

<b>AUDIT SCOTLAND REPORT – SCHOOL EDUCATION</b>		
<b>MORAY COUNCIL POSITION STATEMENT</b>		
<b>Ref</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCILS</b>	<b>MORAY POSITION</b>
<b>1.</b>	Ensure Members fully understand why levels of attainment vary between their schools and different groups of pupils	Members receive a detailed annual analysis of SQA results. Issues arising are addressed in individual schools and followed-up through officer reviews.
<b>2.</b>	Develop and implement strategies to reduce the gaps in performance between the highest and lowest performing schools	The Moray Attainment strategy will be launched in 2014.
<b>3.</b>	Continue to work with the Scottish Government and Education Scotland to develop a suite of agreed performance measures which would provide an overall picture of educational attainment and achievement across Scotland	Initial discussions have taken place between ADES and the Improvement Service aimed at developing a set of performance indicators on attainment at P1-S3. Moray will await national guidance in this area.
<b>4.</b>	Review the sufficiency of information provided to education committees on attainment at S4-S6, pupil performance between P1-S3 and wider achievement. They should also ensure committees have the time and support to adequately challenge and hold to account education services	The 'Insight' attainment benchmarking instrument will provide authorities with detailed information which will provide more accurate evaluations of school performance through the 'virtual comparator' tool.
<b>5.</b>	Develop more coordinated approaches to gathering and recording information on the range of wider achievement activities offered in schools, including the levels of pupil participation and the outcomes they achieve. This will help councils to scrutinise performance and ensure resources are being used as efficiently as possible	Moray currently gathers data on wider achievement from a range of sources. This is collated and reported to Members.
<b>6.</b>	Ensure education strategic documents contain clear priorities and actions that set out what is to be achieved in the short, medium and long term. Performance management arrangements should be monitor outcomes and report regularly on delivery against strategic objectives, such as raising attainment among the lowest performing pupils	As stated above The Moray Attainment strategy will be launched in 2014. 'Insight' will allow more in-depth analysis of the performance of individual groups of learners.

## APPENDIX 1

<b>7.</b>	Consistently use the Scottish Local Government Benchmarking Framework to compare their performance against other councils, and share good practice to improve educational attainment and wider achievement	All attainment information is currently benchmarked at authority and individual school levels. 'Insight' will provide more accurate evaluations of school performance through the 'virtual comparator' tool. There are strategies in place, locally and nationally, to share good practice.
<b>8.</b>	Fully assess the potential long-term impact on attainment and wider achievement of budget reductions	At present there is no apparent impact on attainment outcomes through accrued savings.
<b>9.</b>	Monitor and act on the impact of revised working practices and staff reductions across all affected groups (eg, teachers, administrative staff, classroom assistants) on staff wellbeing by, for example, monitoring sickness absence levels, and through specific questions in staff surveys	Staff absences are carefully monitored and support is put in place as required. It is recognised that there are issues with regard to recruitment, retention and short term absence cover.