

Angus Council

Local Scrutiny Plan

2017/18



Angus Council

Local Scrutiny Plan – April 2017 to March 2018

Introduction

1. This local scrutiny plan sets out the planned scrutiny activity in Angus Council (“the council”) during the financial year 2017/18. The plan is based on a shared risk assessment undertaken by a local area network (LAN), comprising representatives of all the scrutiny bodies who engage with the council. The shared risk assessment process draws on a range of evidence with the aim of determining any scrutiny activity required and focusing this in the most proportionate way.
2. This plan does not identify or address all risks in the council. It covers only those risk areas that the LAN has identified as requiring scrutiny, or where scrutiny is planned as part of a national programme. Planned scrutiny activity across all councils in Scotland informs the National Scrutiny Plan for 2017/18, which will be available on the Audit Scotland website.

Scrutiny risks

3. **2016/17 local scrutiny plan update:** The 2016/17 Local Scrutiny Plan did not identify any specific additional scrutiny, although scrutiny activity was undertaken as a consequence of national follow-up work or at the direction of Scottish ministers.
4. As part of the Care Inspectorate's wider planned programme of national scrutiny work, a joint inspection of services for children and young people was carried out, led by the Care Inspectorate with participation by Healthcare Improvement Scotland, Education Scotland and HMICS. The joint inspection report was published in November 2016. The inspection found improvements across a range of measures that demonstrated real improvements in the lives of children and young people, including major strengths in the health and wellbeing of babies and in children’s educational achievements. There were improving trends in the wellbeing of many aspects of the lives of vulnerable children and young people. The inspection also noted some areas for improvement and requested a joint action plan that clearly details how Angus Community Planning Partnership will make improvements in the key areas identified by inspectors.
5. The Care Inspectorate has carried out the planned validated self-evaluation (VSE) activity with Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADP). The purpose of this activity was to support the validation of ADP and services’ self-assessment of local implementation and service compliance with the Quality Principles: Standard Expectations of Care and Support in Drug & Alcohol Services. The ADP Report will now be published in May 2017 due to slippage in the original timescale.

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6. The 2016/17 LSP identified three performance audits to be undertaken by Audit Scotland covering local government:
- An audit of equal pay in councils. This is due to be reported in June 2017.
 - A follow-up audit on self-directed support. This is due to be reported in August 2017.
 - An audit of early learning and childcare. This is due to be reported in November 2017.

Angus Council was selected as a fieldwork site for the equal pay audit.

7. The Best Value audit report published in October 2016 confirmed that the council has made progress since the previous Best Value report in 2010. It has set out clearly where it wants to be as an organisation and how it plans to get there. It is heading in the right direction, but it needs to increase the pace of change and the momentum of key projects.
8. Important improvements have been made in the leadership provided by senior managers and elected members, helping the council to become more ambitious in modernising its business processes.
9. The council agreed in November 2016 to increase the pace and scale of change to its Transforming Angus change programme. This programme is critical in delivering the savings required to address the projected shortfall identified in the council's medium term financial strategy. Looking ahead to planned scrutiny in 2017/18, in following up last year's Best Value audit report, Audit Scotland will review the council's progress in increasing the scale and pace of change achieved through the Transforming Angus programme.
10. **Education:** The LAN has concluded that no specific additional scrutiny work is required beyond the ongoing inspection and support activity that Education Scotland provides to the council.
11. Education Scotland noted that, while Angus Council continues to improve educational outcomes for children and young people, it is not keeping pace with its virtual comparator authority. The Area Lead Officer (ALO) will continue to monitor this over the coming year. The ALO will also monitor the assessment and moderation processes used in the curriculum from Primary 1 to Secondary 3 to ensure robust evidence is helping teachers, parents, children and young people to understand how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum. Plans for taking forward the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) are under discussion.
12. **Housing and Homelessness:** To assess the risk to social landlord services, the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) has reviewed and compared the performance of all Scottish social landlords to identify the weakest performing landlord. SHR has assessed that no additional scrutiny is required in Angus Council beyond statutory/ongoing work during 2017/18.

13. SHR will publish the findings of its thematic inquiry work into gas safety and repairs completed during 2016/17. It may carry out further thematic inquiries during 2017/18. The SHR will also review the Scottish Social Housing Charter data submitted by landlords and carry out data accuracy visits during the second quarter of 2017/18. Where councils are to be involved in a thematic inquiry or a data accuracy visit, the SHR will confirm this directly with the council and the LAN lead.
14. **Social care:** The Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland will introduce a revised approach to the joint strategic inspections of services for adults for 2017/18 which will assess the extent to which the planning, organisation and coordination of services comply with the principles of integration and contribute to the national health and wellbeing outcomes. Inspections will include a focus on joint strategic commissioning. In 2017/18, the Care Inspectorate will also lead on thematic activity in the areas of adult support and protection and self-directed support, working with a range of scrutiny partners.
15. Adult and children's joint strategic inspections have been conducted at Angus Council, so there will not be a full inspection; however the council may be subject to a thematic inspection.
16. **Local policing:** Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMICS) will continue to inspect local policing across Scotland during 2017/18 as part of its rolling work programme. These inspections will examine, among other things, local scrutiny of and engagement with Police Scotland by councils. HMICS will also consider the local policing division's contribution to partnership working. The next local policing inspection will take place in Tayside Division in early 2017/18. Tayside Division spans the Dundee, Angus and Perth and Kinross council areas.
17. **Local fire and rescue services:** Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate is inspecting local fire and rescue services across Scotland over five years commencing in 2015/16. These inspections will examine, amongst other things, local scrutiny and engagement between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and councils. Angus Council is not included in the programme this year.

Best Value

18. The Accounts Commission agreed the overall framework for a new approach to auditing Best Value in June 2016. Best Value will be assessed over the five year audit appointment, as part of the annual audit work. In addition a Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) for each council will be considered by the Accounts Commission at least once in this five year period. The BVAR report for Angus Council is not planned in the period covered by this scrutiny plan. The Best Value audit work planned this year will focus on the council's arrangements for demonstrating Best Value in financial and service planning and financial governance and resource management. This will be reported in the Annual Audit Report.

Planned scrutiny activity

19. As shown in Appendix 1, the council will be subject to a range of risk-based and nationally driven scrutiny activity between April 2017 and March 2018. For some of their activity in 2017/18, scrutiny bodies are still to determine in their work programmes which specific councils they will cover. Where a council is to be involved, the relevant scrutiny body will confirm this with the council and the appropriate LAN lead.
20. In addition to specific work shown in Appendix 1, routine, scheduled audit and inspection work will take place through the annual audit process and the ongoing inspection of school and care establishments by Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate respectively.
21. Audit Scotland plans to undertake performance audit work in a range of areas covering local government during 2017/18. These include Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs), city deals, children's mental health services and health and social care integration. Any engagement with individual councils is still to be determined. Details of future audit work are available on the Audit Scotland [website](#).

Appendix 1: Scrutiny plan

Scrutiny body	Scrutiny activity	Date
Audit Scotland	Best Value audit work will focus on the council's arrangements for demonstrating Best Value in financial & service planning and financial governance & resource management. This will be reported in the Annual Audit Report.	Ongoing as part of 2016/17 annual audit and will be reported in September 2017
	Audit Scotland will undertake performance audits on ALEOs, city deals, children's mental health services and the integration of health and social care.	Dates and locations to be determined
Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland	In 2017/18, the Care Inspectorate will lead on thematic activity in the areas of adult support and protection and self-directed support, working with a range of scrutiny partners.	Dates and locations to be determined
Scottish Housing Regulator	SHR will publish the findings of its thematic inquiry work completed during 2016/17. It may carry out further thematic inquiries during 2017/18. SHR will also review the Charter data submitted by landlords and carry out data accuracy visits during the second quarter of 2017/18. If the council is to be involved in a thematic inquiry or a data accuracy visit SHR will confirm this directly with the council and the LAN lead.	Dates and locations for 2017/18 to be determined
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMICS)	A local policing inspection will take place in Tayside Division in early 2017/18. Tayside Division spans the Dundee, Angus and Perth and Kinross council areas.	June – August 2017


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A summary of local government strategic scrutiny activity

This report is available in PDF and RTF formats, along with a podcast summary at:
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