

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 24 APRIL 2018

ACCOUNTS COMMISSION REPORTS

JOINT REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND HEAD OF FINANCE & LEGAL

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to make the committee aware of 2 reports recently published by the Accounts Commission.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Scrutiny and Audit Committee is asked to:-

- (i) note the attached reports published by the Accounts Commission;
- (ii) consider whether they would wish a briefing on the Performance and Challenges 2018 report at a future committee meeting.

2. ACCOUNTS COMMISSION REPORTS

- 2.1 Two reports have recently been published by the Accounts Commission and are attached for the committee's attention / review as follows:-
- National Scrutiny Plan 2018;
 - Local Government in Scotland: Challenges and Performance 2018.

- 2.2 Set out in the paragraphs below is an overview / commentary on the commentary of the respective contents of the reports.

National Scrutiny Plan 2018

- 2.3 The National Scrutiny Plan outlines plans for the scrutiny of local government at a strategic level for 2018/19. As such it seeks to ensure that there is a coordinated approach to this activity over the various scrutiny bodies. The plan outlines the main areas of scrutiny activity, the approach to this and the scrutiny body that will undertake each area of activity. Local Scrutiny Plans are prepared subsequent to the National Scrutiny Plan with that in relation to Angus Council also on this committee agenda.

Local Government in Scotland: Challenges and Performance 2018

- 2.4 This report provides an overview of the challenges and issues facing local government at present and is wider in scope than their earlier report "Financial Overview 2016/17" considered at the 23 January 2018 committee meeting. The report seeks to highlight the key challenges and outlines the manner in which some local authorities are seeking to address these.
- 2.5 Part 1 of the report identifies the main areas of challenge for local government and provides comparative data, as follows:-
- Funding reductions
 - Demographic change
 - Legislative change
 - Community empowerment

- 2.6 Part 2 of the report outlines how Councils are responding to these challenges through:-
- Use of Reserves;
 - Savings / transformation change programmes;
 - Income growth;
 - Workforce reductions / planning;
 - Digital solutions.
- 2.7 Part 3 of the report outlines the impact of these challenges onto Council services as identified through national performance indicators and provides a commentary on the varied performance across Scotland that has been identified.
- 2.8 In light of the themes arising from the Challenges and Performance report, the committee is asked to consider whether they would wish a briefing at a future committee meeting to outline the Council's response to the matters identified in the report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations of this report.

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 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:

Appendix 1 – National Scrutiny Plan 2018

Appendix 2 – Local Government in Scotland: Challenges and Performance 2018