
News release on behalf of the Accounts Commission

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Angus Council is focused on the future

Angus Council has strong leadership and a focus on collaboration and improvement.

The council is clear about its current and future financial challenges, with increasing service demands and rising costs. It is working hard to address this. The council collaborates excellently with external partners, including the NHS and has set up different ways to engage with its communities.

Continuing to communicate with residents about the difficult choices it needs to make about spending and redesigning services is vital. The council's plans must look to more radical change and be sufficiently ambitious to meet future financial pressures and service demands. Failing to deliver planned savings and relying on reserves isn't sustainable.

Recently, a national Accounts Commission report highlighted the urgent need for councils to redesign local services. The scale and pace of change across Scotland's councils must shift as councils are overspending on delivering services and borrowing more.

Andrew Burns, deputy chair of the Accounts Commission said:

'Angus Council has secure foundations to deliver longer-term change – excellent partnership working, long-standing shared projects, a focus on transformation and strong engagement with local communities. The level of partnership working is impressive and a significant strength. What sets the council apart is its focus on many elements fundamental to reform – transformation, community engagement, collaboration and prevention.

'Now the council must build on this to deliver further change to secure its future financial position and protect services. With a budget gap of £24.5 million, additional savings must be made, alongside a much more ambitious redesign of services.'

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Notes to Editor:

1. The latest [Annual Audit Report on Angus Council](#) is available on the Audit Scotland website. A [thematic report on transformation at Angus Council](#) has also been published.
2. The last [Best Value report on Angus Council](#) was published in 2022.
3. All reports by the Accounts Commission and Auditor General published since 2000 are available at www.audit.scot
 - The Accounts Commission is the public spending watchdog for local government. It holds councils and various joint boards and committees in Scotland to account and help them improve. It

operates impartially and independently of councils and of the Scottish Government, and meets and reports in public.

- Audit Scotland is a statutory body set up in April 2000, under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000. It provides services to the Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commission for Scotland.

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