

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 31 JANUARY 2023

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – ACTION PLAN UPDATES

REPORT BY VIVIEN SMITH, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC POLICY, TRANSFORMATION AND PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM

ABSTRACT

This report presents an update in relation to the Action Plan included in the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement. It also includes an update in relation to the Action Plan from the 2021/22 Scrutiny and Audit Committee Annual Report to Council.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny and Audit Committee:

- (i) review and scrutinise the update to the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement Action Plan included in Appendix 1;
- (ii) review and scrutinise the update to 2021/22 Scrutiny and Audit Committee Annual Report Action Plan to Council included in Appendix 2;
- (iii) approve the extension to the completion dates on specific actions as set out in section 4.2 of this report; and
- (iv) Note the arrangements for the Committee's 2022/23 self-assessment session on 28 March 2023 at 10am to 12noon and agree the format for the meeting (section 4.3 of this report refers).

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/COUNCIL PLAN

2.1 This report supports the Council's commitment to the principles of good corporate governance, which in turn support services in the delivery of local outcomes set out in the Community Plan and the Council Plan.

3. 2019/20 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT: ACTION PLAN UPDATE

3.1 The final 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement was included in the Council's [2021/22 audited Accounts](#), which were approved by this Committee at its meeting on 29 November 2022 ([Report 400/22](#) refers). The Annual Governance Statement included a number of improvement actions to be taken forward to strengthen the Council's corporate governance.

3.2 An update to the Action Plan is included in Appendix 1. Members are asked to review and scrutinise progress.

3.3 A further update will be reported to this Committee in June 2023 as part of the annual corporate governance review.

4. SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE 2020/21 ANNUAL REPORT: ACTION PLAN UPDATE

4.1 The Scrutiny and Audit Committee 2021/22 Annual Report was approved by the Council at its meeting on 8 September 2022 ([Report 311/22](#) and [Appendix 1](#) refer). Appendix 1 (Annex A) of that report provided an update to the Committee's Action Plan. Members will recall that the Action Plan was developed from the Committee's self-assessment workshop held on 10 March 2022.

4.2 An update to the Action Plan is included in Appendix 2. Members are asked to review and scrutinise progress. Good progress has been made in relation to the reporting and scrutiny of

risk by the committee. Approval is sought to extend the completion dates on the following actions:

- GC-S&A-0009 Roles of CLT & other Groups: propose that target date for completion is extended to 31 March 2023 (current target 30 September 2022).
- GC-S&A-0016 Risk Appetite: propose that target date for completion is extended to 30 June 2023 (current target 30 September 2022).
- GC-S&A-0017 Service Risk Registers: propose that target date for completion is extended to 30 June 2023 (current target 30 September 2022).

The explanations for the need for these extensions is also covered in the notes against each relevant action in Appendix 2.

- 4.3 The next Scrutiny and Audit self-assessment for 2022/23 has been arranged to take place on 28 March 2023 at 10am to 12noon via Microsoft Teams. It is proposed to follow the same format used in previous years. The session will be facilitated by the Service Leaders Change and Internal Audit and members of their teams. An action plan on progress with the 2021/22 action plan will be provided in advance of the meeting along with the Cipfa checklists. The checklists for Knowledge and Skills Framework; Good Practice; and Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Audit Committee will be discussed and scored where appropriate, and the action plan updated during the meeting.
- 4.4 A further update will be reported to this Committee in August 2023 as part of the Committees draft annual report for 2022/23. That report will also include any new actions identified as part of the 2022/23 self-assessment exercise noted above.

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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List of Appendices:

1. Appendix 1 - Annual Governance Statement Action Plan
2. Appendix 2 - Scrutiny and Audit Committee Annual Report Action Plan