

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 19 NOVEMBER 2019

NATIONAL SCRUTINY PLAN FOR 2019/20

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

ABSTRACT

This report is to make the Scrutiny and Audit Committee aware of the National Scrutiny Plan for 2019/20.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny and Audit Committee:

- (i) Note the issue of the National Scrutiny Plan for 2019/20 (Appendix 1 refers); and
- (ii) Provide any relevant feedback to be conveyed to the Strategic Scrutiny Group (SSG).

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 Reference is made to Report 312/19 which noted the revised approach to Scrutiny Coordination and Shared Risk Assessment being applied by the Strategic Scrutiny Group (SSG).

3.2 The National Scrutiny Plan (NSP) is issued on behalf of the Strategic Scrutiny Group (SSG) for local government. The SSG comprises Scotland's main public sector scrutiny bodies.

3.3 The SSG supports the delivery of better coordinated, more proportionate and risk-based local government scrutiny. It is convened and chaired by the Accounts Commission.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 The Strategic Scrutiny Group (SSG) has highlighted that:

“This is our first NSP under the revised approach to Shared Risk Assessment (SRA). The plan shows planned scrutiny activity from September 2019 onwards. As we have highlighted in the revised guidance on SRA, the NSP will be a live document and we will be updating it every six months (or earlier if appropriate) to reflect any changes in scrutiny plans. We have also refreshed the [scrutiny improvement](#) page of our website where the plan is published to reflect changes in our approach to SRA and to make it easier for councils to find information about their scrutiny activity.

I would welcome any feedback on the NSP as we will be striving to improve and refine it over time to ensure it is as helpful as possible for councils and their partners.”

4.2 Any relevant feedback from elected members would be welcomed in response to this request from SSG, and this can be conveyed by Council officers.

4.3 It is highlighted that the scrutiny programme for 2019/20 and activity identified in Angus relates to “Engagement on services for people who are homeless” which will be undertaken by the Scottish Housing Regulator.

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: National Scrutiny Plan for 2019/20