

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 7 MARCH 2017

SCRUTINY PANEL REVIEWS

**REPORT BY SHÂN COOMBS, ACTING SERVICE MANAGER GOVERNANCE AND
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ABSTRACT

This report provides an update on the 2016/17 Scrutiny Panel reviews.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Scrutiny and Audit Committee note that:

- (i) for the reasons outlined in section 4 below, no scrutiny panel reviews will be carried out during 2016/17.
- (ii) the scrutiny review topics previously agreed for 2016/17 will be included in the 2017/18 scrutiny review topic canvass.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/CORPORATE PLAN

This report supports services in the delivery of all local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016.

3. BACKGROUND

Reference is made to Item 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 21 June 2016, when it was agreed that the scrutiny review topics for the 2016/17 Scrutiny Rapid Improvement Events would be Major Service Change Projects and Sickness Absence Management.

4. CURRENT POSITION

At a scrutiny panel meeting on 24 January 2017, the following points were noted in relation to the proposed scrutiny review topics.

- **Major Service Change Projects**
On 15 November 2016, the Council agreed proposals to increase the pace and scale of change to the Transforming Angus change programme. Revised governance arrangements were also agreed. (Report 408/16 refers). Scrutiny panel members agreed that the new arrangements would require time to take effect and it would not be appropriate to undertake a scrutiny review of Major Service Change Projects at this time.
- **Sickness Absence Management**
An internal audit review of Absence Management is currently underway. The findings are due to be reported to the Scrutiny & Audit committee in March 2017.

Prior to 2016/17, sickness absence statistics were reported to this committee on a quarterly basis. In November 2016, a new Workforce Data Report was submitted, which included sickness absence figures for the period April to September 2016. It is intended to produce this report bi-annually in future. (Report 420/16 refers.)

Scrutiny panel members agreed that a scrutiny review of Sickness Absence Management should be postponed to allow time for the revised sickness absence reporting arrangements to bed-in.

Major Service Change Projects and Sickness Absence Management will be included in the list of topics for consideration during the 2017/18 scrutiny review topic canvass.

5. 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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