

**AUDIT SCOTLAND/ACCOUNTS COMMISSION
ACTION PLAN**

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A report was tabled at Council on 28 November 2013 advising members of the Accounts Commission Findings on the Controller of Audit's Statutory Report, and the Council agreed the development of an action plan in relation to the findings, which would be submitted to Council for approval, prior to being issued to the Accounts Commission within the 3 month timescale of end January 2014. The draft action plan is attached for consideration at **Appendix 1**.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Council agree the content of the action plan at Appendix 1.
- 2.1 The Council agree that the action plan is submitted to the Accounts Commission within the three months' timescale

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 The action plan has been prepared to take account of the findings and provides details of the various actions that the Council is going to take forward, the timescales associated with these actions, who the responsible officer(s) are, and how these link to/address each of the recommendations within the Statutory Report. The detail of the plan has been developed in consultation with Members, building on the first workshop held on 18 November 2013 and a further seminar held on 13 January 2014.
- 3.2 The action plan focuses on 4 key areas of improvement as follows;
1. Standards
 2. Governance, Structures and Process
 3. Training and Development
 4. Policy Development Support
- 3.3 A number of actions have been identified to ensure that there is effective political leadership and culture, which will allow the Council to balance strategic, corporate, operational and local objectives effectively. Key to this will be putting in place a new, effective committee structure/governance and ensuring that there is adequate support for elected members to fulfil their

roles and responsibilities. In addition, a variety of actions propose putting in place appropriate training and development for elected members. This will ensure that councillors have the tools and knowledge to allow them to effectively scrutinise progress on strategic objectives and policy, and performance at a strategic level.

- 3.3 Full details of all the actions and how these address the findings of the Statutory Report can be found within Appendix 1, which is attached. Progress against each action will be reviewed, alongside an assessment of impact and whether any further improvements are required.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 As agreed at the Council meeting held on 28 November 2013, the Council are required to develop an action plan to take account of the Accounts Commission findings and submit within the three months' time scale (end January 2014). The draft action plan is attached at Appendix 1 for consideration and approval.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy - The Council requires to have full regard to the terms of the Accounts Commission findings
- 5.2 Financial – None at this time
- 5.3 Legal – The Council requires to comply with the statutory requirements
- 5.4 HR – Additional time commitment required from Members and Officers to implement the action plan
- 5.5 Equalities - None
- 5.6 Risk – Failure to comply with the requirements could result in further action by the Accounts Commission
- 5.7 Customer Service – None

6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1 Action Plan

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