

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 24 APRIL 2018**

**ANGUS COUNCIL LOCAL SCRUTINY PLAN 2018/19**

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

**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this report is to make the committee aware of a report recently published by the Accounts Commission concerning its planned scrutiny of Angus Council over 2018/19.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to note the attached report published by the Accounts Commission.

**2. ANGUS COUNCIL LOCAL SCRUTINY PLAN 2018/19**

- 2.1 The Local Scrutiny Plan outlines the specific activity for Angus Council to be undertaken in light of the National Scrutiny Plan (also on this committee agenda- Report 131/18 refers). The body of the report outlines the main scrutiny risks arising from an assessment undertaken by the Local Area Network of scrutiny bodies e.g. delivery of transformational change. The Appendix details the specific scrutiny activities that will be undertaken to assess the Council's management of these risks, together with how this assessment will be reported back to the Council.
- 2.2 The following comments are made with regard to the risks identified within the Local Scrutiny Plan:-
- 2.3 Education (paragraphs 8-10): Strategic leadership and governance of education are strong and as a result outcomes for children and young people are improving. Attainment has improved over recent years and Angus performs well against its Virtual Comparator in both Curriculum for Excellence outcomes and Insight dashboard measures.
- 2.4 Housing & Homelessness (paragraphs 11-13): the Plan reflects issues already discussed between the Council and the Scottish Housing Regulator in 2017. An internal self-assessment of performance had already identified areas of weakness, in response to which action plans were developed and underway. The service was, therefore, able to quickly respond to the Regulator and satisfy them that measures were being put in place to improve performance. Subsequently, performance has improved in the highlighted areas of: complaint handling; the re-letting of properties; tenancy sustainment; and provision and offers of temporary accommodation. However, there remain two areas of concern: the continuing upward trend in Rent Arrears; and keeping tenants informed and providing opportunities to participate.
- 2.5 Although Rent Arrears protocols are currently being reviewed to address this, it should be noted that the full roll out of Universal Credit is having a negative impact on collection rates due to increased poverty. The Housing Service is also reviewing its Tenant Participation arrangements in light of the poor customer satisfaction in this area, so that it is more integral to strategic business planning objectives and delivery in localities.
- 2.6 Duties under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) / Scotland Act (paragraph 19): The delivery of Adult Social Care forms part of the delegated functions of Angus Health & Social Care Partnership. Progress against the Strategic Commissioning Plans set out for integrated Health and Social Care remains strong, and includes the delivery of the Help to Live at Home programme, and a range of service changes as set out in the Angus Care Model. Audit Scotland activity set out for 2018/19 will include visits to Angus to review further the impact of local Partnership plans.

### **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 – Angus Council Local Scrutiny Plan 2018-19