

Commission Findings

1. The Commission accepts the Controller of Audit's report on Best Value in Perth and Kinross Council. We endorse the recommendations set out by the Controller of Audit in his report and expect the council to act upon them.
2. We commend the continuing steady improvement of the council since our last Best Value audit in 2008. The council's clear strategic objectives and effective leadership have provided the basis for improvement in many services and in outcomes for the people of Perth and Kinross.
3. We also commend the council for the potential step change presented by the 'Perth and Kinross Offer', an initiative setting out how the council will improve in partnership with citizens and communities.
4. It is encouraging that council staff have a favourable view of the council's direction, although we note that the council recognises the need to manage sickness absence levels actively.
5. The council should use its approaches to self-evaluation and performance management to demonstrate better where it intends to improve and how it is progressing against its objectives.
6. The council's effective approach to financial planning means that it should be well placed to deal with projected budget pressures. We underline the Controller of Audit's recommendation to build on this by developing further its approach to longer term financial planning.
7. The council works well with partners, both within Perth and Kinross and with other neighbouring councils. We note, however, the significant potential for the community planning partnership to raise its ambition in leading change in Perth and Kinross.
8. We would encourage the council to consider how its ongoing review of its governance and decision-making might help it better involve and empower communities, given that the council acknowledges the need to improve in this regard. We note the council's ambition to become the most digitally innovative in Scotland and the recognition by the community planning partnership of the potential of digital innovation to better involve communities. It is important that such ambition is demonstrated in strategic planning and action.
9. We anticipate the council now moving forward with its ambitious strategy. Progress will be reported in the annual audit, and the Controller of Audit will update the Commission as appropriate.