



REPORT TO: MORAY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON 19 MAY 2021

SUBJECT: EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2020/21

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND FINANCE)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Council with a copy of the External Auditor's Annual Plan for the Annual Accounts for 2020/21.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III H (8) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to consideration of reports produced by the Council's External Auditor.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Council considers and notes the contents of the External Auditor's Annual Plan for the Annual Accounts of the Council and of the Trusts administered by the Council for 2020/21.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Annual Audit Plan for the audit of the Annual Accounts of the Council and the Trusts administered by the Council 2020/21 has been received from Audit Scotland and is attached as **APPENDIX 1** to this report. The Plan sets out the audit approach which the Auditor will take, the scope of the audit and includes the findings from the Auditor's assessment of audit risk.
- 3.2 The plan also includes the timeline of the planned audit and audit outputs.
- 3.3 Audit work will include follow up from the Best Value Assurance Report published in August 2020 and the Annual Audit Plan indicates the main areas which will be covered.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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

Although not directly linked to the Council's 10 Year Strategic Plan, the work undertaken by External Audit provides assurances to the

Committee on the Council's performance management, financial statements and the actions taken by the Council to address key risks.

(b) Policy and Legal

The audit is conducted in terms of statutory powers afforded to the appointed External Auditor and in accordance with Audit Scotland's Code of Practice.

(c) Financial implications

No financial implications arise directly from this report. The proposed audit fee will be met from within the current budgetary provision.

(d) Risk Implications

The management of risks relating to key issues for the year ahead involves all services across the Council.

(e) Staffing Implications

Preparation of the Council's annual financial statements requires significant input as part of the scheduled work of the accountancy team within Financial Services and significant contributions from many other Council services.

(f) Property

No property implications arise from this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

No implications for equalities or the socio-economic duty arise from this report.

(h) Consultations

The content of the Annual Audit Plan has been discussed with the Corporate Management Team and other relevant officers of the Council.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The Annual Audit Plan informs members and officers of the Council of the work to be undertaken by Audit Scotland in the audit of the Annual Accounts for the Council and for Trusts administered by the Council for 2020/21.

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Background Papers:

Ref: LP/LJC/

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