

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**SCRUTINY AND AUDIT – 16 MAY 2013**

**NATIONAL SCRUTINY PLAN FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2013-14 AND ANGUS COUNCIL  
ASSURANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE 2013-16**

**REPORT BY SERVICE MANAGER - GOVERNANCE**

**ABSTRACT**

This report considers the National Scrutiny Plan for Local Government 2013/14 and the Angus Council Assurance and Improvement Plan Update 2013-16.

**1 RECOMMENDATION**

The committee note:-

- a) The National Scrutiny Plan for Local Government 2013/14
- b) The Angus Council Assurance and Improvement Plan Update 2013/16

**2 BACKGROUND**

Following the publication of the Crerar Report in September 2007, the Scottish Government undertook to develop a simplified and more coherent approach to delivering local government scrutiny, a key aspect of this being to better co-ordinate and streamline scrutiny and achieve greater effectiveness.

Subsequently the Accounts Commission, as lead, together with other local government scrutiny bodies agreed to improve the planning and scheduling of scrutiny activity, by developing a single corporate assessment and implementing a shared risk assessment framework.

**3 NATIONAL SCRUTINY PLAN FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2013-14**

The National Scrutiny Plan for Local Government is one of the key outputs from the Shared Risk Assessment work and summarises the strategic scrutiny work from April 2013 to March 2014 as described in each of the councils' individual scrutiny plan. This plan is included at [Appendix I](#).

**4 ANGUS COUNCIL ASSURANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE 2013-16**

This update drew on a number of sources including the External Audit process, the Council's own performance data and self-evaluation and evidence from other scrutiny bodies.

Although there has been a change in terminology in relation to the assessment criteria, there has only been one change in actual assessment with Homelessness improving to an assessment of "no scrutiny required" Performance across this service area is being monitored by the Scottish Housing Regulator. Other areas previously assessed as requiring no scrutiny remain so and the four areas that continue as "further information required" are:

- Leadership and culture, with developments monitored through the local audit process with focused scrutiny activity in 2014/15
- Challenge and improvement, with focused scrutiny also proposed for 2014/15
- ICT, with further work proposed to be undertaken as part of the 2012/13 annual audit process
- Use of Resources – competitiveness, with focused scrutiny in conjunction with challenge and improvement area.

Scrutiny activity in 2013-14 will also be undertaken around a follow up of the national report Scotland's Public Finances: Addressing the Challenges and a national report on Scotland's Public Finances: Workforce Planning. The Housing Benefit Audit will also be undertaken.

A copy of the Angus plan is included at [Appendix II](#).

## **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with the terms of this report.

## **6 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

There are no human rights implications associated with this report.

## **7 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

The issues contained within this report fall within an approved category that has been confirmed as exempt from an equalities perspective.

## **8 CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive, Strategic Directors of Resources, People and Communities, Head of Finance and Head of Law and Administration have been consulted on the terms of this report.

**JANINE WILSON  
SERVICE MANAGER - GOVERNANCE**

**NOTE** No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.