REPORT NO 122/24

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 23 April 2024

REPORTS RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF THE SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

REPORT BY CATHIE WYLLIE, SERVICE LEADER - INTERNAL AUDIT

1. ABSTRACT

1.1 This report advises members of reports submitted to other Angus Council committees, the Council, and partner bodies that are relevant to the work of the Scrutiny and Audit committee.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY AND COUNCIL PLANS

2.1 The work of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee supports the achievement of the corporate priorities set out in Community and Council Plans. This report provides information for scrutiny, in line with the remit of the committee.

3. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny and Audit Committee:
 - (i) Reviews the reports listed at Appendix 1 and
 - (ii) Determines whether any of the reports should be the subject of a more detailed discussion by this committee

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Report <u>365/18</u> to this committee on 20 November 2018 set out the intention to submit regular summaries of reports submitted to other committees which are relevant to the work of this committee.
- 4.2 This was last reported to this committee in November 2023 covering the period 11 May 2023 to 19 October 2023. Report <u>328/23</u> refers. Appendix 1 lists reports from the period 19 October 2023 to 18 March 2024 for the committees and bodies covered in report 328/23.
- 4.3 This report includes three additional bodies that have not been reported previously: Tayside Valuation Joint Board, Tay Road Bridge Joint Board, and Tay Cities Region Deal Committee. Their information has been included in Appendix 1 from April 2023 to 28 March 2024.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 There are no direct risk management implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

- 8.1 A screening assessment has been undertaken and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required for the following reason: this report is providing reflective information for elected members.
- **NOTE:** Background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report are:

Report 365/18

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List of Appendices: 1: Committee Reports 19 October 2023 to 18 March 2024.

COMMITTEE REPORTS 19 October 2023 to 18 March 2024 and April 2023 to 28 March 2024 for bodies not previously reported

Table 1: Reports submitted to Council and Council committees

Report No.	Council/Committee	Report Title / Summary	S&A remit (see below)
R302/23	Angus Council 2 Nov. 2023	Public Bodies' Climate Change Duties: Angus Council Annual Report 2022/23 This report provides an overview of the Council's compliance with its climate change duties. The report also provides an update on the progress made in relation to the Council's measures to improve performance relating to sustainability and climate change.	40
R303/23	Angus Council 2 Nov. 2023	Angus Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan Progress Report 2023 This report provides an update on the progress and implementation of the Angus Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) which is subject to a full review every two years.	40
R304/23	Angus Council 2 Nov. 2023	Angus Council Transition to Net Zero Action Plan: 2022 to 2030 Annual Progress Update 2022/23 This report provides the first annual update to Council on the implementation of the Transition to Net Zero Action Plan 2022 – 2030 and details the progress made on our emission reduction targets for the period 2022/23.	40
R352/23	Angus Council 14 Dec. 2023	Treasury Management 2023/24 Mid-Year Review This report reviews Angus Council's treasury management arrangements, activities and performance for the period 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023	5
R353/23	Angus Council 14 Dec. 2023	Medium Term Budget Strategy 2024/25 to 2026/27 This report sets out an updated Medium Term Budget Strategy (MTBS) for Angus Council's General Fund Services incorporating the projected funding shortfall over the period 2024/25 to 2026/27.Such a strategy is critical to the council's medium term financial planning arrangements and in view of the ongoing constraints on public spending.	5

Report	Council/Committee	Report Title / Summary	S&A
No.			remit (see below)
R355/23	Angus Council 14 Dec. 2023	Governance Review This report presents to elected members 1) revised Committee Terms of Reference; 2) a revised Scheme of Delegation to Officers; and 3) proposed new Member Officer Relations Protocol, for consideration and approval. Together with the revised Standing Orders previously approved by Council on 11 May 2023, it is proposed that these revised documents will form the governance framework of the Council ("the Scheme of Governance") and will come into effect on 1 January 2024. A refreshed Council/Committee report template is also to be used as outlined in this report.	1, 15
R356/23	Angus Council 14 Dec. 2023	Proposed New Procurement Standing Orders This report presents to elected members proposed new "Procurement Standing Orders" for consideration and approval. It is proposed that these will replace the provisions in the Council's Financial Regulations relating to Contracts and Procurement and will come into effect on 1st April 2024.	1, 15
R49/24	Angus Council (Special) 29 February 2024	Council Plan, Finance & Change Plan and Workforce Plan This report presents an update to the five-year Council Plan outlining the Council's strategic direction, vision, priorities and actions for 2023 – 2028. Alongside this is the Finance & Change Plan for the three-year period from 2024 – 2027, and an update to the Workforce Plan for the period 2023 – 2028.	1, 5
R50/24	Angus Council (Special) 29 February 2024	2024/25 Revenue Budget – Summary Financial Context and Financial Sustainability Challenges This report summarises the overall financial context in which the Council needs to set its 2024/25 Revenue Budget and why this presents significant challenges for the Council's future financial sustainability and service provision. The Finance & Change Plan (Report 49/24 refers) includes proposals for savings and cuts which officers are recommending be implemented. It is acknowledged that overall many of these are not proposals that will improve outcomes for the people of Angus but in the context of our financial situation they are options that are open to members to enable them to agree a balanced budget for 2024/25. It is important for elected members, Angus taxpayers and the Council's staff to know that many of the proposals and options for budget savings presented by officers are being put forward solely out of financial necessity and not because officers would in different financial circumstances choose to propose them.	1

Report No.	Council/Committee	Report Title / Summary	S&A remit (see below)
R311/23	Children & Learning 14 Nov. 2023	Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families Annual Progress Report 2022/23 and Tayside Plan for Infants, Children, Young People and Families 2023-2026 This report provides an update on the implementation of the Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families over the last 12 months. The report highlights progress being made in relation to the five priorities outlined in the plan, with a specific focus on the local impact of shared actions of the regional collaborative. A full update is outlined in the Tayside Plan Annual Report 2022-2023 (Appendix 1). This report also presents the Tayside Plan for 2023-2026 (Appendix 2).	40
R1/24	Family, Education & Justice 9 Jan. 2024	Angus School Inspection Reports This report is to update members of the Family, Education and Justice Committee on the recent publication of reports on Education Scotland inspection activity in Angus schools.	40
R42/24	Family, Education & Justice 20 Feb. 2024	Angus Advocacy Strategic Framework 2023 – 2026 The purpose of this report is to update the Family, Education and Justice Committee on the first Framework outlining advocacy services available across Angus. The Framework outlines priorities for 2023-2026 and associated actions in relation to these priorities.	40
R316/23	Communities 21 Nov. 2023	Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2024/25 – 2028/29 This report informs members on the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for 2024/25 – 2028/29 and proposals for the use of resources from the Affordable Housing Revenue Account (AHRA)	40
R320/23	Communities 21 Nov. 2023	Statutory Biodiversity Duty Report on Delivery (2021-2023) This report details the progress made by the Council from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2023 in relation to the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out the statutory functions required by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011	40

Report No.	Council/Committee	Report Title / Summary	S&A remit (see
R321/23	Communities 21 Nov. 2023	Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2016- 26 Progress ReportThis report highlights the progress made on the delivery of the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-26. Although this is a Tayside wide plan, this initial interim review focusses on Angus progress from 2016-2023 and appropriate cross boundary projects. The monitoring undertaken for this report illustrates that 75% of actions in the plan relevant to Angus, or 116 out of 155 actions, are in delivery or complete. The progress made will also be incorporated within the Tayside wide updates for the final 2026 monitoring report.	40
R11/24	Communities 16 Jan. 2024	Arbroath Harbour – Port Marine Safety Code – Audits This report presents the updated version of the Marine Safety Management System for Arbroath Harbour along with the results of the 2023 Port Marine Safety Code audit carried out by the council's Designated Person, the results of a Maritime & Coastguard Agency health check and the results of the Northern Lighthouse Board audit all which measure the Council's performance against the Port Marine Safety Code	1, 40
R288/23	Policy & Resources 24 October 2023	Angus Council Grant Governance Proposals This report updates the Committee on the proposed defining of "core" and "non-core" funding and proposed governance arrangements for applying for, accepting and deciding on the use of "non-core" external funding and seeks approval of the recommended option for elected members involvement in decision-making. This paper sets out what approvals are already in place, notes the work underway to review guidance documents and makes recommendations for future governance. It also clarifies the scrutiny role of elected members.	1, 5
R294/23	Policy & Resources 24 October 2023	Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 – Annual Report The purpose of this report is to ask the Committee to note that Officers have reviewed the Policy and Guidelines on the Use of Covert Surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources and Surveillance Through Social Media Policy and to determine that minor amendments are required to the said Policy and Guidelines only as referred to in part 3.2 of this Report	1
R87/24	Policy & Resources 12 March 2024	Annual Procurement Report 2022-23 This report presents the Council's statutory annual procurement report under the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 and recommends that the Annual Report is now published, and the necessary return made to Scottish Ministers	1, 5

Report No.	Council/Committee	Report Title / Summary	S&A remit (see below)
November 2023	Information report	Tay Cities Region Deal AuditThis report covers the Audit carried out by theInternal Audit service of Dundee City Council toreview the governance arrangements in placefor the Tay Cities Region Deal, followingupdates to the Tay Cities Management Groupand Joint Committee respectively.The audit provided Substantial Assurance,concluding that"Governance Structures and processes for theTay Cities Region Deal are robust and well-designed. However, the failure of projects topresent business cases in line with theiroriginally agreed timescales presents a risk tothe delivery of the Deal programme.We can observe that the Partnership is takingaction to address this and other developingrisks, such as the impact of inflation on theviability of proposed and ongoing projects. Wehave raised recommendations with a view tostrengthening arrangements for monitoring,reporting, and risk management."	9

 Table 2: Reports submitted to

- Angus Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board Audit Committee
- Tayside Contracts Joint Committee.
- Tayside Valuation Joint Board
- Tay Road Bridge Joint Board, and
- Tay Cities Region Deal Joint Committee

Angus Alive reports are not included here as their meetings are not held in public.

Committee	Report Title / Summary	S&A remit (see below)
IJB Audit Committee	Agenda and reports are available at	9
25 October 2023		
	https://www.angus.gov.uk/angus_health_and_social_care_integration_joint_board_25_october_2023	
	This includes the minute from the Audit Committee meeting on 23 August 2023. Other reports of interest:	
	Report IJB 70/23 - Finance Report	
	Report IJB 71/23 – Director of Public Health Annual Report	
	Report IJB 76/23 – Workforce Planning Progress Update	
	Report IJB 77/23 – Annual Performance Report	
IJB Audit Committee 13 December 2023	Agenda and reports are available at	9
	https://www.angus.gov.uk/angus_health_and_social_care_integration_joint_board_13_december_2023	
	This includes the Chair's Assurance Reports for the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) and Clinical, Care &	
	Professional Governance (CCPG). Other reports of interest:	
	Report IJB 81/23 - Finance Report 2023/24	
	Report IJB 82/23 – Internal Audit Report – Adults with Incapacity Progress Update	
	Report IJB 83/23 – Clinical Care & Professional Governance Annual Assurance Report	
IJB Audit Committee 21 February 2024	Agenda and reports are available at	9
	https://www.angus.gov.uk/angus health and social care integration joint board 21 february 2024	
	This includes the Chair's Assurance Reports for the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) and Audit Committee. Other reports of interest:	
	Report IJB 01/24 – Appointment of Chief Officer	
	Report IJB 03/24 – Finance Report 2023/24	
	Report IJB 04/24 – Budget Settlements with Angus Council and NHS Tayside	
	Report IJB 06/24 – Angus IJB Strategic Financial Plan 2024/25 – 2026/27	
Tavaida Contracto Jaint	Report IJB 11/24 – 2023/24 Mid Year Performance Report	0
Tayside Contracts Joint Committee 28 Aug. 2023	Agenda and reports are available at : https://www.tayside-contracts.co.uk/tc-document?dsid=2136&frm=728	9
	Including the minute of the meeting on 19 June 2023.	
	Reports of particular interest:	
	JC24/2023 Risk Register for Tayside Contracts	
	JC26/2023 Annual Sickness Absence Management and Health Surveillance report 2022/2023	
	JC29/2023 Annual Health & Safety Report	

Tayside Contracts Joint	Agenda and reports are available at :	9
Committee 20 November 2023	https://www.tayside-contracts.co.uk/tc-document?dsid=2151&frm=728	
	Including the minute of the meeting on 28 August 2023.	
	Reports of particular interest:	
	JC35/2023 Supported self-assessment of Tayside Contracts - outcome	
	JC36/2023 External Audit Annual Report and Final Accounts	
	JC37/2023 Annual performance report 2022/23 JC39/2023 Review of Joint Committee Governance (includes a recommendation to delay decision about	
	establishing a Scrutiny Sub-Committee pending implementation of the rest of the recommendations in this	
	report).	
Tayside Contracts Joint	Agenda and reports are available at :	9
Committee 22 January 2024	https://www.tayside-contracts.co.uk/tc-document?dsid=2223&frm=728	
	No reports of particular interest	
Tayside Contracts Joint	Agenda and reports are available at :	9
Committee 11 March 2024	https://www.tayside-contracts.co.uk/tc-document?dsid=2234&frm=728	
	Including the minute of the meeting on 20 November 2023 and 22 January 2024.	
	Reports of particular interest:	
	JC06/2024 External Audit Plan (for 2023/24)	
	JC07/2024 Internal Audit Plan for 2024/25 – new three year appointment of Internal Auditors for 2023/24 to	
	2025/26. Report includes a three—year internal audit plan for these years JC08/2024 Scrutiny Role of Joint Committee. The report includes options for referring issues for further	
	scrutiny	
Tayside Valuation Joint		9
Board 19 June 2023	Minutes & Agendas 2023 - Tayside Valuation Joint Board (tayside-vjb.gov.uk)	
	Reports of particular interest: TVJB 8-2023 Internal Audit	
	 Report 2023/05 – Procurement and Creditors/Purchasing Satisfactory Assurance – System meets control objectives with some weaknesses present. One Priority 2 action to address a significant risk was agreed. 	
	 Report 2023/06 – Health, Safety and Wellbeing Good Assurance – system meets control objectives. Two priority 3 actions to address minor weaknesses or enhance efficiency and effectiveness. 	
	 Report 2023/07 – Annual Report Opinion "In our opinion, the Board has adequate and effective arrangements for risk management, control and governance. Proper arrangements are in place to promote and secure Value for Money." 	
	TVJB 9-2023 Risk Management/Business Continuity. The Assessor's Annual Report on Risk Management and Business Continuity arrangements.	

Tayside Valuation Board 28 August 2023	Joint	Agenda and reports are available at: Minutes & Agendas 2023 - Tayside Valuation Joint Board (tayside-vjb.gov.uk) Reports of particular interest: TVJB19-2023 Internal Audit. The Internal Audit Annual Plan for 2023/24. The plan includes three areas assessed as medium risk: Non-Domestic Rates; Payroll and Corporate Governance.	9
Tayside Valuation Board 20 November 2023	Joint	Agenda and reports are available at: Minutes & Agendas 2023 - Tayside Valuation Joint Board (tayside-vjb.gov.uk) Reports of particular interest: TVJB 23-2023 Internal Audit Report 2024/02 Payroll. The level of assurance is satisfactory - the system meets the control objectives with some weaknesses present. Two Priority 3 recommendations have been made to address minor risk or enhance efficiency or effectiveness. TVJB 27-2023 External Auditor's report on 2022-2023 Audit. Draft report to be finalised after audit sign off. Proposing that "the Board's Financial Statements give a true and fair view of its financial position to 31 March 2023" and "The audited part of the remuneration report, the management commentary and the annual governance statement were all consistent with the financial statements and prepared in accordance with the applicable requirements". The report concluded positively regarding budget monitoring and reporting arrangements, and arrangements to secure Best Value. Three recommendations were made regarding a review of future financial plans, review and update of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and review of the Fraud Guidelines and Whistleblowing Policy. Three of four actions from the previous year were assessed as complete and one related to the reserves strategy was on-going.	9
Tayside Valuation Board 22 January 2024	Joint	Agenda and reports are available at: Minutes & Agendas 2024 - Tayside Valuation Joint Board (tayside-vjb.gov.uk) Reports of particular interest: TVJB 3-2024 Internal Audit. The report presented the Internal Audit review schedule for the remainder of the 2023/24 plan, to be carried out in February and March 2024.	9
Tay Road Bridge Board 19 June 2023	Joint	Agenda and reports are available at: trbjb190623ag.pdf (tayroadbridge.co.uk) Reports of particular interest: TRB17-2023 Response to the Internal Auditor's Annual Report to Members. The Annual Report included the following opinion "In our opinion, the Board has adequate and effective arrangements for risk management, control and governance. Proper arrangements are in place to promote and secure Value for Money."	9

Tay Road Bridge Jo Board 11 September 2023	intAgenda and reports are available at: Tay Road Bridge Joint Board - Style LetterReports of particular interest: Item 7 External Auditor's Annual Report. Draft report to be finalised after audit sign off. Proposing that "Tay Road Bridge's Board's Financial Statements give a true and fair view of its financial position to 31 March 2023" and "The audited part of the remuneration report, the management commentary and the annual governance statement were all consistent with the financial statements and prepared in accordance with the applicable requirements". The report concluded positively regarding budget monitoring and reporting 	9
Tay Road Bridge Jo Board 4 December 2023	Int Agenda and reports are available at: TRBJB041223.pdf (tayroadbridge.co.uk) No reports of particular interest.	9
Tay Road Bridge Jo Board 4 March 2024	Int Agenda and reports are available at: trb040324ag.pdf (tayroadbridge.co.uk) Reports of particular interest: TRB7-2024 Response to Internal Auditor's report on Contract Management. Satisfactory Assurance – System meets control objectives with some weaknesses present. Three Priority 3 actions were agreed to address minor risk or enhance efficiency and effectiveness.	9
Tay Cities Region D Joint Committee 23 June 2023	 Agenda and reports are available at: 23 June 2023 - Tay Cities Region Joint Committee - Agenda & Papers Tay Cities Deal Reports of particular interest: PMO update for Joint Committee June 2023. This includes updates on a number of areas related to timetables, revenue and capital spending, project approval, inflation, and the Risk Register. In particular the report notes the following related to assurance: the Statement of Compliance, confirming that any grant claimed from the Scottish Government in the previous financial year (2022/23) was properly due and was used for its intended purposes in line with the terms and conditions was submitted to the Scottish Government on 28 April 2023 prior to the 30 April 2023 deadline. All projects provided Statements of Compliance to provide assurance to the S95 Officer. The 2023/24 Grant Offer letter has new clauses that include one about internal Audit. "In relation to Internal Audit - It is for the «Region_Deal_Name» Local Authority partners to allocate Internal Audit resources for «Region_Deal_Name» activities. The Accountable Body shall determine which of the «Region_Deal_Name» activities. The results of the audit will be submitted by the Accountable Body to DGEFinanceUnit@gov.scot upon completion of the audit." 	9

Tay Cities Region Dea Joint Committee 22 September 2023	 Agenda and reports are available at: 22 September 2023 - Tay Cities Region Joint Committee - Agenda & Papers Tay Cities Deal Reports of particular interest: PMO update for Joint Committee September 2023 This includes updates on a range of issues similar to the June 2023 report. It includes that the Internal Audit carried out by the Accountable Bodies Internal Audit service was presented to the management committee in August. The report was presented to Angus Councillors as an Information Report in November 2023 (as noted above). 	9
Tay Cities Region Dea Joint Committee 23 October 2023	I This meeting dealt with one item re Dundee Airport Investment Project Business Justification Case, which was taken in private.	9
Tay Cities Region Dea Joint Committee 8 December 2023	 Agenda and reports are available at: 8 December 2023 - Tay Cities Region Deal Joint Committee - Agenda & Papers Tay Cities Deal Reports of particular interest: PMO update for Joint Committee December 2023 In addition to the range of items covered similar to the June 2023 report this one includes the Annual Performance Report and Benefits Realisation Plan, covering the period October 2022 to September 2023. A draft of both documents is submitted to both Governments by 15 December 2023 and informs the Annual Conversation scheduled for February. The final versions will be presented to the Joint Committee in March 2023 for approval. 	9
Tay Cities Region Dea Joint Committee 28 March 2024		9

Extract from Scrutiny and Audit committee remit

- (1) To review the council's corporate governance arrangements against the good governance framework, including the ethical framework, and consider the local code of governance.
- (5) To consider reports on the effectiveness of financial management arrangements, including compliance with CIPFA's Financial Management Code.
- (9) To review the governance and assurance arrangements for significant partnerships or collaborations including the IJB, ANGUSalive, and Tayside Contracts.
- (15) To consider the council's framework of assurance and ensure that it adequately addresses the risks and priorities of the council.
- (40) To review the performance and effectiveness of the standard and level of service provided by council services.