

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 5 June 2018

National and Local Scrutiny Plans 2018/19

Item number	7.6
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	

Executive Summary

Audit Scotland published the National and Local Scrutiny Plans in April 2018. This report details the planned scrutiny activity for the City of Edinburgh Council from April 2018 to March 2019.

National and Local Scrutiny Plans 2018/19

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to note the report and the appendices.

2. Background

- 2.1 National Scrutiny Plan and the City of Edinburgh Council Scrutiny Plan 2018-19 were published in April 2018.
- 2.2 The plans provide a summary of the scrutiny activity and are based on risk assessment. They are designed to provide assurance to the public and to identify where scrutiny will make the most difference in service improvement.
- 2.3 National Scrutiny Plan summarises all planned strategic scrutiny activity from April 2018 to March 2019 in each of Scotland's 32 councils. It also covers work between scrutiny bodies and councils to validate self-evaluation that is designed to support improvement.

3. Main report

- 3.1 The National Scrutiny Plan (Appendix 1) identifies scrutiny activity for 2018/19 that will be undertaken by the Accounts Commission/Audit Scotland, Education Scotland and the Scottish Housing Regulator.
- 3.2 The new approach for auditing Best Value was agreed by the Accounts Commission in June 2016. Best Value will be assessed over the five year audit appointment with a Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) for each of the councils, considered by the Accounts Commission at least once during this five year period.
- 3.3 The City of Edinburgh Council will not be subject to the BVAR this year. For 2018/19 the audit work will only focus on Best Value demonstration in improvement, partnership working and resource management. The Local Area Network (LAN) will continue to monitor the Council's financial position and plans as part of the annual audit process.

- 3.4 The City of Edinburgh Council will be subject to a range of risk-based and nationally driven scrutiny activity between April 2018 and March 2019.
- 3.4.1 A follow up of the CGI security management audit will be carried out by the external audit and the findings presented to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee in May 2018.
- 3.4.2 External audit will seek evidence that outcomes are improving and that the pace of improvement is managed in line with resources. The work will include consideration of the impact of transformation work, how effectively the council has identified improvement priorities, and how self-aware the council is in understanding its relative performance and improvement needs.
- 3.4.3 Over the course of 2018/19 the external audit will carry out audit work in respect of the Edinburgh Trams project (York Place to Newhaven).
- 3.4.4 The Care Inspectorate will monitor and report on progress against the recommendations arising from the joint inspection carried out in 2016.
- 3.4.5 Scottish ministers have asked the Care Inspectorate and scrutiny partners to lead a programme of joint inspections of service for children and young people. The ministers asked to provide assurance about how community planning partners are protecting and meeting the needs of children and young people who have experienced, or at risk of, abuse and neglect, and how they are working together to improve outcomes for children and young people who are subject to corporate parenting requirements. Up to five joint inspections a year are intended to be carried out, in 2018/19 one of these is likely to be in the Edinburgh area.
- 3.4.6 Education Scotland will engage in ongoing oversight and monitoring of education provision, as part of the support provided by Area Lead Officers, but will not engage in a formal scrutiny response other than planned inspections and reviews.
- 3.4.7 The Scottish Housing Regulator will monitor the council's progress across housing and homelessness. It will also review the Scottish Social Housing Charter data and carry out data accuracy visits. The Regulator may carry out thematic inquiries during 2018/19 or it may carry out survey or on-site work to follow up on published thematic reports.
- 3.5 The Local Scrutiny Plan (Appendix 2) shows the expected scrutiny activity in more detail. For some other scrutiny, the scrutiny bodies are still to determine their work programme and which specific council areas they will cover. Where the City of Edinburgh Council is to be involved, the relevant scrutiny body will confirm this with the Council and the LAN lead.
- 3.6 The Council will continue to support auditors in their planned audit work covering the main risk-based and nationally driven scrutiny activity.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Measures of success for the City of Edinburgh Council are noted as part of the annual audit process.
- 4.2 Progress in the scrutiny areas will be monitored and reported regularly to senior managers and partners.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 There is no financial impact resulting from the report.
- 5.2 The Council budget framework updates are presented to Council Leadership Team and Committee on a regular basis and the next update will be considered by the Finance and Resources Committee on 12 June 2018.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The National and Local Scrutiny Plans complement the council's own internal risk management plans.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 Consideration of the equalities and rights impact forms part of the annual audit process.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Consideration of the sustainability impact forms part of the annual audit process.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 The Council has an ongoing dialogue with the auditors and will support them in their planned audit work covering the main risk-based and nationally driven scrutiny activity.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 [City of Edinburgh Council – 2016-17 Annual Audit report to the Council and the Controller of Audit](#), Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee, 26 September 2017
- 10.2 [2016-17 Annual Audit Report and Review of Internal Controls – Progress Update](#), Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee, 16 January 2018
- 10.3 [City of Edinburgh Council External Audit Plan 2017-18](#), Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee, 20 March 2018

10.4 [2016-17 Annual Audit Report and Review of Internal Controls – Progress Update](#),
Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee, 8 May 2018

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11. Appendices

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National scrutiny plan 2018/19

A summary of local government
strategic scrutiny activity



Prepared on behalf of the Strategic Scrutiny Group
April 2018

ACCOUNTS COMMISSION 

 AUDIT SCOTLAND

 improving policing
across Scotland

 Healthcare
Improvement
Scotland

 Scottish Housing
Regulator

 Education
Scotland
Foghlam Alba

 HMIPS
HM INSPECTORATE OF
PRISONS FOR SCOTLAND

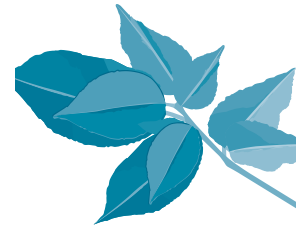
Inspectorate of
Prosecution in
Scotland

 HMFSI

 care
inspectorate

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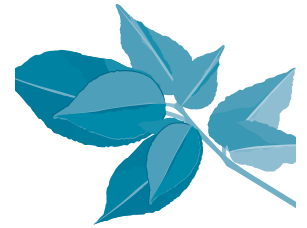
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Background




1. The National Scrutiny Plan for local government has been jointly prepared by members of the Strategic Scrutiny Group (SSG). This group comprises Scotland's main public sector scrutiny bodies - the Accounts Commission for Scotland, Audit Scotland, Education Scotland, the Care Inspectorate, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, the Scottish Housing Regulator, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland, Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prosecution. The SSG is convened and chaired by the Accounts Commission. Details of each organisation can be found in the [Appendix](#). In this report, they are collectively referred to as scrutiny bodies.

2. The SSG supports the delivery of better coordinated, more proportionate and risk-based local government scrutiny. Those scrutiny bodies directly relating to local government services - Audit Scotland (on behalf of the Accounts Commission), the Care Inspectorate, Education Scotland, the Scottish Housing Regulator and council external auditors appointed by the Accounts Commission (including private sector Audit Firms), work together through Local Area Networks (LANs) to share intelligence and agree the key scrutiny risks in each of Scotland's 32 councils.

3. Annually, each LAN prepares a Local Scrutiny Plan (LSP) setting out the planned scrutiny activity for the council concerned. LSPs also include nationally programmed scrutiny, such as the Care Inspectorate's joint inspections of services for children, young people and families and joint inspections of adult health and social care services. This approach, called Shared Risk Assessment (SRA), is designed to ensure well coordinated proportionate and risk-based scrutiny.

4. This 2018/19 National Scrutiny Plan (NSP) for local government is one of the key outputs from the SRA process. It is the ninth such plan and summarises all planned strategic scrutiny activity.¹ From April 2018 to March 2019 in each of Scotland's 32 councils. This strategic scrutiny activity can of course change during the year, particularly in response to any significant risks or events that may require immediate investigation.

5. A separate table showing planned scrutiny activity is available on the [Audit Scotland website](#) .

Part 1

Direct scrutiny activity



National scrutiny programmes

6. There is a range of national scrutiny activity planned across councils over the next year and beyond. Where activity has been identified for 2018/19 that impacts on individual councils it is included in the National Scrutiny Plan. Significant pieces of national scrutiny activity, as well as developments in scrutiny approaches, are outlined below.

The Accounts Commission/Audit Scotland

Best Value


7. The Accounts Commission began to roll out its revised approach to Best Value auditing from October 2016. This includes an assessment each year of aspects of Best Value as part of an integrated annual audit. In addition, a public Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) for each council will be published at least once in a five year period that will bring together an overall picture of the council drawn from a range of audit activity and the work of other scrutiny bodies.

8. The five year rolling programme of Best Value Assurance Reports is reviewed and refreshed annually by the Accounts Commission. The results of the SRA process will make a significant contribution to the audit intelligence that informs decisions about the programme, both in terms of the sequencing and timing of audits and the focus of audit work at individual councils.

9. Audit Scotland is currently carrying out work to produce a BVAR in Fife, Glasgow, East Ayrshire, West Dunbartonshire, Dumfries and Galloway and East Lothian councils. The current BVAR programme includes publication of a report in 2019 for North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, Stirling, Highland, Scottish Borders, Perth & Kinross and Midlothian councils. The scope and timing of the work to be carried out, as part of the 2018/19 audit, will be discussed with each council.

National performance audits

10. Audit Scotland has several performance audits covering local government planned during 2018/19. These are part of a programme agreed by the Accounts Commission and Auditor General for Scotland (AGS) which is informed by the Accounts Commission's strategic audit priorities, public sector audit risks and policy developments, as well a wide range of policy monitoring and external engagement.

11. The programme includes audits covering children and young people's mental health, health and social care integration, city deals and the value for money of non-profit distributing (NPD) projects. Any engagement with individual councils is still to be determined. Further details on each of the audits in the performance audit programme for 2018/19 and beyond are available [here](#) .

Housing benefit risk assessments


12. Audit Scotland will also continue to carry out a national programme of housing benefit risk assessments across councils during 2018/19. The Accounts Commission will continue to review its future approach to the scrutiny of benefits in light of the changing powers around social security in Scotland.

Care Inspectorate

Health and social care integration authorities


13. Since April 2017, the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) have a joint duty under the Public Bodies (Joint Working)(Scotland) Act 2014 to assess and report on the effectiveness of integration authorities' strategic plans. In these early stages of the integration of health and social care, the Care Inspectorate and HIS will report on the progress that integration authorities are making towards a more collaborative culture and integrated approaches to planning and delivering services, both of which should deliver improved outcomes for people in communities.

14. During 2018/19 the Care Inspectorate and HIS intend to visit three integration authorities to report on their progress. A key area of focus will be the measures they are taking to ensure they fully understand the current needs, and anticipate the future needs, of their communities and how they are jointly planning, commissioning and delivering services to meet these needs. The Care Inspectorate and HIS will be particularly looking to identify examples of good practice in engaging with communities to assess and plan to meet needs.

15. Audit Scotland's [Self-directed support: 2017 progress report](#)  noted that authorities' commissioning plans do not yet clearly set out how they will make decisions about changing services and re-allocating budgets in response to people's choices. In response, all joint inspections of strategic planning will examine how commissioning decisions are being influenced by self-directed support legislation.

16. Inspection activity to date has reinforced the critical importance of strong and effective care at home services to meet the aspiration of maintaining people in their own homes and communities for as long as possible and in line with their wishes. There are many services and supports that contribute to achieving this, including community health services, with directly provided and commissioned care at home services playing a very significant role. Over the next year, therefore, planning and commissioning of sufficient, stable and quality care at home provision will be a focus of joint inspections.

Thematic review of self-directed support

17. The Care Inspectorate will carry out a thematic review of self-directed support during 2018/19. Its aim is to build on the key findings of [Self-directed support: 2017 progress report](#) , exploring the ability and confidence of front line staff to implement self-direction support legislation by offering choice and control and making decisions with people about their support. Throughout the year, it will conduct an inspection in up to six areas across Scotland with the aim of identifying factors which support effective implementation of the legislation and barriers which require to be overcome. The Care Inspectorate will provide feedback on each area and publish an overview report, with the expectation that all areas will then use these findings to evaluate their own practice and make improvements where necessary.

Joint inspections of services for children and young people

18. From April 2018, Scottish ministers have asked the Care Inspectorate to lead another programme of joint inspections of services for children and young people, in conjunction with Education Scotland, HIS and HMICS. Ministers have asked the Care Inspectorate to provide assurance about how community planning partners are protecting and meet the needs of children and young people who have experienced, or are at risk of, abuse and neglect, and how they are working together to improve outcomes for children and young people who are subject to corporate parenting requirements. The intention is to carry out five joint inspections in 2018/19. The Care Inspectorate has agreed with ministers that, for the duration of this programme of inspections, it will incorporate an area of specific enquiry each year, with the aim of identifying key lessons and best practice which all partnerships could use to support their own continuous improvement. It will publish an overview report at the end of each year.

Community justice


19. The Care Inspectorate will work with Community Justice Scotland and other partners to support improvement in the implementation of the community justice strategy, to identify any particular risks and to carry out targeted scrutiny where this is required.

Adult support and protection

20. The Care Inspectorate will report in May on a thematic review of Adult Support and Protection, carried out across six partnership areas in collaboration with colleagues from HIS and HMICS. During 2018/19, it will work with Scottish Government and colleagues to encourage partnerships to use this learning to review their own practice and to take any action necessary to strengthen their response to concerns.

Education Scotland

21. Education Scotland, working in partnership with Audit Scotland, will carry out a programme of inspections to evaluate the progress made by local authorities in improving learning, raising attainment and closing the poverty related attainment gap. These inspections are initially focused on the nine local authorities who are designated as challenge authorities within the Scottish Attainment Challenge.² All nine challenge authorities will be inspected by the end of 2018, with Education Scotland providing four weeks' notice prior to carrying out individual inspections (and as a result these are not shown on the associated activity map). Other authorities may be included in due course; particularly those authorities currently subject to enhanced monitoring as a result of shared risk assessment.

22. Following publication of [Education Governance: Next Steps](#)  in June 2017, six Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs) were established. Each RIC will formulate its own regional improvement plan and each plan will be agreed with the Chief Inspector of Education. Support and challenge from within the collaborative teams and from Education Scotland Regional Advisers will ensure that each of the regional improvement plans takes account of all available evidence on performance and that the selection of educational strategies and interventions is appropriate to the particular regional context.

23. Over the coming year Education Scotland will continue to inspect community learning and development (CLD) services and the quality of careers information and guidance services delivered by Skills Development Scotland across council areas. It also plans to carry out a validated self-evaluation of educational

psychology services in one local authority area towards the end of 2018. Education Scotland will also work with stakeholders and other public bodies to create new approaches to scrutiny that take account of education reform, provide assurance and support system-led improvement.

Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR)

24. The SHR may carry out thematic inquiries during 2018/19 or it may carry out survey or on-site work to follow up on published thematic reports. The SHR will also review the Scottish Social Housing Charter data submitted by landlords and may carry out data accuracy visits during the second half of 2018/19.

Where councils are to be involved in a thematic inquiry, any follow-up work to a published thematic inquiry, or a data accuracy visit, the SHR will confirm this directly with the council and the LAN lead.

Part 2

Additional scrutiny of interest




25. In addition to the direct scrutiny planned for local government, there is a range of other scrutiny activity that touches on local government, as outlined below.

Her Majesty's Fire Services Inspectorate (HMFSI)

26. HMFSI will continue to inspect Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) local service delivery across Scotland. These inspections will examine, among other things, local scrutiny and engagement between the SFRS and councils. As part of its programme, HMFSI intends to inspect service delivery in Edinburgh, Dumfries and Galloway and North Lanarkshire during 2018/19. HMFSI also has a programme of thematic inspection planned, but this work is unlikely to result in contact with local authorities. However, HMFSI may also carry out ad hoc inspections in response to specific events, which could involve contact with local authorities.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)

27. HMICS remains committed to assessing the quality of local policing as experienced by communities across Scotland, with an emphasis on the impact of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. During 2018/19, it will inspect G Division, which covers East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire and Glasgow. Divisional inspections will cover partnership working and in particular, local scrutiny and engagement between Police Scotland and councils and the local Community Planning Partnership and Community Safety Partnership. Local police inspections also include a 'plus' element, which aims to investigate national issues through a local lens. These elements are subject to separate reports published on its website www.hmics.org.uk .

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland (HMIPS)

28. HMIPS will inspect prisons in Scotland, jointly with Healthcare Improvement Scotland, Education Scotland, the Care Inspectorate and the Scottish Human Rights Commission. Each prison will be monitored on a weekly basis by volunteer Independent Prison Monitors who are allocated to each prison. Reports of findings from both inspection and monitoring are published regularly throughout the year.

Inspectorate of Prosecution in Scotland (IPS)

29. In the Scottish Year of Young People, the IPS will conduct a thematic review of the prosecution of young people in the Sheriff Court. The review will assess the availability and use of diversion schemes provided by local authorities. It will also seek to identify areas of good practice, which may be of benefit to those involved in implementing the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 both at local and strategic levels. As part of its programme, IPS will continue to inspect service delivery by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service at both a national and local level.

Endnotes



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- ◀ 1 Strategic scrutiny work does not include scrutiny activity carried out at service unit or institution level, such as inspections of individual schools or care homes, or the annual financial audit of public bodies.
 - ◀ 2 The nine challenge authorities are: Clackmannanshire, Dundee, East Ayrshire, Glasgow, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire and West Dunbartonshire councils.

Appendix

The Local Government Scrutiny Strategic Group members



Accounts Commission	The Accounts Commission is a non-departmental public body (NDPB). The Accounts Commission is the public's independent watchdog for local government in Scotland. Its role is to examine how Scotland's 32 councils manage their finances, help these bodies manage their resources efficiently and effectively, promote Best Value and publish information every year about how they perform.
Audit Scotland	Audit Scotland is a statutory body providing services to the Accounts Commission and the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS). Working together, the Accounts Commission, the AGS and Audit Scotland ensure that public sector bodies in Scotland are held to account for the proper, efficient and effective use of public funds.
Care Inspectorate	The Care Inspectorate is a non-departmental public body (NDPB). The Care Inspectorate's purpose is to provide assurance and protection for people who use care, social work and children's services.
Education Scotland	Education Scotland is an executive agency. It is the Scottish Government's national development and improvement agency for education. It is charged with providing support and challenge to the education system, from early years to adult learning, in line with the government's policy objectives.
Healthcare Improvement Scotland	Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) is a health body. The function of HIS is to improve the quality of the care and experience of every person in Scotland every time they access healthcare by supporting healthcare providers.
Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate	The Fire Service Inspectorate in Scotland exists to provide independent, risk based and proportionate professional inspection of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Its purpose is to give assurance to the Scottish public and Scottish ministers that the service is working in an efficient and effective way, and to promote improvement in the service. Through this, the Inspectorate provides external quality assurance to the service, and provides support to the service in delivering its functions.
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) provides independent scrutiny of both Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority. Its approach is to support Police Scotland and the Authority to deliver services that are high quality, continually improving, effective and responsive to local needs. It can inspect other UK police services that operate in Scotland and are members of the National Preventive Mechanism, inspecting police custody centres to monitor the treatment and conditions for detainees.
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland provides oversight and scrutiny of the 15 prisons in Scotland, by way of inspection and monitoring, in order to report on the conditions in prison and the treatment of prisoners. Monitoring is conducted by volunteer Independent Prison Monitors, who are required to visit every prison every week, to respond to prisoners' requests and to monitor conditions. HMIPS also has responsibility for inspecting court custody cells and the conditions in which prisoners are transported.

Inspectorate of Prosecution in Scotland	The Inspectorate of Prosecution in Scotland is headed by HM Chief Inspector who reports directly to the Lord Advocate. The aim of the inspectorate is to enhance the quality of service and public confidence in the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service through independent inspection and evaluation.
Scottish Housing Regulator	The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) is a non-ministerial department. The statutory objective of the SHR is to safeguard and promote the interests of people who are or may become homeless, tenants of social landlords, or recipients of housing services provided by social landlords.

National 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:

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City of Edinburgh

Council

Local Scrutiny Plan

2018/19



April 2018

City of Edinburgh 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 the City of Edinburgh Council during the financial year 2018/19.
2. The scrutiny risks and responses are 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 risks in the council and the IJB.
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. The Accounts Commission agreed the overall framework for a new approach to auditing Best Value in June 2016. Best Value will be assessed over the five year audit appointment, as part of the annual audit work. In addition a Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) for each council will be considered by the Accounts Commission at least once in this five year period. The BVAR report for the City of Edinburgh Council is not planned in the period covered by this scrutiny plan. The Best Value audit work planned this year will focus on the council's arrangements for demonstrating Best Value in the following areas:
 - Improvement
 - Partnership working
 - Resource management.

Findings will be reported in the Annual Audit Report.

5. Audit Scotland has several planned performance audits covering local government planned during 2018/19 informed by the Accounts Commission's strategic audit priorities, public sector audit risks and policy developments, as well a wide range of policy monitoring and external engagement. It will be carrying out audits covering children and young people's mental health, health and social care integration and the value for money of non-profit distributing (NPD) projects. Any engagement with individual councils is still to be determined. Further details on each of the audits in the performance audit programme for 2018/19 and beyond are available at <http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/our-work/future-work/our-work-programme>.

6. The council has a well-developed Financial Strategy and clear understanding of future pressures and the impact on the medium term financial position. However a Revenue Budget Framework update in February 2018 highlighted that the council is projecting a cumulative savings gap to 2022-23 of £151.2million with no clear plan at this stage to deliver the required savings. In addition, financial risks such as demand pressures on health and social care, and the impact of EU withdrawal place additional uncertainty on the council's future budgets.
7. The council continues to implement a third phase of the transformation programme, along with the programme management necessary to deliver on this challenging target.
8. The LAN will continue monitoring the council's financial position and plans as part of the annual audit process.
9. In August 2015 the council awarded CGI the contract for the provision of ICT services. Since the contract commenced, however, the council has reported that CGI has underperformed on the contractual commitments. Transformation programmes have missed the original delivery dates, and in some cases the revised delivery date and this has meant that the council has been unable to realise the benefits and/or savings envisaged. At the outset, the contract was expected to save the council at least £45million over the first seven years. Improvements have been made; however this has not been at the pace required by the council or in line with the contract specifications. A paper was presented to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee in August 2017, giving members an overview of the services delivered by CGI including options available to the council regarding contractual remedies.
10. In 2017, the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee considered an external audit report on the effectiveness of security management controls within CGI over the council's ICT network. Following consideration of external audit's findings, the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee requested external audit carry out a follow up review on the audit recommendations and report back to it at the January 2018 meeting. The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee has requested a further report to be presented at its May 2018 committee.
11. A follow up of the CGI security management audit will be carried out by external audit and the findings presented to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee in May 2018.
12. While the council acts to tackle areas of poor performance, including developing improvement plans, in some service areas, including waste, roads and delayed discharges performance remains poor. During 2016/17 Edinburgh regularly had the highest number of delayed discharges of any integration authority in Scotland.
13. The LAN will consider the council's approach to improvement through the best value work carried out by external audit. External audit will seek evidence that outcomes are improving and that the pace of improvement is managed in line with resources. The work will include consideration of the impact of transformation work, how effectively the

council has identified improvement priorities, and how self-aware the council is in understanding its relative performance and improvement needs.

14. In September 2017, the council approved the commencement of Stage 2 activities in respect of the tram extension (York Place to Newhaven). Stage 2 of the project is the procurement phase, and is scheduled to take approximately 12 months. Public consultation will also commence during Stage 2. Stage 2 milestones include the completion of tender evaluations by September 2018. Subject to approval by council, the main construction contract is expected to be awarded, and stage 3 of the project approved by November 2018.
15. Following the original trams project, which was completed after significant delays and over-spends, an independent inquiry chaired by Lord Hardie was convened and is currently underway. Lord Hardie is expected to publish his findings by Summer 2018, to allow recommendations and lessons learned to be built into the final contract for award for the York Place to Newhaven project.
16. Audit work will be carried out, by external audit, over the course of 2018/19 in respect of the Edinburgh Trams project (York Place to Newhaven).
17. A joint inspection of health and social work services for older people was carried out by the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland in the autumn of 2016. The inspection highlighted several areas which were evaluated as weak and one as unsatisfactory. The Care Inspectorate has since been engaging with officers in Edinburgh and collaborating with colleagues in the ihub and the Scottish Government to support the partnership with the improvement agenda. This work will continue and the Care Inspectorate will monitor and report on progress against the recommendations arising from the joint inspection carried out in 2016.
18. From April 2018, Scottish ministers have asked the Care Inspectorate to lead a programme of joint inspections of service for children and young people, with scrutiny partners Education Scotland, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland. Scottish ministers have asked the Care Inspectorate to provide assurance about how community planning partners are protecting and meet the needs of children and young people who have experienced, or at risk of, abuse and neglect, and how they are working together to improve outcomes for children and young people who are subject to corporate parenting requirements. The intention is to carry out up to five joint inspections a year; in 2018/19 one of these will be in the Edinburgh area.
19. There is strong strategic leadership in Schools and Lifelong Learning Services. The council has appropriate governance arrangements in place to ensure that educational provision is well organised and well led. Scrutiny outcomes, including inspections, have been positive, overall, in recent years. However, a number of recent inspections, across sectors, have evaluated some important aspects of provision as satisfactory or weak. Outcomes for young people are generally improving but are, overall, less positive than

outcomes for young people with similar needs and backgrounds from across the country. Approaches being taken to ensure quality improvement within education are appropriate and have the capacity to lead to improvements in provision.

20. Overall there are a few concerns with the council's educational provision. In 2018/19, Education Scotland will engage in ongoing oversight and monitoring as part of the support provided by Area Lead Officers but will not engage in a formal scrutiny response other than planned inspections and reviews.
21. The council has 12 schools participating in the Schools Programme of the Scottish Attainment Challenge. Schools have Pupil Equity Funding plans in place and are being progressed. Education Scotland will continue to liaise with establishments as appropriate.
22. To assess the risk to social landlord services, SHR has reviewed and compared the performance of all Scottish social landlords to identify the weakest performing landlords.
23. It found that the council has weaknesses in relation to: complaints handling and complaints responded to within the SPSO timescales; rent collected and arrears; SHQS exemptions and abeyances and 'repairs completed 'right first time'. In relation to the council's homelessness service, it identified risks in relation to provision of temporary accommodation; use of B&Bs; length of time in temporary accommodation; lost contacts before discharge of duty; repeat assessments; case duration and percentage of RSL lets to homeless households.
24. The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) will monitor the council's progress in addressing the housing and homelessness service weaknesses identified in this plan. It will review the council's quarterly performance management reports and meet council officials as necessary.
25. The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) may carry out thematic inquiries during 2018/19 or it may carry out survey or on-site work to follow up on 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, any follow-up work to a published thematic inquiry, or a data accuracy visit, the SHR will confirm this directly with the council and the LAN lead.

Scrutiny activity

26. 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.

27. 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. 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	Audits covering children and young people's mental health, health and social care integration and the value for money of non-profit distributing (NPD) projects	2018/19
External Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit work will be carried out over the course of 2018/19 in respect of the Edinburgh Trams project (York Place to Newhaven). A follow up of the CGI security management audit will be carried out and the findings presented to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee in May 2018. 	2018/19 May 2018
Care Inspectorate	The Care Inspectorate will continue to work with the Edinburgh partnership to support improvement and will monitor and report on progress against the recommendations arising from the joint inspection carried out in 2016.	Ongoing
Education Scotland	Care Inspectorate led multi-agency inspection of children's services	Q4 2018/19
Education Scotland	No additional scrutiny is required beyond on-going and statutory work.	
Scottish Housing Regulator	The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) will monitor the council's progress in addressing the housing and homelessness service weaknesses identified in this plan. It will review the council's quarterly performance management reports and meet council officials as necessary.	Quarterly
Scottish Housing Regulator	The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) may carry out thematic inquiries during 2018/19 or it may carry out survey or on-site work to follow up on 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.	2018/19

City of Edinburgh Council

Local Scrutiny Plan 2018/19

A summary of local government strategic scrutiny activity

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