

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 24 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**SHARED RISK ASSESSMENT: A REVISED APPROACH**

**REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC POLICY, TRANSFORMATION & PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM**

**ABSTRACT**

This report is to make the Scrutiny and Audit Committee aware of the revised approach to Scrutiny Coordination and Shared Risk Assessment, following the consultation undertaken in October 2018.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

1.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny and Audit Committee:

- (i) Note revised approach to Scrutiny Coordination and Shared Risk Assessment.

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

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

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Chair of the Accounts Commission and Chair of the Strategic Scrutiny Group (SSG) wrote to the Council's Chief Executive on 31 July 2019 to provide an update on progress with a revised approach to Scrutiny Coordination and Shared Risk Assessment (SRA), following the consultation undertaken in October 2018. The letter is included in Appendix 1.

3.2 The SSG was established in February 2008 to bring together bodies scrutinising local authorities (e.g. Audit Scotland, Education Scotland, Care Inspectorate, Scottish Housing Regulator).

3.3 The SRA process was established as the vehicle for those bodies to share intelligence and agree scrutiny risks in each of Scotland's 32 Councils.

**4. PROPOSALS**

4.1 The paper developed by the Strategic Scrutiny Group (SSG) setting out the revised approach to Scrutiny Coordination and Shared Risk Assessment is included in Appendix 2.

4.2 The main findings in the report identify the need for scrutiny bodies to improve how they work together to ensure that scrutiny activity is delivered as efficiently and consistently as possible. The proposals include a more focused approach to sharing intelligence. Key aspects include:

- Improvements in the National Scrutiny Plan arrangements.
- No longer a requirement for Local Area Networks (LANs) to produce a Local Scrutiny Plan.
- LAN leads will now be the appointed auditor to the council, recognising that most routine and cyclical engagement with the council is by the appointed auditor and that needs good and routine communication from other scrutiny bodies.
- Improving the role of the SSG operational sub-group to ensure the National Scrutiny Plan remains up to date and this will be issued to appointed auditors to discuss with their council.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 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:

Appendix 1: Letter from the Chair of the Accounts Commission and Chair of the Strategic Scrutiny Group (SSG) dated 31 July 2019

Appendix 2: Scrutiny Co-ordination and Shared Risk Assessment – A revised approach