

Orkney Islands Council

Local Scrutiny Plan 2015/16



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Introduction

1. This local scrutiny plan sets out the planned scrutiny activity in Orkney Islands Council during 2015/16. The plan is 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 activity required and focusing this in the most proportionate way.
2. This plan does not identify or address all risks in the council. It covers only those risk areas that the LAN has identified as requiring scrutiny, or where scrutiny is planned as part of a national programme. Planned scrutiny activity across all councils in Scotland informs the National Scrutiny Plan for 2015/16, which is available on the Audit Scotland website.

Scrutiny risks

3. During 2014/15 a number of scrutiny reviews took place, as detailed in the 2014-17 Assurance and Improvement Plan. This included a review of Orkney Community Planning Partnership, and targeted follow-ups of national reports on *Arm's-length external organisations (ALEOs): are you getting it right?* and *Major capital investment in councils* by Audit Scotland. Reports on these studies were published during the year.
4. The LAN's shared risk assessment in 2014/15 identified a need for the Scottish Housing Regulator to engage with the council regarding the provision of housing services and a performance inquiry was issued seeking assurance in relation to a range of service provisions. A further scrutiny review is being planned for 2015/16 and details of the work to be carried out will be determined, in discussion with the council, following a review of this year's Annual Return on the Charter (ARC).
5. In addition to the planned scrutiny for 2014/15, a supported self-evaluation exercise in Children's Services was planned by the Care Inspectorate. However, due to service pressures at the council, this self-evaluation was postponed to a later date in 2015/16.
6. There are a number of areas in which Audit Scotland will continue to monitor developments through the 2015/16 annual audit process. These areas are:
 - Progress on the health and social care integration programme.
 - Implementation of the council's Change Programme to deliver financial savings over the next three years.

7. A housing benefit performance audit will be carried out by Audit Scotland as part of the rolling programme of performance audits agreed with the Department of Work and Pensions. This work is scheduled for the summer of 2015.
8. Follow-up reviews will be scheduled, as appropriate, to assess the council's progress in implementing recommendations made in previous reports.

Planned scrutiny activity

9. As shown in Appendix 1, the council will be subject to a range of risk-based and nationally driven scrutiny activity during 2015/16 and further detail on this activity is noted below. For some of the scrutiny activity in 2015/16, scrutiny bodies are still to determine their work programmes, which specific council areas they will cover and/or when this scrutiny activity will be undertaken. Where a council is to be involved, the relevant scrutiny body will confirm this with the council and the appropriate LAN lead.
10. Audit Scotland has three planned performance audits covering local government during 2015/16. It will be working jointly with the Care Inspectorate looking at social care and jointly with both the Care Inspectorate and Health Improvement Scotland (HIS) on a Health and Social care integration position statement. It will also carry out a follow-up audit on roads maintenance. Any engagement with councils is still to be determined. Publication of these reports is scheduled for between October 2015 and February 2016.
11. Audit Scotland will continue to carry out a programme of housing benefit risk assessments across councils in 2015/16. For Orkney Islands Council this will be carried out during July 2015.
12. Orkney is one of eight areas where an audit of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) has been carried out. Audit Scotland will carry out follow-up work across all eight areas during 2015/16 to assess what progress the CPP has made in addressing outstanding improvement areas. This work will be carried out as part of the annual external audit process.
13. The Care Inspectorate and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) will carry out a joint thematic review of multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) in Scotland during 2015. This forms part of a wider programme of national inspection, and is not a result of the LAN shared risk assessment. The purpose of this review will be to assess the state, efficiency and effectiveness of the MAPPA in Scotland, in terms of keeping people safe and reducing the potential risk of serious harm by registered sex offenders in our communities. It will cover all 32 local authorities and involve local authorities, Police Scotland, NHS Boards and the Scottish Prison Service. The joint review will cover the Orkney Islands Council area during June 2015.
14. Education Scotland will be working in partnership with councils to carry out a validated self-evaluation (VSE) of educational psychology services across all councils over a two-year period beginning in 2015/16. Education Scotland will notify councils of its VSE

plans each academic term. For the Orkney Islands Council, this will take place week beginning 25th May 2015.

15. Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) has a planned programme of thematic inquiries into housing services which will be carried out largely in the first quarter of 2015-16, with publication of inquiry reports in the first and second quarters of the year. The thematic inquiries will cover a range of housing services including: Gypsy/Travellers; factoring services; gas safety; complaints handling; customer service standards; repairs; rent consultation; equalities; and openness and accessibility. Some of the thematic inquiries will not involve any on-site work at all and no local authority will be selected for on-site work in more than one thematic. The SHR will contact individual landlords with details about their potential inclusion.
16. During the first and second quarters of the year, the SHR will review the Charter data submitted by social landlords in May 2015 and identify topics for a further programme of thematic inquiries to be taken forward in the second and third quarters of the year.
17. 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. Individual audit and inspection agencies will also continue to monitor developments in key areas of council activity and will provide support and challenge as appropriate. This will help to inform future assessment of scrutiny risk.

March 2015

Appendix 1: Scrutiny plan

Scrutiny body	Scrutiny activity	Date
Audit Scotland	Housing benefit audit.	July 2015
	Follow-up of Orkney Community Planning Partnership report.	September 2015
	Performance audits planned in following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads maintenance: follow-up • Social Care • Health and Social Care Integration. 	Dates to be confirmed
Care Inspectorate	Joint thematic review of multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA).	June 2015
Education Scotland	Education Scotland will be working in partnership with councils to carry out a validated self-evaluation (VSE) of educational psychology services across all councils over a two-year period beginning in 2015/16.	w/b 25 th May 2015
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS)	HMICS will be inspecting local policing across Scotland over the next three years. This will examine, amongst other things, local scrutiny and engagement between Police Scotland and councils. Two local Policing Divisions are programmed to be inspected in addition to Edinburgh Division in 2015/16. The Divisions will be identified approximately three months prior to inspection, the first being no earlier than October.	Date over next three years to be determined.
Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate (HMFSI)	HMFSI will be inspecting local fire and rescue services across Scotland over the next five years. These inspections will examine, amongst other things, local scrutiny and engagement between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and councils. As part of its programme, HMFSI will inspect four local fire and rescue services during 2015/16. Orkney Islands is not included in the programme this year.	Date over next five years to be determined.
Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR)	The SHR will undertake further scrutiny with the council to better assess the overall quality of the council housing services. The exact nature of the scrutiny will be determined following the council's submission of its Annual Return on the Charter (ARC) for 2014/15.	July – September 2015

	SHR will carry out a number of thematic inquiries in 2015/16. If Orkney Islands Council is to be involved in a thematic inquiry the SHR will confirm this with the council and the appropriate LAN lead.	To be determined.
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