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## **ACCOUNTS COMMISSION REPORT COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT: COVID-19 UPDATE**

**Report by Chief Officer Audit and Risk**

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### **AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**14 February 2022**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to make the Audit and Scrutiny Committee aware of a published report by Accounts Commission.**
- 1.2 The Accounts Commission report, 'Community Empowerment – Covid-19 Update' was published on 28 October 2021. [Community empowerment: Covid-19 update | Audit Scotland \(audit-scotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/publications/community-empowerment-covid-19-update)
- 1.3 The Accounts Commission highlighted in its report that Communities played a crucial role in the response to Covid-19. Public bodies can learn from good practice and new ways of working which emerged in response to Covid-19 and use this to shape the way they work in the future to promote the best outcomes for local communities and help address inequalities.
- 1.4 Part of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee's role is to oversee the framework of internal control relating to the Council's service delivery models including partnership and collaboration to provide reasonable assurance of effective and efficient operations. This would include the consideration of national reports that share intelligence and good practice.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 I recommend that the Audit and Scrutiny Committee:**
  - a) Consider the Accounts Commission report Community Empowerment: Covid-19 Update; and**
  - b) Note that the Strategic Leadership Team were consulted on this report content in full to learn from good practice and new ways of working which emerged in response to Covid-19 and to use this to shape their medium-term strategic plans and their approaches to supporting and empowering communities.**

### **3 ACCOUNTS COMMISSION 'COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT: COVID-19 UPDATE'**

- 4.1 Audit Scotland carries out a national performance audit programme on behalf of the Accounts Commission and the Auditor General for Scotland. Audit Scotland publishes on its website these reports, which may be of interest to the Council. Officers receive notifications on publication of national performance audit reports, which are considered by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on a regular basis.
- 4.2 The Accounts Commission report, 'Community Empowerment – Covid-19 Update' was published on 28 October 2021. The full report can be accessed on the Audit Scotland website, using link below:
- [Community empowerment: Covid-19 update | Audit Scotland \(audit-scotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/community-empowerment-covid-19-update)
- 4.3 The Accounts Commission highlighted in its report that Communities played a crucial role in the response to Covid-19.
- 4.4 Purpose of the Accounts Commission report: Public bodies can learn from good practice and new ways of working which emerged in response to Covid-19 and use this to shape the way they work in the future to promote the best outcomes for local communities and help address inequalities. The report shares some of the many good examples of the community response to the pandemic and summarises the learning. It builds on the [Principles for community empowerment](#) published in 2019 and ongoing engagement with the Community Empowerment Advisory Group. Public bodies should use this information alongside their own learning to develop longer-term approaches to supporting and empowering communities.
- 4.5 The Strategic Leadership Team has been consulted on the Accounts Commission report, 'Community Empowerment – Covid-19 Update' content in full to learn from good practice and new ways of working which emerged in response to Covid-19 and to use this to shape their medium-term strategic plans and their approaches to supporting and empowering communities.

### **5 IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 **Financial**  
This is a routine Accounts Commission report published by Audit Scotland for improvement and assurance purposes.
- 5.2 **Risk and Mitigations**  
The Accounts Commission report, 'Community Empowerment – Covid-19 Update' shares some of the many good examples of the community response to the pandemic and summarises the learning.
- 5.3 **Integrated Impact Assessment**  
This is a routine Accounts Commission report published by Audit Scotland for improvement and assurance purposes. The Accounts Commission report, 'Community Empowerment – Covid-19 Update' highlights that public bodies can learn from good practice and new ways of working which emerged in response to Covid-19 and use this to shape the way they work in the future to promote the best outcomes for local communities and help address inequalities.

#### 5.4 **Sustainable Development Goals**

The Accounts Commission report, 'Community Empowerment – Covid-19 Update' highlights that public bodies should use this information alongside their own learning to develop longer-term approaches to supporting and empowering communities.

#### 5.5 **Climate Change**

This report does not relate to any proposal, plan or project and as a result the checklist on Climate Change is not an applicable consideration.

#### 5.6 **Rural Proofing**

This report does not relate to new or amended policy or strategy and as a result rural proofing is not an applicable consideration.

#### 5.7 **Data Protection Impact Statement**

There are no personal data implications arising from the content of this report.

#### 5.8 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

No changes are required to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the content in this report.

### 6 **CONSULTATION**

6.1 The Strategic Leadership Team has been consulted on the Accounts Commission report, 'Community Empowerment – Covid-19 Update' content in full to learn from good practice and new ways of working which emerged in response to Covid-19.

6.3 The Director - Finance & Corporate Governance, Chief Legal Officer (and Monitoring Officer), Director – People Performance & Change, Clerk to the Council, and Communications team have been consulted on this summary report and any comments received have been taken into account.

#### **Approved by**

**Jill Stacey, Chief Officer Audit and Risk**    **Signature .....**

#### **Author(s)**

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**Background Papers:** Audit Scotland publications on website

**Previous Minute Reference:**

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by using the contact details below. Information on other language translations can also be given as well as provision of additional copies.

Contact us at [IntAudit@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:IntAudit@scotborders.gov.uk)