

Audit Scotland/Accounts Commission - Improvement Plan

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 A report was tabled at Council on 29 September 2016 to provide members with an update on the improvement plan that has been developed to take forward the Accounts Commission findings on the Controller of Audit Scotland's further Statutory Report on the Council.
- 1.2 It was agreed by Council that a further progress report would come to members in due course, and that the improvement action plan should be updated to incorporate the recommendations arising from the Audit Scotland 'Review of the 2016/17 budget setting process'. This has now been completed and the revised improvement plan is attached at appendix 1 for consideration.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

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- 1.2 It was agreed by Council that a further progress report would come to members in due course, and that the improvement action plan should be updated to incorporate the recommendations arising from the Audit Scotland 'Review of the 2016/17 budget setting process'. This has now been completed and the revised improvement 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 detailed within appendix 1 and agree that further monitoring of outstanding actions will be carried out via the Community Empowerment Working Group.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 A report was tabled at Council on 29 September 2016 providing a progress update on the improvement actions emerging from the latest Statutory Report, which address the following key themes;
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
- 3.2 Members acknowledged the findings of the follow up audit and the six key areas identified on where the Council needs to continue to improve (detailed above), and agreed to progress the improvement plan as tabled at the meeting.
- 3.4 In addition, the Council noted that further updates on progress should come forward in due course and that these should include progress in relation to

the budget process review. This action has been taken forward and details of the 3 key recommendations, management response, timescales, and progress against each is included on the last 2 pages of appendix 1.

- 3.5 Members should note that all of the actions identified are either on track or have been completed, and will continue to be monitored/recorded via the Community Empowerment Working Group to ensure that the outstanding recommendations arising from the audit reports are implemented fully.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 An action plan has been produced with an aim of delivering improvements based on the recommendations of the Accounts Commissions findings on the Controller of Audit Scotland's further statutory report, and now incorporates the further recommendations arising from Audit Scotland's "Review of the 2016/17 budget setting process". 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

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15 March 2017

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Audit Scotland Improvement Plan Update