

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 1 JUNE 2021

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE SELF-ASSESSMENT AND ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT BY CATHIE WYLLIE, SERVICE LEADER INTERNAL AUDIT

ABSTRACT

This report provides a draft annual report to Council on the work undertaken by the Scrutiny and Audit committee during 2020/21.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) review the draft annual report for the year to 31 March 2021 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 was held on 29 April 2021. Three self-assessment checklists from the CIPFA guidance formed the basis for discussion at the workshop as follows:

- The Knowledge and Skills framework covering core areas of knowledge; specialist areas of knowledge; and core skills. A number of actions were identified and these are detailed in Appendix 1.
- The Good Practice self-assessment with the principles set out in the CIPFA guidance. The 2020/21 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 2020/21 demonstrated continuous improvement in the effectiveness of the committee. Further detail is included in the annual report at Appendix 1.

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 2020/21. It includes an action plan for 2021/22. The report concludes:

As convener of the Scrutiny & Audit Committee, I am satisfied that the work undertaken by the committee during 2020/21 provides reasonable assurance that the Council's control environment and governance framework operated effectively and efficiently during 2020/21. 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.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required, as this report is providing reflective information for elected members.

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 2020/21