
Report to: Audit and Finance Committee

Date of Meeting: 24 May 2018

Subject: Clackmannanshire Local Scrutiny Plan 2018/19

Report by: Chief Executive (Acting)

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the publication by Audit Scotland of the Clackmannanshire Council Local Scrutiny Plan for 2018/19 and to summarise the key areas of scrutiny activity.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes:

- a) the recent publication by Audit Scotland of the 2018/19 Local Scrutiny Plan for Clackmannanshire; and
- b) the intended planned scrutiny activity in 2018/19.

3.0 Background

3.1 The Local Scrutiny Plan (attached as the Appendix to this report) sets out the planned scrutiny activity in Clackmannanshire Council in this financial year. The Plan is based on a shared risk assessment undertaken by the local area network (LAN) which comprises representatives of all the scrutiny bodies who engage with the council.

3.2 The Local Scrutiny Plan does not identify or address all risks in the council. It covers only those risk areas which the LAN has identified as requiring scrutiny, or where scrutiny is planned as part of a national programme.

3.3 Appendix A to the report details the areas of Scrutiny Activity the Scrutiny Body undertaking the work and the expected timeframe.

4.0 Sustainability Implications - N/A

5.0 Resource Implications - N/A

6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1 Is this report exempt? No

7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) Our Priorities

The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations? N/A

9.0 Legality

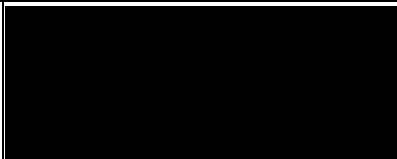
9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Clackmannanshire Council Local Scrutiny Plan 2018-19

11.0 Background Papers

Author(s):

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Nikki Bridle	Chief Executive (Acting)	

Clackmannanshire Council

Local Scrutiny Plan 2018/19



April 2018

Clackmannanshire Council

Local Scrutiny Plan – April 2018 to March 2019

Introduction

1. This local scrutiny plan sets out any scrutiny risks identified by the local area network (LAN), proposed scrutiny responses and expected scrutiny activity for Clackmannanshire Council during the financial year 2018/19.
2. The scrutiny risks and responses are based on a shared risk assessment undertaken by a 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 risks in the council.
3. Expected scrutiny activity across all councils in Scotland informs the National Scrutiny Plan for 2018/19, which is available on the Audit Scotland [website](#).

Scrutiny risks

4. **Best Value:** Last year's scrutiny plan reported that a Best Value Assurance Report would be considered by the Accounts Commission early in 2018. The report, which was published in January 2018, identified weaknesses in areas such as financial sustainability and performance. The council's financial position continues to be of concern and although the council agreed a balanced budget for 2018/19 there are funding gaps for future years.
5. **Sickness absence:** The council continues to have high levels of sickness absence. The rate for non teachers in 2016/17 was 16.5 days per WTE and for teachers it was 9.8 days per WTE. These were the highest of any local authority in Scotland.
6. **Education:** Clackmannanshire's education service team has built on previous plans set up under the shared service with Stirling Council over 2016 to 2017. Improving educational attainment remains a challenge for the council although there are some signs of improvement.
7. Clackmannanshire is one of nine Attainment Challenge Authorities and is receiving a share of the £750 million of total funding support. Education Scotland is carrying out audits of Attainment Challenge Authorities authorities during 2018/19.
8. Schools in Clackmannanshire Council have Pupil Equity Funding plans in place and are being progressed. Education Scotland will continue to liaise with establishments as appropriate.
9. Due to staff illness within the authority the planned Validated Self-Evaluation of Clackmannanshire Education Psychology Service (EPS) did not proceed. The planned Inspection of Local Authorities will include EPS.

10. **Social Care:** Clackmannanshire social work service focussed on ensuring that services continued to be delivered after the decoupling of the shared service with Stirling Council over 2016 to 2017. This involved a restructure, a focus on engaging with staff to improve morale following extensive change and setting clear priorities for improvement.
11. A joint inspection of integration of health and social care in Clackmannanshire and Stirling took place during the last quarter of 2017/18 into the first quarter of 2018/19. This focussed on strategic planning and commissioning.
12. **Housing:** The **Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR)** has reviewed and compared the performance of all Scottish social landlords to identify the weakest performing landlords. SHR has assessed that no additional scrutiny is required in Clackmannanshire beyond statutory/ongoing work during 2018/19.

Scrutiny activity

13. Any expected scrutiny activity between April 2018 and March 2019 is shown in Appendix 1. For some of their scrutiny activity in 2018/19 scrutiny bodies are still to determine their work programmes and 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.
14. **Best Value Assurance Report:** The council has agreed an action plan in response to the report's findings. The Accounts Commission requires a further report by the Controller of Audit on the progress made by the council in June 2019 or earlier if the Controller identifies concerns that he considers should be brought to our attention before then. In line with our new approach to auditing Best Value, the annual audit process will be used to monitor and report such progress.
15. Routine, scheduled audit and inspection work will take place through the annual audit process and the ongoing inspection of school and care establishments by SHR, Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate respectively. The outcomes of this work will help to inform future assessment of scrutiny risk.

March 2018

Appendix: Scrutiny activity

Scrutiny body	Scrutiny activity	Date
Audit Scotland (as external auditor)	The council's first BVAR under the new arrangements was published in early 2018. In 2018/19 we will monitor and report on the council's progress to inform a further report by the Controller of Audit to the Accounts Commmsion.	By June 2019
Audit Scotland	Audit Scotland plans to undertake performance audit work in a range of areas covering local government during 2018/19. These include audits on: children and young people's mental health; health and social care integration: update on progress; primary and social care workforce planning; VFM of non-profit distributing models. Any engagement with individual councils is still to be determined. Details of future audit work are available on the Audit Scotland website here .	TBC
Care Inspectorate	A Care Inspectorate led multi-agency inspection of adult services in Clackmannanshire and Stirling IJB took place in quarter four of 2017/18 - quarter one of 2018/19.	Quarter 1 2018/19
Education Scotland	An Education Challenge Authority inspection is planned for 2018/19. A Community Learning and Development inspection is planned for 2018/19.	2018 January 2019 - March 2019
Scottish Housing Regulator	SHR may carry out thematic inquiries,survey or on-site work during 2018/19 to follow up published thematic reports. The SHR will also review the Scottish Social Housing Charter data submitted by landlords and carry out data accuracy visits during the second quarter of 2018/19. Where councils are to be involved in a thematic inquiry, follow-up work, or a data accuracy visit, the SHR will confirm this directly with the council and the LAN lead.	TBC


Clackmannanshire Council

Local Scrutiny Plan 2018/19

A summary of local government strategic scrutiny activity

This report is available in PDF and RTF formats,
along with a podcast summary at:

www.audit-scotland.gov.uk 

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