

## **Shân Bowden, South Wales Development Officer**

Shân has had a long career in local government having worked 18 years for Glamorgan and Mid Glamorgan County Councils in central departments such as finance, chief executive's and central personnel.

Initially Shân studied and qualified in public service administration before pursuing a qualification in personnel management to support her roles as a training officer in a central personnel unit and finally as the personnel manager for the chief executive's department.

After a short break to have a family Shân returned to local government in 1997 as the Deputy Town Clerk at Penarth Town Council becoming Town Clerk in 2008 until her retirement from full time employment in March 2016.

Penarth is a large town and during Shân's period of employment the council employed 17 staff, had a precept in excess of £650,000 and was responsible for an administration centre, a community centre, a theatre, cemetery, children's play area, three allotment sites, an open space and the town's Christmas tree and street decorations.

The Council also organised an annual eleven day Summer Festival culminating in a carnival fun day and a Christmas Festival including a switching on event.

Since 2012 the Council has worked closely with its community to produce a Town Plan, which sets out the community's aspirations for the town for the coming years. The Plan continues to be progressed through a steering group of members of the local community supported by the Town Council.

Shân also worked closely with community groups on various initiatives such as Fairtrade (the first Fairtrade town in the Vale of Glamorgan), tourism initiatives, remembrance parades and events.

Shân hopes that her experience and knowledge can now be used to help support and develop the local council sector in Wales.