
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

21 JANUARY 2016

**AUDIT SCOTLAND/ACCOUNTS COMMISSION- STATUTORY
REPORT/FINDINGS**

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the Accounts Commission Findings on the Controller of Audit's Statutory Report on the Council and to advise on the statutory requirements in relation to the Council's consideration of the Commission's Findings and to agree the development of an improvement plan in relation to these Findings.

**AUDIT SCOTLAND/ACCOUNTS COMMISSION- STATUTORY
REPORT/FINDINGS**

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the Accounts Commission Findings on the Controller of Audit Scotland's further Statutory Report on the Council and to advise on the statutory requirements in relation to the Council's consideration of the Commission's Findings and to agree the development of an improvement plan in relation to these findings.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Council welcomes the findings, particularly in relation to the progress that the Council has made; the improvements in political and managerial leadership, decision making and scrutiny with a consequent reduction in risk and the recommendations to consolidate progress and build on this to ensure a sustainable future particularly at a time of significant financial challenge; and
- 2.2 Agrees to accept the recommendations and the development of an improvement plan to take forward the Statutory Report and Accounts Commission findings.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 All Elected Members have already been provided with a copy of the Statutory Report and Findings on Argyll and Bute Council. The Statutory Report and findings is attached to this report as Appendix 1.
- 3.2 In terms of Section 103E of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 the Council require to consider the Commission's findings at a meeting of the Council within three months of receiving them or within such longer period as the Commission may specify in writing. This duty must be discharged by the Council and not by a committee, sub-committee or officer.
- 3.3 At least seven clear days before the meeting, there must be published in a newspaper circulating in the area of the local authority a notice stating the time and place of the meeting, indicating that the meeting is to be held to consider the Findings of the Commission and any recommendations in those Findings and describing the nature of those Findings and of any such recommendations. A notice to this effect was published on 14th January 2016.

- 3.4 As soon as practicable after the Council meeting, the Commission must be notified of any decisions made and the Council must also publish in a newspaper circulating in the area of the local authority a notice containing a summary, approved by the Commission, of the Council's decision.
- 3.5 Since receipt of the report a member's workshop was held on 11th January, and outputs from this will inform the development of the improvement plan which will deal with all the findings arising from the Statutory Report and the Findings. Once developed the improvement plan will be brought to the Council for approval.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Council require to consider the Statutory Report prepared by the Controller of Audit and the Findings and consider what action requires to be taken to address the issues raised.

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- None
- 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

Sally Loudon
Chief Executive
13 January 2016

APPENDIX 1: Statutory Report by the Controller of Audit and Accounts Commission Findings