



---

**REPORT TO: MORAY COUNCIL ON 28 OCTOBER 2020**

**SUBJECT: BEST VALUE ASSURANCE REPORT STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN**

**BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To approve a Plan of strategic actions in response to the Accounts Commissions findings on the Best Value Assurance Report on Moray Council by the Controller of Audit.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Council in terms of Section 103E of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **The Council is requested to approve the Best Value Assurance Report Strategic Action Plan (Appendix 1 attached) for submission to the Accounts Commission.**

**3. BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION**

- 3.1 The areas of improvement recommended in the Controller of Audit's report and endorsed by the Accounts Commission in terms of the Commission's findings were integrated into a plan of strategic actions submitted to a special meeting of Council on 07 October. It was agreed at that meeting a short life member / officer working group be established to further develop the Plan and bring it back to this meeting for approval.
- 3.2 The Working Group met and endorsed the Action Plan, subject to a minor amendment, for approval of Council. The minor amendment is to distinguish the Accounts Commission's finding about leadership from recommendation 8 about Community Planning to make it clear they are two separate priorities.
- 3.3 The Plan demonstrates the Council has;

- Clear priorities and outcome measures, ranked in a priority of 1-4 with 1 being the highest with lead officers allocated for each priority.
  - Options for significant change and is engaging with the community as it proceeds.
  - A coherent approach to performance management and reporting is working towards financial sustainability.
- 3.4 The Commission require a further report by the Controller of Audit no later than February 2022 of the progress made by the Council.
- 3.5 In terms of this milestone, six of the nine priorities are targeted for completion by the end of the 2021 calendar year with the remaining three being targeted for completion in each of the following three years.

#### 4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

##### **(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**

The Council is committed to delivering better public services year on year through Best Value and its key principle of continuous improvement.

##### **(b) Policy and Legal**

The Council has a legal duty to deliver Best Value and to address findings arising from any Best Value Assurance Reports.

##### **(c) Financial Implications**

The Council has committed £3million of earmarked reserves for transformational change which will require to be drawn upon to develop the capacity to deliver the action plan.

##### **(d) Risk Implications**

Inspections involve a considerable amount of time and effort diverting attention from the delivery of priorities and day to day services and whilst scrutiny is invaluable in driving improvement, on balance it is in the Council's interest to maintain performance levels such that the number of scrutiny activities can be minimised.

As the Council operates with small teams/specialists there is an ongoing risk associated with workforce issues. Accordingly it will be important that the actions in the Action Plan (**Appendix 1** to this report) are resourced properly and/or other work reprioritised given the tight resourcing across current services. Failure to do this is likely to introduce other risks.

There is a considerable risk that delayed progress in some of the significant actions has a substantial impact on the Council's future financial position.

There is also a considerable risk that lack of progress towards making the significant changes in the Council to produce the required improvements in performance and outcomes may result in further intervention.

**(e) Staffing Implications**

There are no implications arising directly from this report. The development of the officer capacity to deliver the required improvements related to the various actions will require to be costed as the actions are considered and initiated.

**(f) Property**

None.

**(g) Equalities/Social Economic Impact**

This is covered in terms of the inspection regime itself and the Council's duty to deliver Best Value.

**(h) Consultations**

The Convener, the Council Leader and CMT respectively have been consulted in terms of reporting to this meeting of Council. Group Leaders were also invited to a presentation by CMT on the emerging draft action plan.

**5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Plan recognises the potential to improve significantly the outcomes for Moray's communities and for the Council to continue to improve its services. Along with the findings of the Commission, the current financial imperative provides the momentum to realise that potential.

Author of Report: Roddy Burns

Background Papers:

334)

Ref: SPMAN-1108985784-359