymuned Penlon. Following discussions, it was agreed to recommend to Council that the Cabinet be requested to defer its decision on the school until September 2011 when the situation be reviewed and that the school cease to be maintained should pupil numbers be less than 20. The result of the vote at full Council was 12 for the motion, and 12 against with 2 abstentions, the chairman's casting vote went against the proposal and Cabinets original decision came into immediate effect.

The 2010 Educational results were presented to the Committee. A breakdown of the KS4 and post-16 results 2010 was also provided.

The Committee received a report on Special Education Needs (SEN). Following this a group made up of three Members of the Committee formed a Task and Finish Group to look at the strategy in more detail. They later reported back to the main Committee with their findings.

A representative from Rathbourne Cymru was invited to provide an outline of the work of the organisation in targeting those aged between 11 and 25 years old at risk of becoming NEETS.

The CyMAL Annual Assessment of Ceredigion library service performance against National Standards Framework was considered by the Committee. The Committee received regular updates on the relocation of the library to the town hall. Updates on leisure facilities, and work based learning (Ceredigion-Powys) were also provided to the Committee.

The Committee considered the budget being recommended by Cabinet for 2011/12.

The Committee received information on the South West and Mid Wales Consortium, comprised of six directors which met on a regular basis, to identify efficiency savings in the region.

The authors of the feasibility study on establishing a centre of educational excellence in Ceredigion presented their findings to the Committee, which would further be monitored by the Committee during the next municipal year.

Member Attendance

Attendance by members of this Scrutiny Committee during the 2010/11 municipal year for their nine meetings is shown in the table below.

Name of Scrutiny Member	**Number of Meetings Attended**
I. ap Dewi (Chair)	9
D.J Evans (Vice Chair)	6
E.E. ap Gwynn	7
I.Ll Davies	3
J.T.O Davies	7
R. Davies	7
D. Edwards	8
G.E Evans	5
P.B.J Hinge	4
C.J Hughes	8
T.H Lewis	9
R.G Lloyd	6
G.I Lloyd	6
O. Llywelyn	4
C. Miles	8
D.R Rees Evans	6
J.I Williams	6

Environmental Services and Housing

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Environmental Services and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on six occasions during the municipal year 2010/2011.

Key Issues considered in 2010/11

At the beginning of the year members received a breakdown of the current departmental structures and services with a summary of the service aims, objectives, implementation of the service plan, and outcomes. From this the Committee, decided the topics/issues that would be included as part of the Forward Work Programme of the Committee. The Committee received a demonstration of the Ffynnon system, including an update on the departmental business plans and service plans.

The Committee received a presentation on the Food Standards Agency's Food Hygiene Rating Scheme which would be rolled out across the County.

An update was provided on outstanding planning consents which are potentially extant sites, from which it was agreed to report the matter to Cabinet for further consideration. Concerns were raised that old permissions were not being implemented, which can prevent needs being met and others from bringing forward new proposals.

Members of the Committee considered a report on the Code of Sustainable Homes, this provided information on the requirements in Planning Policy Wales and Technical Advice Note regarding Planning for Sustainable Buildings, and the requirement to meet the Code for Sustainable Homes. Concerns were expressed by the Committee on the complexity of the Technical Advice Note and suggested that a simple guide be complied.

The latest performance of the Development Control Section was monitored by the Committee. This included a detailed discussion on the role of the Enforcement Officer. Following this the enforcement officer attended a meeting to update members on the draft Enforcement Charter. It was agreed that the Charter would be monitored on the quality report system. Reference was made to the Welsh Audit Office reports during the monitoring of the Development Control Service, the Committee felt that the WAO were outside their remit in matters concerning the number of members on the Development Control Committee, and the Committee noted significant improvement in the Service. The summary of actions that followed the 2008 and 2010 WAO reports were considered at a future meeting of the Committee. It was agreed that a six monthly review on planning enforcement matters be presented to the Committee.

The Committee considered a report on Dog Breeding Licensing. Consideration was given to the Health and Safety Enforcement Service, which

included details of the service, how complaints were prioritised including the colour coding of the risk matrix and local factors. The Committee monitored the Departmental Performance Indicators throughout the year.

The Committee considered the budget being recommended by Cabinet for 2011/12.

Consideration was given to the departments Swimming Pool Sampling Programme. The Committee recommended that a leaflet of guidance on the safety of water quality in small swimming pools be available to the public. It was also recommended that the swimming pool sampling service be available to the public at a commercial rate.

Affordable housing which was an item for in-depth review on the forward work programme was not considered in detail due to the work currently being undertaken by the department on affordable housing. This comprised of an affordable housing core working group and eight sub groups. The Chairman and the Vice Chairman had been invited to sit on these groups and feedback to the Committee on the progress.

Homelessness figures were considered by the Committee, in which the current position was noted. Concerns were expressed by Members on the number of homelessness cases within the County. The rationale behind the new system of the Social Housing Grant was outlined to members. Following this it was recommended that the housing strategy be updated; that a forward programme be compiled to address issues of homelessness envisaged by the changes to the benefit system; and an update on the outcome of the schemes granted by Social Housing Grant be presented at a future meeting.

Member Attendance

Attendance by members of this Scrutiny Committee during the 2010/11 municipal year for their six meetings is shown in the table below.

Name of Scrutiny Member	Number of Meetings Attended
D.W Edwards (Chair)	6
P.B.J Hinge (Vice Chair)	3
J.M Cole	4
A Davies	3
D.R Davies	3
Ll.G Edwards MBE	4
S.G Hopley	5
A.Ll Jones	4
T.H Lewis	6
J. Lumley (member from 1/12/10)	2
J.E Roberts	5
D. Suter	3
A. Williams	3

Finance and Personnel

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Finance and Personnel Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on seven occasions during the municipal year 2010/2011.

Key Issues considered in 2010/11

The Committee considered the delivery of Treasury Management Services to which they agreed that there was a need to continue with the use of financial advisors as opposed to running the services in house.

The Committee received an update on job evaluation, from which it was agreed that further updates on the model and a report on equal pay be provided to the Committee throughout the year. The Committee were also presented with information on Early Voluntary Retirement.

The Committee were kept informed of the situation with the Icelandic Bank investments throughout the year.

The Committee reviewed the provision of mobile phones to Members. They provided the following recommendations to Cabinet:

- the Leader and Deputy Leader be provided with a Windows Mobile phone for Council work purposes;
- any other Elected Member requiring a Windows Mobile phone for Council work purposes would be allowed to request such a phone subject to paying the monthly rental cost, and the capital cost over a 12 month period, via a deduction from their monthly allowances;
- the above phones would still be under the Council's ownership and subject to the terms of the Council's contract with the provider; and no Member would be allocated a standard mobile phone.

The Cabinet agreed to the Committee's recommendations.

An update was provided on staff absences from illnesses within the Council, from which it was agreed to have regular updates in the future on staff absences and on the review of the occupational health system which was being addressed. The Committee also gave consideration to the changes within HR and endorsed the recommendations which had been put forward.

The Committee considered the budget being recommended by Cabinet for 2011/12.

The Committee reviewed the Recovery of Council Tax and National Non Domestic Rates (Business Rates). The Committee further looked into the number of individuals in each Council Tax band who had failed to pay their Council Tax and the number of 'serial offenders' and 'one-offs'. Following

discussions the Committee provided the following recommendation to Cabinet, that all members should be encouraged to pay their council tax via direct debit or deduction from their monthly members allowance payments, and that a procedure is created whereby Council Tax arrears of two months would be deducted from the member's monthly allowance payment. Cabinet supported the recommendations made by the Committee.

The role of the Chair of the Council and the level of the Chairman's allowance was referred to the Committee from Council. Following this, it was agreed that the protocol on the role of the Chairman be referred to the Co-ordinating Committee. Members of the Committee contributed to completing the questionnaire received from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

Member Attendance

Attendance by members of this Scrutiny Committee during the 2010/11 municipal year for their seven meetings is shown in the table below.

Name of Scrutiny Member	Number of Meetings Attended
B.T Evans (Chair)	7
C. Miles (Vice Chair)	6
E.E ap Gwynn	6
J.M Cole	4
J.A Davies	1
G. Davies	4
D. Edwards	5
Ll.G Edwards MBE	7
D.J Evans	2
J.D.R Jones MBE	7
R.G Lloyd	6
D.R Rees-Evans	7
J.I Williams	5

Highways Property and Works Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Highways Property and Works Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on nine occasions during the municipal year 2010/2011.

Key Issues considered in 2010/11

The Committee received an update on the shared service project – engineering and building services, highlighting the key achievements to date. Members also received an update on the trunk road agency review.

The Committee considered sickness absence management within the department, including the policy, procedures, discipline, monitoring and reporting, and the statistics.

The winter maintenance programme was outlined in the autumn, which included a review of the winter maintenance service and the prioritisation of routes. It was agreed that the Committee required further clarification in relation to the legality of Town and Community Councils purchasing grit bins.

The Committee examined the food waste collection initiative before it was rolled out across the County, including the project timeline, route optimisation, vehicle purchases, publicity and the monitoring, education and enforcement. This will be further examined after it has been in operation for a year.

The Committee did a review of the proposed introduction of civil parking enforcement within the County, gathering evidence from the council officers, the consultant on civil parking and a representative from Denbighshire County Council for evidence of best practice. The Committee looked at the financial model of implementation as part of their review. The recommendation to Cabinet was that the Council moved forward with the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement, based on the business model presented. This was accepted by Cabinet.

A full presentation on the budget that would be recommended to Cabinet was provided to members. The Committee then considered the budget that was being recommended by Cabinet for 2011/12.

The Committee considered the provision of public transport within the County. As part of the review the Committee considered the comparison of change in allocations between 2007-08 and 2011-12 of the Local Transport Services Grant (LTSG). The Committee was concerned that the current formula used, does not effectively take into account the issues of providing transport in the rural counties of Wales, which have higher fuel costs, longer distances to travel, but with a population spread over greater distances than counties that are more urban in nature. The Committee expressed its views and sought an

explanation from the Welsh Assembly Government as to the rationale behind the current funding formula whereby urban areas appear to be receiving more funding than rural Counties, such as Ceredigion through the Local Transport Service Grant and why is the formula weighted towards population rather than taking into account the rurality and associated difficulties of a County such as Ceredigion.

The Committee visited the Borth coastal protection scheme to view the progress that was being made. They received information from the councils officers, and representatives from ATKINS, Bam Nuttall and Royal Haskoning. Following this members split into smaller groups to visit the site.

Member Attendance

Attendance by members of this Scrutiny Committee during the 2010/11 municipal year for their nine meetings is shown in the table below.

Name of Scrutiny Member	Number of Meetings Attended
I.Ll.Davies (Chair)	9
J.E.Roberts (Vice Chair)	7
T.J.Adams-Lewis	7
J.T.O.Davies	8
Ll.G.Edwards MBE	8
G.E.Evans	8
S.G. Hopley	9
P.James	6
T.H.Lewis	7
G.I.Lloyd	8
W.D.L.Lloyd	6
J. Lumley (member from 1/12/10)	5
S.H.Richards	4
A.Williams	6
J.I.Williams	5

Social Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Social Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on eleven occasions during the municipal year 2010/2011.

Key Issues considered in 2010/11

The Committee began their review into Dignity in Care during 2009/10 with the focus being on Dignity in Residential and Nursing Care. During 2010/11 the review progressed to look at Dignity in Domiciliary Care and Community Services and the third part of the review focused on Dignity in Discharge from hospital care. From this review members were made aware of the break down of allowances that different age groups are entitled to in order to inform their residents and be included in their ward newsletters. The review took place in response to a call by the Minister of Social Services for all local authorities to scrutinise the issue highlighted in the Ombudsman report. A large number of representatives from a wide spectrum of care agencies attended the meetings and contributed to the discussions.

The Committee considered the financial matters relating to the department following a report to Cabinet which set out the reasons why the Social Services department was set to overspend against its budget by the end of the financial year, the progress being made by the department in achieving savings through identified efficiencies and continuing challenges, and how the department are going to deal with the situation. It was noted that demographic needs meant a large increase in demand for community based services, linked to an increased flow of discharges from health care.

During 2009/10 the Committee conducted a review into Disabled Facilities Grants. During 2010/11 the Committee received an update report on the position of Disabled Facilities Grants within the Authority. The Committee will proceed to monitor the progress during 2011/12.

The Committee recommended the Director's Report to Council. They received quarterly updates on the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and the Independent Reviewing Officer's Reports.

The Committee monitored the proposals for the integration of Ceredigion Health and Social Care Services. Members were of the opinion that there should be a shared occupational therapist team between health and social services to avoid duplication of work.

The Committee undertook a review of EMI Services within the County over four meetings. Evidence was gathered from the ward manager of Enlli ward, Bronglais hospital and the Community Psychiatric Nurse with responsibility for the Community Mental Health Team. The Committee were provided with statistics and details of the service provision. At a further meeting the Committee invited representatives from a private care home provider, and the Alzheimer's Society. At the third meeting evidence was gathered from a

Carer in the Community, Care co-ordinator, a social worker for old age and psychiatry and a carer caring for a relation in the community. The fourth meeting comprised of gathering evidence from the County director of Hywel Dda, County Director of nursing, head of County Mental Health and the deputy chief officer of the Community Health Council. A clear need for EMI nursing care was recommended by the Committee for North Ceredigion. It was agreed that officers at Hywel Dda Health Board would undertake a scoping exercise in order to identify options for EMI nursing provision within the County, which would be reported to the Committee in the autumn.

The Committee reviewed the Ceredigion Local Safeguarding Children Board following the WAG inquiry into Local Safeguarding Children Boards in Wales (November 2010). An invite was sent to all members of the LSCB to attend the meeting.

The Committee considered the budget being recommended by Cabinet for 2011/12.

The provision of orthodontic services within the County due to a concern of a lack of provision within the county was considered by the Committee. The concerns raised by the Committee were passed on to Hywel Dda Health Board and referred to full Council.

The Committee considered the feasibility study for the provision of residential care for adults with dementia and the option of transforming Awel Deg Residential Home in Llandysul into a dementia care residential home in its entirety, the Committee agreed that there was a clear need for a residential premises in the South of the County and agreed to the recommendations contained in the report.

Member Attendance

Attendance by members of this Scrutiny Committee during the 2010/11 municipal year for their eleven meetings is shown in the table below.

Name of Scrutiny Member	**Number of Meetings Attended**
W. D. L. Lloyd (Chair)	11
C.J Hughes (Vice Chair)	9
E. E. ap Gwynn	9
J.M Cole	5
B.T Evans	9
G.E Evans	6
P.B.J Hinge	6
P. James	7
A.Ll Jones	10
J.D.R Jones MBE	9
T.H Lewis	8
G.I Lloyd	8
S.H Richards	10

J.E Roberts	11
J.I Williams	9

Training

June 11 2010

Scrutiny Chairs training for Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, which was facilitated by the WLGA.

5 November 2010

A development session had been arranged with the Institute of Local Government Studies at the University of Birmingham (INLOGOV) for both Chairmen and Vice-Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet Members, on the theme of developing a positive relationship between the executive and the scrutiny side to aid the improvement process.

Support

The Overview and Scrutiny function is supported by one Scrutiny Support Officer and two Democratic Services Officers.

Lisa Saycell
Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive Department
October 2011