



REPORT TO: AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 27 FEBRUARY 2019

SUBJECT: EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2019

BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (CORPORATE SERVICES)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee with a copy of the External Auditor's annual plan for 2018/19.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (I) (8) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to consideration of reports prepared by the council's External Auditor.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee considers and notes the contents of the External Auditor's annual audit plan for 2018/19.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 An annual audit plan has been received from Audit Scotland and is attached as **Appendix 1** to this report. The plan sets out the audit approach and includes the findings from external audit's risk assessment for the council.
- 3.2 The plan also includes the timeline and scope of the planned audit.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP))

Although not specifically linked to these plans, the work of external audit provides assurances to the Committee on the financial statements and on wider aspects of the council's governance arrangements.

(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 additional costs arise directly from this report.

(d) Risk Implications

The audit plan identifies a number of risk areas that have been given due consideration in the determination of the planned audit coverage.

(e) Staffing Implications

Staff in services make time available to deal with audit matters arising, in particular the accountancy team work closely with the auditors during the audit of the annual financial statements; beyond this there are no specific staffing implications.

(f) Property

No implications.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impacts

No implications.

(h) Consultations

The content of the plan has been agreed by the Head of Financial Services and other relevant officers within the council.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The External audit plan provides Committee and officers of the council with details of the planned work of external audit (Audit Scotland) in respect of the 2018/19 financial year.

Author of Report:	Lorraine Paisey, Head of Financial Services
Background Papers:	External Audit Plan
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