

**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL****25 April 2018****LOCAL SCRUTINY PLAN – 2018/2019****Report by the Depute Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer**

This report outlines the Local Scrutiny Plan (LSP) for Perth and Kinross Council. The LSP is prepared by the Local Area Network of audit, inspection and regulation bodies, as part of the annual shared risk assessment process. The LSP outlines the strategic scrutiny activity planned for 2018/19, which is based on the national scrutiny programme for 2018/19.

**1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES**

- 1.1 The assessment of the level of external scrutiny required for each council is gauged through an annual Shared Risk Assessment (SRA) by a Local Area Network (LAN), of audit, inspection and regulation bodies. This process draws on a range of evidence with the aim of determining any scrutiny risks in the Council and the Integrated Joint Board (IJB).
- 1.2 The LAN makes an assessment of the challenges likely to be faced by the Council in achieving good outcomes for local people and identifies key areas for improvement. Using this information, a scrutiny plan is developed showing what scrutiny activity the LAN will undertake to make sure the Council keeps on track with what it is trying to do and any improvements it needs to make.
- 1.3 Expected scrutiny activity across all councils in Scotland informs the [National Scrutiny Plan for 2018/19](#).

**2. LOCAL SCRUTINY PLAN 2018/19**

- 2.1 The Council's senior management team exhibits strong leadership and clear commitment to the delivery of priorities. There is a strong focus on Elected Members' challenge and scrutiny and good engagement with Members. The Annual Audit report in September 2017 concluded satisfactorily in respect of significant risk and focus areas and reported that the Council demonstrates: good financial management; strong financial performance, effective governance structure; and commitment to achieving value for money.
- 2.2 There is strong citizen involvement in the budget setting process and the Council is in a strong financial position with £80 million of useable reserves. The Medium Term Financial Plan identifies a mid-range savings requirement of £54.5 million over the next five years. Approved Revenue Budgets for 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21, provide Services with time to deliver transformation change and identify savings.

- 2.3 More could be done to demonstrate the impact of the Council's wide ranging continuous improvement activity, including how it reports its performance. Important challenges are:
- The ability to fill certain posts.
  - Higher than average teacher sickness absence rates.
  - Tackling delayed discharges.
  - The potential impact of closing the Council's sole children's care home.
  - The need to improve certain housing outcomes.
- 2.4 Under the Scottish Social Housing Charter, all social landlords submit an annual return to the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) on performance across 69 indicators. The SHR also consider Local Authority performance submissions to the Scottish Government covering approximately 100 homeless indicators.
- 2.5 The SHR compares performance across all social landlords, including smaller Registered Social Landlords.
- 2.6 The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) found that in its 2016/17 submission Perth and Kinross Council was in the bottom quartile for:
- Tenants who feel that their landlord is good at keeping them informed about services and decisions.
  - The percentage of complaints responded to in full within timescales.
  - Rent arrears.
  - The time taken to complete non-emergency repairs and repairs completed right first time - Four repairs categories were agreed with tenants and reflect the importance of emergency repairs and will lengthen the time to carry out non-emergency repairs.
- 2.7 Improvements have been progressed across these and other Charter indicators during 2017/18.
- 2.8 The SHR has identified risks in the Council's approach to homelessness and housing options: how people get access to its services; the number of homeless applications that the Council takes; the level of Not Homeless decisions it makes; and the level of refusal for its temporary accommodation.
- 2.9 Homelessness continues to present challenges nationally and has been identified as a key priority for the SHR and the Scottish Government.
- 2.10 In April 2017 the Council In April 2017 the Council introduced Home First, a new model of service delivery for homeless people that supports them wherever possible to move directly to settled accommodation. These new arrangements have significantly improved outcomes for homeless households here in Perth and Kinross.
- 2.11 At recent meeting with the Scottish Governments Homeless and Rough Sleepers Action Group( HRSAG) we received very positive feedback

*describing our new approach as “the best example they have seen so far of a systems-change approach to moving the dial on homelessness and the use of traditional TA models”*

- 2.12 The council has increased the number of housing allocations it makes to homeless people. This has had a positive impact on the number of applications waiting longer than a year for an outcome.
- 2.13 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.
- 2.14 The proposed Best Value Assurance Report programme includes publication of a report for Perth and Kinross Council in 2019. Best Value audit work for this year will focus on arrangements for demonstrating Best Value in two areas: leadership, governance and scrutiny; and improvement. Results of this work will be reported in the Annual Audit Report by the end of September.
- 2.15 Planned scrutiny activity during 2018/19 is summarised in the attached report.

### **3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Since the introduction of the shared risk assessment process in 2010, the Council has been assessed annually, and has consistently received recognition for the continuous improvements of its services. Areas for attention have been highlighted, and these are being addressed by Services.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Council notes the Local Scrutiny Plan 2018/19.

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#### **Approved**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Jim Valentine</b>	Depute Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer	13 April 2018

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes / None</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	<b>Yes</b>
Corporate Plan	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	<b>No</b>
Workforce	<b>No</b>
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	<b>No</b>
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	<b>No</b>
Strategic Environmental Assessment	<b>No</b>
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	<b>No</b>
Legal and Governance	<b>No</b>
Risk	<b>No</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	<b>Yes</b>
External	<b>No</b>
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	<b>No</b>

### 1.1 Strategic implications

#### Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan) 2017-27.

#### Corporate Plan

- 1.2 The Council's Corporate Plan 2018 – 2022 lays out five outcome focussed strategic objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. The report supports all the strategic objectives.

## 2. Resource Implications

#### Financial

- 2.1 None.

#### Workforce

- 2.2 None.

### **Asset Management (land, property, IT)**

2.3 None.

## **3. Assessments**

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

3.2 None.

### **Strategic Environmental Assessment**

3.3 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

3.4 None.

### **Sustainability**

3.5 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.

3.6 None.

### **Legal and Governance**

3.7 None.

### **Risk**

3.8 None.

## **4. Consultation**

### **Internal**

4.1 The Executive Officer Team, the Chief Officer of the Joint Board for Health and Social Care, the Head of Legal and Governance and the Head of Democratic Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **External**

4.2 None.

## **5. Communication**

5.1 None.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

2.1 The background papers referred to within the report are:

- Perth & Kinross Council: Local Scrutiny Plan – 2018/19

## **3. APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1 - Perth & Kinross Council: Local Scrutiny Plan – 2018/19