

Dundee City Council Local Scrutiny Plan 2015/16



March 2015

Dundee City Council

Local Scrutiny Plan 2015/16

Introduction

1. This local scrutiny plan sets out the planned scrutiny activity in Dundee City Council during 2015/16. The plan is based on a shared risk assessment undertaken by a local area network (LAN), comprising representatives of all the scrutiny bodies who engage with the council (Audit Scotland, Care Inspectorate, Education Scotland and Scottish Housing Regulator). The shared risk assessment process draws on a range of evidence with the aim of determining any scrutiny activity required and focusing this in the most proportionate way.
2. This plan does not identify or address all risks in the council. It covers only those risk areas that the LAN has identified as requiring scrutiny, or where scrutiny is planned as part of a national programme. Planned scrutiny activity across all councils in Scotland informs the National Scrutiny Plan for 2015/16, which is available on the Audit Scotland website.

Scrutiny risks

3. The previous AIP issued in May 2014 indicated that no scrutiny risks were identified that required specific scrutiny by the LAN. The Council continues to make progress with the significant transformation programme 'Changing for the Future' and has maintained or improved performance in a number of areas. In relation to housing and homelessness, the Council has a number of areas that require performance improvements. The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) has received assurances from the Council that it is working to achieve these and SHR will continue to monitor the Council's progress, particularly in relation to how it manages its housing assets more broadly and its achievement of SHQS standards.
4. This does not mean that the Council has addressed all risks in other areas, or that all areas of performance are improving. However, it does mean that the LAN is satisfied that the Council continues to maintain an effective performance management framework.
5. The May 2014 AIP described an improving position in relation to the performance of the council's education service and implementation of national policies such as Curriculum for Excellence. This was in the context of ongoing challenges associated with improving overall performance relative to comparator education authorities and closing the attainment gap between the highest and lowest performing pupils. Most inspection activity of schools and early years centres undertaken throughout 2014 has been

positive, particularly within the primary sector. Whilst the council still lies behind its virtual comparator and national results the council acknowledges these findings and is working to address the identified areas for improvement. The LAN has therefore concluded that no specific education scrutiny beyond the ongoing school and early years inspection activity and related challenge and support that Education Scotland provides to the council is required at this time.

6. The May 2014 AIP highlighted specific challenges in Dundee in delivering child care services and in modernising its provision of adult social work services but no specific scrutiny was required at that time. The council is scheduled to receive a joint inspection of services for children, young people and families in late Autumn of this year. This is part of the Care Inspectorate's wider programme of national work and not as a result of the LAN's assessment.
7. The LAN will monitor progress with implementation of health and social care integration during 2015. This is a significant strategic development with important implications for the council and its NHS partner (NHS Tayside). The council is working with NHS Tayside to implement a body corporate model of health and social care integration. The Shadow Integration Joint Board developed a draft Health and Social Care Integration Scheme for health and social care services in Dundee that was subject to public consultation prior to the integration scheme being submitted to the Scottish Government by the 1 April deadline. The General Manager of Dundee Community Health Partnership and the Head of Service, Strategy, Integration, Performance and Support Services will share the interim Chief Officer post for the new partnership, until a permanent post is filled.
8. Last year's AIP reported areas where Audit Scotland planned to carry out scrutiny work at Dundee City Council in connection with national studies. These related to a targeted follow-up of two national performance audits - *Arm's-length external organisations (ALEOs): are you getting it right?* (June 2011) and *Major capital investment in councils* (March 2013).
9. The LAN continues to monitor the Council's financial position and the challenges to service delivery in the future from increased demand and reducing resources. Members approved the Council's budget for services in February 2015 at £365.6 million. The Council reported an overall underspend against budget of £1.1 million, in part due to underspending on social care services. Auditors highlight that both the budget setting process and the revenue monitoring process demonstrate good financial control. As part of next years annual audit auditors will monitor the Council's progress with the development of a medium-term financial strategy.
10. Dundee City Council is a key partner, alongside the Scottish Government, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Creative Scotland and the Dundee Waterfront Project, in the construction of the Victoria and Albert (V&A) museum in Dundee. It has recently emerged that the costs of this project are anticipated to rise from the initial budget of £45m to £80m. Dundee City council and the Scottish Government have both agreed additional funding

for the project. The projected increased costs have raised concerns amongst local elected members about the overall management arrangements of this major capital project. The Council has therefore instigated an independent review into the circumstances surrounding the increased cost of the project. John McClelland, CBE, will lead the review. It has also established an officer and member Project Board to oversee the construction phase of the V&A Dundee. The Project Board comprises the Council Chief Executive (Chair), four Administration and four Opposition Group councillors, the Director of City Development and the Director of Corporate Services. The council's external auditor will monitor the process and the outcome of the review.

Planned scrutiny activity

11. As shown in Appendix 1, the council will be subject to a range of risk-based and nationally driven scrutiny activity during 2015/16. For some of their scrutiny activity in 2015/16, scrutiny bodies are still to determine their work programmes which specific council areas they will cover. Where a Council is to be involved, the relevant scrutiny body will confirm this with the Council and the appropriate LAN lead. Where activity is definitely planned this year, we have summarised it below.
12. The Care Inspectorate and HMICS will be undertaking a joint thematic review of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in Scotland during 2015. The purpose of the review will be to assess the status, efficiency and effectiveness of the MAPPA process in Scotland, in terms of keeping people safe and reducing the potential risk of serious harm by registered sex offenders in our communities. It will cover all 32 local authorities and involve local authorities, Police Scotland, NHS Boards and the Scottish Prison Service.
13. In addition to specific work shown in Appendix 1, routine, scheduled audit and inspection work will take place through the annual audit process and the ongoing inspection of school and care establishments by Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate respectively. Audit Scotland will carry out a programme of [performance audits](#) during 2015/16 and individual audit and inspection agencies will continue to monitor developments in key areas of council activity and will provide support and challenge as appropriate. This will help to inform future assessment of scrutiny risk.

March 2015

Appendix 1: Scrutiny plan

Scrutiny body	Scrutiny activity	Date
KPMG	Monitoring of the council's progress with the development of a medium-term financial strategy.	As part of the 2014/15 annual audit.
	Monitoring of the progress with, and outcomes of the McClelland Review of the Victoria and Albert (V&A) museum in Dundee project	As part of the 2014/15 annual audit.
Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland	The Care Inspectorate will lead joint inspection of services for children and young people, and will also involve participation by Healthcare Improvement Scotland, Education Scotland and HMICS. These inspections are part of the Care Inspectorate's wider planned programme of national scrutiny work.	September – October 2015
	A planned Joint Thematic Review of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in Scotland during 2014 to 2015.	June 2015 for fieldwork, with the report published in autumn 2015
Education Scotland	Education Scotland will be working in partnership with councils to carry out a validated self-evaluation (VSE) of educational psychology services across all councils over a two-year period beginning in 2015/16. Education Scotland will notify councils of its VSE plans each academic term.	Dates over next two years to be determined.
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMICS)	HMICS will be inspecting local policing across Scotland over the next three years. These inspections will examine, amongst other things, local scrutiny and engagement between Police Scotland and councils. Two local Policing Divisions are programmed to be inspected in addition to Edinburgh Division in 2015/16. The Divisions will be identified approximately three months prior to inspection, the first being no earlier than October.	Timing over the next three years to be confirmed
Her Majesty's Fire Services Inspectorate (HMFSI)	HMFSI will be inspecting local fire and rescue services across Scotland over the next five years. These inspections will examine, amongst other things, local scrutiny and engagement between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and councils. As part of its programme, HMFSI will inspect four local fire and rescue services during 2015/16. For Dundee, HMFSI has confirmed that it will carry out a local fire inspection during February 2016.	February 2016

Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR)	<p>The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) has a planned programme of thematic inquiries into housing services which will be carried out largely in the first quarter of 2015-16, with publication of inquiry reports in the first and second quarters of the year. The thematic inquiries will cover a range of housing services including: Gypsy/Travellers; factoring services; gas safety; complaints handling; customer service standards; repairs; rent consultation; equalities; and openness and accessibility. Some of the thematic inquiries will not involve any on-site work at all and no local authority will be selected for on-site work in more than one thematic. The SHR will contact individual landlords with details about their potential inclusion.</p> <p>During the first and second quarters of the year, the SHR will review the Charter data submitted by social landlords in May 2015 and identify topics for a further programme of thematic inquiries to be taken forward in the second and third quarters of the year.</p>	Timing to be confirmed
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