

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Finance, Housing & Resources Committee 9th October 2013

Agenda Item	27.
Report No	FHR/ 142/13

Internal Audit Review – Statutory Performance Indicators 2011-12 Report by the Assistant Chief Executive

Summary

An Internal Audit Review of Statutory Performance Indicators was considered by the Council's Audit and Scrutiny Committee earlier this year. This is now presented to the Finance, Housing and Resources Committee for their consideration as part of the corporate governance process.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Internal Audit was undertaken as part of the annual audit plan for 2012/13. The purpose of the audit was to complete a review to verify the accuracy of the Statutory Performance Indicators (SPIs) and Local Performance Indicators (LPIs) prepared for publication for the financial year 2011/12. This is done prior to submission to Audit Scotland. It was considered at Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 28th March 2013 and the full report is available at: <http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/4EBA2F66-48A4-4FF7-A1B6-355574EBA5BB/0/Item3AS113.pdf>

2. Main Findings

- 2.1 Appropriate system where found to be in place and the audit objective was fully achieved. The Chief Executive's Service had developed an SPI website which provides links to all necessary information, and has expanded and updated the Highland Council Internal Guide to SPIs. This ensures that the necessary staff have access to the most up to date and accurate information, and arrangements are in place to meet the requirements of the Accounts Commission.
- 2.2 The objective on systems for the collection, recording and publication of data was partially achieved as errors were found in some of the SPIs and LPIs reviewed. The main issues identified relate to the guidance not being fully complied with and the need for similar guidance to be put in place for the LPIs.
- 2.3 There were 4 recommendations made as a result of this audit consisting of 3 medium and 1 low grades. An improvement plan was put in place and the actions were implemented quickly as they impacted on statutory reporting for 2013/14. All actions have now been completed. The recommendations related to:
- Technical issues on the calculation of indicators for Women in Management and Sport and Leisure (medium)
 - SPI Co-ordinators awareness of internal guidance and roles and responsibilities (medium)
 - Amending internal guidance to reflect the use of the electronic performance and risk system (low)
 - Following national review of cost indicators develop guidance on individual LPIs (medium)

3.0 Implications: Resources; Legal; Equalities; Climate Change/Carbon Clever; and Risk

- 3.1 While the internal audit process has no implications, the audit of some indicators ensures that there is robust measurement in place as evidence for some duties and commitments. These are:
- Equalities: SPis on Women in Management and Disabled Access to Buildings
 - Climate Change/Carbon Clever: Refuse recycling, energy cost and consumption.

4. Recommendation

4.1 Members are invited to note the outcome of Internal Audit Review, and that appropriate action has been taken to address all of the recommendations made. The resulting improvement plan has been completed.

Signature:

Designation: Chief Executive

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