

Renfrewshire Council

Local Scrutiny Plan

2015/16



March 2015

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Introduction

1. This local scrutiny plan sets out the planned scrutiny activity in Renfrewshire 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. 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 conclusion of this year's shared risk assessment is that no scrutiny risks have been identified which require specific scrutiny by the LAN this year. This is the same position as in the previous Assurance and Improvement Plan (AIP) issued in May 2014. Scrutiny activity undertaken in the last 12 months was either at the request of the council or part of national activity.
4. This does not mean that the council has addressed all risks or that all areas of performance are improving. However, it does mean that the LAN is satisfied that the council continues to review and revise its corporate governance and performance management framework. In service areas we are satisfied that there has been either:
 - information gathered by the LAN to demonstrate performance in areas where, previously, further information was required; or
 - the council has demonstrated self-awareness of the standards of performance required at a service level; or
 - there is evidence to demonstrate the council's awareness of, and monitoring of, the key risks to meeting outcomes and service delivery.
5. At the request of the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP), the Care Inspectorate is leading a joint inspection of children's services. The inspection differs from previous joint inspections of services to protect children in that it focuses on the

role of the wider CPP and not just the Child Protection Committee. The inspection is currently underway and a final report is due in spring 2015.

6. 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. As part of the budget setting process the council prepares a medium term financial outlook and in last year's AIP (May 2014) we reported the council anticipated that significant savings of £20-£30 million were required over the medium term to 2017/18. In December 2014, members were advised that due to risk and uncertainty over pay pressures, along with significant and growing demand pressures on key service areas, principally in relation to social work, savings of nearer £30 million are required. The Better Council Change Programme (2014-2017) is underway to deliver changes required to ensure the council remains financially sustainable, whilst delivering council and community plans. The initial phase of changes, from the programme agreed by members in October 2014, is anticipated to realise savings of £8.4 million over the medium term.
7. The LAN also acknowledges the widespread governance changes planned for the next 12-18 months and that each brings new senior officer appointments and changes to the remit of policy boards. The main changes are:
 - The role and remit of Renfrewshire Leisure Limited (RLL) is being expanded, with services from the council transferred to RLL eg sports development, bowling greens and pavilions, letting and management of community services. The expanded trust is planned for 1 July 2015.
 - Health and social care for adults will be implemented locally from 1 April 2015 with full integration arrangements due for 1 April 2016.
 - Education and social work services relating to children and criminal justice are to be merged.
 - The council is part of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal.
8. In our annual report on the audit 2013/14 published in October 2014, we reported that the new council plan 2014-2017, *A Better Future, A Better Council* describes what the council will do to deliver community plan objectives. A suite of performance measures was still to be developed.
9. In February 2015, officers presented a year-one monitoring report to the Leadership Board. The main report highlighted the key achievements in 2014 and the focus for 2015. The report tracks progress towards achieving the priorities and delivering the outcomes set out in the plan and will be presented annually to the Board. In addition the Corporate Management Team monitors a scorecard of strategic performance indicators which measures progress on the priorities and includes the Local Government Benchmarking Indicators. These indicators are reported to the Audit Scrutiny and Petitions Board annually, with the next report being presented in June 2015.

10. The LAN will monitor the impact of the changes implemented to deliver savings through their ongoing work and Audit Scotland will report on the council's progress in managing the funding gap as part of the annual audit.

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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. Audit Scotland has three planned performance audits covering local government during 2015/16. It will be working jointly with the Care Inspectorate looking at social care and jointly with both the Care Inspectorate and Health Improvement Scotland (HIS) on a Health and Social care integration position statement. It will also carry out a follow-up audit on roads maintenance. Any engagement with councils is still to be determined. Publication of these reports is scheduled for between October 2015 and February 2016.
15. Audit Scotland will continue to carry out a programme of housing benefit risk assessments across councils in 2015/16. For Renfrewshire Council this will be carried out during April 2015.
16. Education Scotland will be working in partnership with councils to carry out 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.
17. The Care Inspectorate and HMICS will carry out a joint thematic review of multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) in Scotland during 2015. This forms part of a wider programme of national inspection, and is not a result of the LAN shared risk assessment. The purpose of the review will be to assess the state, efficiency and effectiveness of the MAPPA 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. The joint review will cover the Renfrewshire Council area during May 2015.

18. 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.
19. 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.

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Appendix 1: Scrutiny plan

Scrutiny body	Scrutiny activity	Date
Audit Scotland	Housing benefit performance audit	April 2015
Care Inspectorate and HMICS	Joint thematic review to assess the state, efficiency and effectiveness of multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) in Scotland	May 2015
Education Scotland	Education Scotland will be working in partnership with councils to carry out VSE of educational psychology services across all councils over a two-year period beginning in 2015/16	Dates over next two years to be determined
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMICS)	HMICS will inspect local policing across Scotland over the next three years. This 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.	To be determined
Her Majesty's Fire Service 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. Renfrewshire is not included in the programme this year.	To be determined
Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR)	The SHR will carry out a number of thematic inquiries during 2015/16. If Renfrewshire Council is to be involved in a thematic inquiry, SHR will confirm this with the council and the LAN lead.	Councils involved to be determined.