

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY & AUDIT COMMITTEE – 26 AUGUST 2014

ANGUS COUNCIL ASSURANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE 2014-17

REPORT BY JANINE WILSON, SERVICE MANAGER-GOVERNANCE

ABSTRACT

This report considers the Angus Council [Assurance and Improvement Plan 2014-17](#).

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Scrutiny and Audit Committee consider

- (i) the contents of this report including the risk assessment and scrutiny plan
- (ii) the planned external scrutiny activity

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

This report supports services in the delivery of all local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016.

3. BACKGROUND

Following the publication of the Crerar Report in September 2007, the Scottish Government undertook to develop a simplified and more coherent approach to delivering local government scrutiny, a key aspect of this being to better co-ordinate and streamline scrutiny and achieve greater effectiveness.

Subsequently the Accounts Commission, as lead, together with other local government scrutiny bodies agreed to improve the planning and scheduling of scrutiny activity, by developing a single corporate assessment and implementing a shared risk assessment framework.

4. ANGUS COUNCIL ASSURANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN (AIP) 2014-17

The AIP process drew on a number of sources including the External Audit process, the Council's own performance data and self-evaluation and evidence from other scrutiny bodies. The risk assessment for this plan focused on the council's position in implementing the Scottish Governments reform agenda and scrutiny risk in terms of the council's improvement and transformation agenda.

The assessment places the areas reviewed into three categories

- Scrutiny required
- Further information required
- No scrutiny required

And the outcome of the Angus assessment is summarised as follows

Corporate Assessment		
Scrutiny Required	Further Information Required	No Scrutiny required
None	Leadership and direction People Management Information Management Efficiency	Governance and Accountability Community engagement and empowerment Financial management Asset management Procurement Risk management Joint working Equalities

Service Performance		
Scrutiny Required	Further Information Required	No Scrutiny required
Housing and homelessness (scrutiny required only for housing)	None	Education Social care services Non-regulated services

Improving and Transforming Public Services		
Scrutiny Required	Further Information Required	No Scrutiny required
None	Improving and transforming public services	Public performance reporting

Local Area Networks aim to conclude the AIP process in order that scrutiny plans are largely in place by 1 April. This year, however, the Quality and Consistency Review Process (QCRP) involving senior representatives from scrutiny partners (e.g. Audit Scotland, Scottish Housing Regulator) and a local authority was carried out in May 2014 and consequently AIPs were not available for circulation until June 2014. Angus' assessment was selected as one of the plans to be challenged by the QCRP this year. Thereafter, Officers sought further clarification from Audit Scotland on planned scrutiny in relation to housing and this, therefore, is the first opportunity there has been to bring the final report to this committee.

In terms of the housing element, the Scottish Housing Regulator has just issued a performance inquiry document for Officers to complete on a self-assessment basis. The Regulator will desk-review the completed document seeking assurance that the council is addressing the performance areas identified. At this point, it is not anticipated that there will be any onsite activity required this year.

5. CONCLUSION

The risk assessment discussed above translates into a scrutiny plan for the council for 2014-15 and 2015-16. A number of the scrutiny areas were timetabled for the May-July 2014 period including the Adult Services Inspection, National report follow-up work and the issue of the SHR Performance Enquiry. The other major piece of scrutiny work will be a Best Value follow up to assess the impact of the council's leadership and change programme. This is scheduled to begin in October 2015.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other implications arising from this report.

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

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List of Appendices

Angus Council Assurance and Improvement Plan 2014-17