

East Dunbartonshire Council

Local Scrutiny Plan 2018/19



April 2018

East Dunbartonshire Council

Local Scrutiny Plan – April 2018 to March 2019

Introduction

1. This local scrutiny plan sets out any scrutiny risks identified by the local area network (LAN), proposed scrutiny responses and expected scrutiny activity for East Dunbartonshire Council during the financial year 2018/19.
2. The scrutiny risks and responses are based on a shared risk assessment undertaken by a 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 risks in the council and the Integration Joint Board (IJB).
3. Expected scrutiny activity across all councils in Scotland informs the National Scrutiny Plan for 2018/19, which is available on the Audit Scotland website.

Scrutiny risks

4. The 2018/19 shared risk assessment process has identified specific scrutiny is required in relation to weaknesses identified in housing and homelessness services. Other than this, scrutiny will be nationally directed or part of ongoing work programmes.
5. A Best Value follow-up report was presented in November 2017 to the Accounts Commission, who concluded that the council had demonstrated that it responded positively to the key findings in the December 2016 report. In addition, the Accounts Commission were of the view that the council had progressed a plan of improvement actions at a satisfactory pace, in line with expectations given the short time period since December 2016. Where it was too soon to evaluate the effectiveness of these actions, the Accounts Commission requested that the local auditor include an assessment of progress in the 2017/18 Annual Audit Report. The follow-up will include the following:
 - reporting progress against the transformation programme
 - achievement of savings to meet the council's funding shortfall for 2018/19 of £19.733 million, and a total shortfall over the three year period to 2020/21 of approximately £40 million. The effectiveness of member scrutiny in driving improvement
 - the council progress in issuing a long-term financial plan which identifies a range of scenarios and potential risks and ensures spending decisions are affordable
 - progress with the four phase workforce improvement plan, due for publication in June 2018.

6. In addition, the following areas were identified by the LAN as requiring ongoing oversight and monitoring.
7. The council appointed a new joint administration at the budget setting meeting on 20 March 2018. Prior to this, the council had no administration or council leader in place after the resignation of the previous administration in December 2017. All committee meetings were being held as special Council meetings and a cross-party working group had been established to discuss and agree budgetary decisions in February and March 2018. It is too early to assess whether this has had any adverse impact on the effectiveness of the scrutiny within the council and the council's ability to provide strategic direction. This was of specific concern with regard to the setting and agreement of the revenue and capital budgets for 2018/19.
8. The LAN noted a number of concerns in relation to housing services provided by the council. These include customer satisfaction levels, complaints handling, rent arrears, non-emergency repairs, re-let times, the provision of temporary accommodation for homeless people and the assessment of homelessness applications. The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) will engage with the council in relation to the weaknesses identified in the council's housing and homelessness services and meet with council officials where necessary.
9. East Dunbartonshire Council continues to deliver high quality educational outcomes for children and young people. The implementation of plans to close the poverty related attainment gap using Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) are progressing well.

Scrutiny activity

10. Any expected scrutiny activity between April 2018 and March 2019 is shown in Appendix 1. For some of their scrutiny activity in 2018/19, scrutiny bodies are still to determine their work programmes and which specific council areas 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.
11. 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. The outcomes of this work will help to inform future assessment of scrutiny risk.

Audit Scotland

12. The Accounts Commission agreed the overall framework for a new approach to auditing Best Value in June 2016. Best Value arrangements in the council 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 East Dunbartonshire Council is not planned in the

period covered by this scrutiny plan. As noted above we will follow up the progress made on the previous BV report. We will also examine the council's arrangements for demonstrating Best Value in delivering performance outcomes and improvement and sustainability as part of our Best Value audit work in 2017/18.

13. Audit Scotland plans to undertake national performance audit work covering local government during 2018/19 including a performance audit on City Deals. In addition, Audit Scotland will publish the findings of a performance audit relating to Arms Length External Organisations (ALEOs); Children and young people's mental health services; updates on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service integration 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 [here](#).

Care Inspectorate

14. During 2018/19 the Care Inspectorate intends to visit three health and social care partnerships to report on progress towards a more collaborative culture and integrated approach to planning and delivering services.
15. Scottish ministers have asked the Care Inspectorate to lead another programme of joint inspections of services for children and young people. The Care Inspectorate intends to carry out five joint inspections during 2018/19.
16. A thematic review of self-directed support will be carried out during 2018/19. Inspections will be undertaken in a number of areas with the aim of identifying factors which support effective delivery of self-directed support and any barriers to implementation.
17. The Care Inspectorate and their partners Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland and Healthcare Improvement Scotland carried out a joint inspection of adult support and protection services in six partnerships across Scotland. The partnerships were chosen to reflect the geography and demography of Scotland. The on-site scrutiny phase of this joint inspection took place from late October to early December 2017. East Dunbartonshire was one of the partnerships subject to this joint inspection. Partnerships have been given early feedback on the findings of the joint inspection for their partnership. The report of the joint inspection will be published in the spring of 2018. In addition to the findings for each of the partnerships, there will be an overarching themes section in the report.

Education Scotland

18. There will be no additional scrutiny in 2018/19, other than that which is nationally directed or part of ongoing work programmes, including general inspection and support activity that Education Scotland provides to the council.

Scottish Housing Regulator

19. The Scottish Housing Regulator will engage with the council in relation to weaknesses identified in the council's housing and homelessness services, and meet with council officials as necessary.
20. SHR may carry out thematic inquiries during 2018/19 or it may carry out survey or on-site work to follow up on published thematic reports. SHR will also review the Scottish Social Housing Charter data submitted by landlords and carry out data accuracy visits during the second quarter of 2018/19. Where councils are to be involved in a thematic inquiry, any follow up work to a published thematic inquiry, or a data accuracy visit, the SHR will confirm this directly with the council and the LAN lead.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland

21. During 2018/19, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) will be undertaking a local inspection of G Division, which covers the geographical area of East Dunbartonshire, along with Glasgow City and East Renfrewshire. HMICS intend to engage with chief executives and elected members as part of this review.

March 2018

Appendix 1: Scrutiny activity

Scrutiny body	Scrutiny activity	Date
Audit Scotland / external auditor	Follow up on the progress on the Accounts Commission's findings within the November 2017 Best Value follow-up report.	September 2018
Audit Scotland	Audit Scotland plans to undertake performance audit work on City Deals, Children and young people's mental health services and an update on the progress of Health and social care integration.	Dates to be determined
Care Inspectorate	Joint inspection of adult support and protection services. The on-site scrutiny phase of this joint inspection took place from late October to early December 2017. The report of the joint inspection will be published in the spring of 2018.	Spring 2018
	Joint inspection of the effectiveness of strategic planning (services for adults).	Timing of review still to be confirmed.
	A thematic review of self-directed support is to be carried out during 2018/19. The local authorities involved in the inspections are still to be identified.	Timing of review still to be determined.
Education Scotland	No additional scrutiny in 2018/19 beyond the general inspection programme.	N/A
Scottish Housing Regulator	SHR will engage with the council in relation to the weaknesses identified in the council's housing and homelessness services. SHR may carry out thematic inquiries during 2018/19 or it may carry out survey or on-site work to follow up on published thematic reports. SHR will confirm directly with the council if they are to be involved.	2018/19
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)	HMICS will undertake a local inspection of G division, which covers the geographical area of East Dunbartonshire Council, along with Glasgow City and East Renfrewshire.	Timing of review still to be confirmed


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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:

www.audit-scotland.gov.uk 

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