

LOCAL SCRUTINY PLAN 2018/19 – AUDIT SCOTLAND

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report introduces the Local Scrutiny Plan (LSP) 2018/19 and is for members' information. The Local Scrutiny Plan sets out the planned scrutiny activity in Argyll and Bute Council during the financial year 2018/19 based on a shared risk assessment undertaken by a Local Area Network (LAN), comprising representatives of all scrutiny bodies who engage with the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Audit and Scrutiny Committee is asked to endorse the content of the Local Scrutiny Plan 2018/19.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 The LSP, at paragraph 4, confirms that the Shared Risk Assessment (SRA) process carried out by the LAN has not identified any additional risk areas for the Council where specific scrutiny work is required. In practice, what this means, is that the Council will be subject to the routine level of scrutiny that these bodies would be carrying out to complete any nationally directed programmes or constitute part of their routine scrutiny programme, for example the annual external audit carried out by Audit Scotland and inspection of school and care establishments by Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate respectively.

Paragraphs 15-20 and Appendix 1 to the LSP sets out the expected scrutiny activity which will be carried out in 2018/19 by each of the scrutiny bodies however it should be noted that the scope of some of this work is still to be determined including which councils will be focused on.

- 3.2 Paragraphs 5 to 10 of the LSP highlights areas requiring oversight and monitoring with a position statement for the Council provided for each. In summary these are:

Financial sustainability- The report recognises the steps taken by the Council to manage financial challenges including the development of a long term financial strategy. Audit Scotland will continue to monitor the Council's approach to achieving financial sustainability through the annual audit process. It is also worth noting that Internal Audit will be performing a review of budget setting and arrangements for medium to long term financial planning as part of their 2018/19 plan.

Workforce planning – Audit Scotland will monitor the progress of workforce planning through the annual audit process including reviewing the Council's workforce plan once approved.

Housing & homelessness – No specific issues for the Council.

Education & children's services – The report recognises the Council's improvements in relation to educational outcomes and our approach to quality improvement. It highlights that more time is needed to continue progressing improvements and Education Scotland will monitor this through an extended general inspection programme in 2018/19.

Social care services – Council is considered an area of low risk with no specific issues highlighted.

- 3.3 Paragraph 14 of the LSP confirms that the Council will not be subject to a Best Value assessment during 2018/19 however it is worth noting that the Council continue to prepare for a future assessment with this work lead by the Head of Improvement and Human Resources.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The LSP has not identified any risk areas within the Council which require specific scrutiny in 2018/19 however the Council will be subject to planned scrutiny activity supported by routine audit and inspection activity.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy - None
- 5.2 Financial -None
- 5.3 Legal -None
- 5.4 HR - None
- 5.5 Equalities - None
- 5.6 Risk – The LSP and any findings may inform future year audit plan.
- 5.7 Customer Service - None

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Local Scrutiny Plan 2018/19