

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 13 JUNE 2013

AUDIT SCOTLAND OVERVIEW REPORT

REPORT BY SERVICE MANAGER - GOVERNANCE

ABSTRACT

This report informs the committee of Audit Scotland's report 'Responding to Challenges and Change, an Overview of Local Government in Scotland 2013'.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Scrutiny & Audit Committee:-

- (i) note the terms of Audit Scotland's report 'Responding to Challenges and Change, an Overview of Local Government in Scotland 2013'
- (ii) note the Accounts Commission's key messages and action points for councillors contained therein
- (iii) consider how they would wish to take forward the recommendations and action points for members.

2. INTRODUCTION

This Committee is remitted to 'consider reports published by external agencies insofar as they contribute to the overall assessment of governance, risk and internal control'.

In March 2013, Audit Scotland published 'Responding to Challenges and Change, an Overview of Local Government in Scotland 2013'. The report, copy attached, is based on findings from annual audit reports on the 2011/12 accounts and Best Value and performance audit work up to March 2013. Part 1 of the report highlights service challenges in 2013; Part 2 reviews use of resources in 2012.

The report also contains a number of key recommendations for councillors (Exhibit 1 of report) and related action points ([Appendix 1](#) of report) around the areas of:-

- Leadership and governance
- Working in partnership
- Service changes
- Performance information and management

and members are invited to consider how they would wish to take the recommendations and action points forward.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications arising directly from this report.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

6. CONSULTATION

The Strategic Director-Communities, Strategic Director-People, Strategic Director-Resources, Head of Law and Administration and Head of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

JANINE WILSON
SERVICE MANAGER, GOVERNANCE

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Sections 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 this report.

Gov/JW/SC

List of Appendices

Audit Scotland report: 'Responding to Challenges and Change, an Overview of Local Government in Scotland 2013'.