

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 27 OCTOBER 2022

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ASSURANCES UPDATE

REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABSTRACT

This report advises members of an update to governance assurances in respect of Angus Alive who are included in the Council's group accounts.

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Note the update relating to the governance assurances from Angus Alive and the additional information now included in the Council's Annual Governance Statement.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COMMUNITY PLAN/COUNCIL PLAN

2.1 The work of the Scrutiny & Audit Committee supports the achievement of the priorities set out in the Community Plan and the Council Plan. This report relates to the role of the Scrutiny & Audit Committee in relation to scrutiny of relationships with partners and their input to the Group Annual Governance Statement that is part of the Council's statutory annual accounts.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Reference is made to [Report 203/22](#) considered by this Committee on 23 August 2022. In section 6.2 of that report, members were asked to consider the request to delegate authority to the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform, following consultation with the Convener of this Committee, to update the Council's draft Annual Governance Statement if required, once relevant information was received from Angus Alive. It was also noted that any related changes would be reported to this Committee in October.

4. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT UPDATE

4.1 Angus Alive's Internal Audit report was received by the Council on 12 September 2022. The internal audit opinion in that report was caveated by including the exception that "...Business Planning and performance monitoring and reporting priority 1 actions from previous years remain outstanding...".

4.2 Accordingly, the following wording has been added to the Council's Annual Governance Statement: "Angus Alive's Internal Audit report has identified that Business Planning and performance monitoring and reporting priority 1 actions from previous years remain outstanding. While Angus Alive require to complete these outstanding actions with urgency, the Council is also currently pursuing improvement action in these areas as part of its contract monitoring arrangements with Angus Alive."

4.3 It is also confirmed that Angus Alive's Annual Performance Report for 2021/22 will be submitted to the Scrutiny & Audit Committee at its meeting on 31 January 2023.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

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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