

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY & AUDIT COMMITTEE – 21 APRIL 2015

ACCOUNTS COMMISSION REPORT – AN OVERVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SCOTLAND 2015

REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT & FINANCE

ABSTRACT

This report presents for the Committee's interest and review a recently published report by the Accounts Commission which is relevant to the business of the Council and role of this Committee.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Reviews the Accounts Commission report "An Overview of Local Government in Scotland 2015" attached as Appendix 1 and considers the implications for the Council;
- (ii) Reviews the Self Assessment Supplement to the above Report (attached as Appendix 2) and agrees that a workshop be arranged for all members of the Council where the Supplement can be used to identify any significant issues or gaps which members consider require to be addressed.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN

This report does not contribute directly to any of the local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016 but it is a key part of the Council's overall governance arrangements and thus makes a contribution towards all of the outcomes the Council is trying to achieve.

3. PROPOSALS

The terms of reference of the committee involve consideration of relevant reports published by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. A copy of the following report and a related supplement is appended:

- An Overview of Local Government in Scotland 2014 (Appendix 1)
- Self Assessment Supplement for Councillors (Appendix 2)

Members of the Committee are asked to review the main Report and the issues raised therein.

Members are also asked to review the self-assessment supplement and agree that a separate workshop be organised, to which all members of the Council would be invited, to consider the questions posed in more detail and to allow any significant issues or gaps to be identified and actions agreed to address these. An officer commentary on the individual questions posed has been provided meantime in the comments column of the Supplement to assist but the questions raised will need to be considered by members so that any additional issues can be identified.

The Supplement (Appendix 2) asks members to assess the current position with 5 possible answers (the column headings). As an alternative Members may find it helpful to consider these questions using a more simplified assessment of:-

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

Regardless of the approach to assessment the main purpose of the Supplement is for members to identify any issues or gaps which they consider require to be addressed and the workshop proposed for the purpose is considered appropriate given the importance of the Report from the Accounts Commission.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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List of Appendices:

1. An Overview of Local Government in Scotland 2015
2. Local Government Overview 2015 - Supplement