

**Audit Scotland/Accounts Commission - Improvement Plan**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 A report was tabled at Council on 21 January 2016 to advise members of the Accounts Commission findings on the Controller of Audit Scotland's further Statutory Report on the Council, and that an improvement plan would be developed in relation to these findings.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the improvement plan that has been developed to take forward the Commission findings. A copy of the action plan is attached at appendix 1 for consideration.

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**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 A report was tabled at Council on 21 January 2016 to advise members of the Accounts Commission findings on the Controller of Audit Scotland's further Statutory Report on the Council, and that an improvement plan would be developed in relation to these findings.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the improvement plan that has been developed to take forward the Commission findings. A copy of the action plan is attached at appendix 1 for consideration.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are asked to;

- 2.1 Note the progress that has been made to date against each of the improvement actions.

**3.0 DETAIL**

- 3.1 The Accounts Commission findings on the Controller of Audit Scotland's further statutory report on the Council was presented to the Council at their meeting on 21 January 2016. The Council –
1. Welcomed 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.
  2. Welcomed the recommendations to consolidate progress and build on this to ensure a sustainable future particularly at a time of significant financial challenge.
  3. Agreed to accept the recommendations and the development of an improvement plan to take forward the Statutory Report and Accounts Commission findings.
- 3.2 With regard to point 3 above, an action plan has now been developed by the Executive Director of Customer Services, Head of Governance and Law and the Head of Strategic Finance, and is attached at appendix 1 for consideration.

- 3.3 As well as detailing the action, the plan advises of the timescales surrounding these actions, identifies a responsible officer(s) and explains how the actions aim to address the recommendations. This is a similar format to that used for the action plan which was agreed by Council in January 2014.
- 3.4 The findings of the follow up audit highlighted six key areas where the council needs to improve and the plan has been produced to deliver improvement within these specific areas, which are detailed below;
1. Establish a more open and transparent culture and style of working
  2. Standards
  3. Taking a more innovative approach to dealing with financial challenges
  4. Community Engagement
  5. Local Empowerment
  6. Accessible training and development for elected members
- 3.5 Members should note that many of the improvement actions identified are already in progress or have been completed, and will continue to be monitored/recorded via the action plan to ensure we are continuing to work toward improvements in relation to the recommendations of the audit follow up report.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 An action plan has been produced with a aim of delivering improvements based on the recommendations of the Accounts Commissions findings on the Controller of Audit Scotland's further statutory report. Members are asked to note the progress that has been made to date.

#### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Policy – None at present
- 5.2 Financial – None at present
- 5.3 Legal – None at present
- 5.4 HR – None at present
- 5.5 Equalities – None at present
- 5.6 Risk – None at present
- 5.7 Customer Service – None at present

**Douglas Hendry**  
**Executive Director of Customer Services**  
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#### **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Audit Scotland Follow up Report – Action Plan