

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 21 AUGUST 2018

**ANGUS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD
ANNUAL ASSURANCES**

REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABSTRACT

This report advises members of the IJB's 2017/18 Annual Governance Statement and Internal Audit Annual Report. It also provides a draft letter of assurance from the Convener to Angus IJB for approval.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) note the contents of the IJB 2017/18 Annual Governance Statement and provide any comments
- (ii) note the contents of the IJB 2017/18 Internal Audit Annual Report and provide any comments
- (iii) determine whether any amendments are required to the Council's Annual Governance Statement
- (iv) authorise the Convener of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee to write to Angus Health and Social Care Partnership confirming the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements in relation to the support services provided to Angus IJB

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/CORPORATE PLAN

The work of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee supports the achievement of the corporate priorities set out in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and the Council Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

Reference is made to report 206/18 submitted to this committee on 19 June 2018, which provided the Council's draft Annual Governance Statement for approval. Section 5 of the report noted that the final Annual Governance Statement requires to reflect the governance arrangements of the 'group' which, for the year to 31 March 2018, includes Tayside Valuation Board, Tayside Contracts, AngusAlive and Angus Health & Social Care Partnership.

This report provides information on the governance arrangements in place in Angus IJB during 2017/18. It also provides a draft letter of assurance from Angus Council to the IJB.

4. IJB 2017/18 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

At its meeting on 27 June 2018, the IJB's Audit Committee considered the (draft) 2017/18 IJB Annual Governance Statement. A copy of the statement and the covering committee report is attached at Appendix 1.

The statement summarises the IJB's review of the effectiveness of its governance structures and concludes:

"While there remain a number of challenging areas of governance that are still developing and require to be developed further, it is the opinion of the IJB Chairperson and Chief Officer that at 31 March 2018, reasonable assurance can be

placed upon the adequacy and effectiveness of the IJB's governance arrangements. We consider that the internal control environment provides reasonable and objective assurance that any significant risks impacting on the IJB's principal objectives will be identified and actions taken to avoid or mitigate their impact. Additionally systems are in place to regularly review and improve the internal control environment."

5. IJB 2017/18 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT

The IJB 2017/18 Annual Internal Audit report forms part of the assurances supporting the IJB's Annual Governance Statement, which in turn supports the Council's Annual Governance Statement. The Annual Audit Report was considered by the IJB's Audit Committee in June 2018 and is attached at Appendix 2 for the Scrutiny & Audit Committee's review and comment.

The Chief Internal Auditor made the following conclusions in the report at paragraphs 15 and 16:

"Based on work undertaken I have concluded that:

- Reliance can be placed on the IJBs governance arrangements and systems of internal controls for 2017/18."

"In addition, I have not advised management of any concerns around the following:

- Consistency of the Governance Statement with information that we are aware of from our work;
- The format and content of the Governance Statement in relation to the relevant guidance;
- The disclosure of all relevant issues."

6. ASSURANCES PROVIDED TO ANGUS IJB

The IJB's Annual Governance Statement makes reference to the IJB's reliance on the Council's systems of internal control. It is proposed that the Convener of this committee write to the IJB confirming the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements. A draft is provided at Appendix 3 for the committee's review and approval.

7. PROPOSALS

Members are asked to review the IJB's Annual Governance Statement and Internal Audit Annual Report and to determine whether any amendments are required to [the Council's Annual Governance Statement](#). Members are also asked to review the proposed letter of assurance to the IJB and authorise the Convener to sign the letter.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly 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. IJB 2017/18 Annual Governance Statement
2. IJB 2017/18 Annual Internal Audit Report
3. Proposed letter of assurance from Angus Council to Angus IJB