

**Address:**  
110 George Street  
Edinburgh EH2 4LH  
**Website:**  
[www.audit-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk)

**Telephone:**  
0131 625 1500  
**Email:**  
[info@audit-scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@audit-scotland.gov.uk)



## News release

Embargoed until 00:01 hours, Thursday 29 October 2015

### Some progress at Moray but much still needs to be done

**The Moray Council has made some progress over the last two years but needs to increase the pace of change and improvement, says the Accounts Commission.**

A report published today looks at developments since a 2013 audit on how the council was meeting its statutory duty to deliver Best Value and continuous improvement.

The report says a lot of improvement activity is under way but it is too early to judge its longer term effectiveness. The council needs to improve in areas such as engaging with customers and its workforce.

In its findings, the Commission said it welcomed progress made in aligning strategic plans and priorities and the commitment of the new management team. However, councillors must now provide demonstrable leadership in agreeing and implementing a strategy to deliver £16 million in savings the council has to make by March 2018.

Douglas Sinclair, chair of the Accounts Commission said: "Moray is moving in the right direction but needs to increase significantly the pace of change.

"Like all councils, Moray faces a big financial challenge. Councillors have the responsibility to make savings in the best interests of the people they represent whilst also ensuring they balance their budget."

The Controller of Audit will continue to monitor progress through the annual audit process.

**For further information contact Chris Holme [cholme@audit-scotland.gov.uk](mailto:cholme@audit-scotland.gov.uk) 0131 625 1653**

#### Notes to editors

1. The previous (September 2013) Best Value audit of The Moray Council is [available here](#).
2. The Controller of Audit has prepared this report for the Accounts Commission for Scotland. All Audit Scotland reports published since 2000 are available at [www.audit-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk)
  - 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.