

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 16 JUNE 2020

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE SELF-ASSESSMENT AND ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABSTRACT

This report provides a draft annual report to Council on the work undertaken by the Scrutiny and Audit committee during 2019/20.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) review the draft annual report for the year to 31 March 2020 and provide any comment;
- (ii) determine whether any amendments are required in the light of issues discussed at this meeting; and
- (iii) note that the annual report will be signed by the Convener and will be submitted to the full Council after the recess.

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

The work of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee, summarised in the annual report, contributes to the achievement of the corporate priorities set out in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and the Council Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

Guidance published by CIPFA in 2018 is accepted as best practice for local authority audit committees. CIPFA guidance recommends that all audit committees should “*report regularly on their work, and at least annually report an assessment of their performance*”. (Audit Committees Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police).

A self-assessment workshop has been held in previous years to inform the Scrutiny & Audit committee annual reports. The workshop arranged for March 2020 was postponed due to the current Covid-19 situation and following consultation with the Convenor it was agreed that a decision on when the next self-assessment is carried out will be taken once normal committee activities resume. Two self-assessment checklists from the CIPFA guidance would normally have formed the basis for discussion at the workshop as follows:

- The Good Practice self-assessment with the principles set out in the CIPFA guidance. The 2018/19 review confirmed a high level of compliance.
- The Evaluation of Effectiveness checklist is intended to help committee members to consider where the committee is most effective and where there may be scope to do more. The scores for 2018/19 demonstrated an improvement over the 2017/18 scores. Further detail is included in the annual report at Appendix 1, where these results have been repeated given that no workshop took place this year.

4. CURRENT POSITION

The annual report at appendix 1 has been prepared by the convener and vice convener to inform Angus Council of the work carried out by the Scrutiny and Audit Committee during 2019/20. It includes an action plan for 2020/21 which is based on an update on the actions identified in last year's annual report. The report concludes:

As convener of the Scrutiny & Audit Committee, I am satisfied that the work undertaken by the committee during 2019/20 provides reasonable assurance that the Council's control environment and governance framework operated effectively and efficiently during 2019/20. Actions have been put in place to address any weaknesses identified and the committee will continue to monitor completion of these actions.

5. PROPOSAL

Members are asked to review the annual report and provide any comment, and to determine whether any amendments are required in the light of issues discussed at this meeting. The report will be signed by the convener and will be submitted to Council after the recess.

6. 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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Appendix 1: Scrutiny & Audit Committee Annual Report 2019/20