

REPORT TO: AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE – 23 APRIL 2008

SUBJECT: SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT: PROPOSED CHANGES TO ROLE AND REMIT OF AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The Committee is asked to consider extending its remit to enable it to scrutinise delivery against the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).

1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section G of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the functions of the Audit and Performance Review Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Committee is asked to consider extending its remit to enable it to scrutinise delivery against the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At the meeting of the Moray Council on 26 March 2008 the meeting noted how the SOA was developing. Since that meeting a draft SOA has been submitted to the Scottish Government by their deadline of 31 March 2008. Over the next few months negotiations will be undertaken with the Scottish Government to finalise the SOA by end of June.

3.2 The current scrutiny arrangements for the Committee cover the policies of the Council and their effectiveness in meeting the Action Plans of the Council as set out in the Corporate Development Plan and evaluating the actions of the Committees and implementing the Action Plan set out in the Corporate Development Plan.

3.3 The current agenda items of the Audit and Performance Committee covers scrutiny against:-

- Performance Monitoring – performance against the key objectives of each service area by activity.
- Service Standards – performance against stated customer standards which can be expected from services
- Inspections and audits – summary of all inspections and audits carried out within a 6 month period
- Large projects – scrutinise the performance of some of the larger projects being undertaken by Departments

- 3.4 The SOA has been developed as part of evidence based priority setting and includes:-
- Council priorities - priorities highlighted by the Administration Group
 - Service Improvement Priorities – priorities highlighted requiring actions when Moray is not in line with national averages
 - Community Planning Partners - priorities highlighted by partners as part of their organisational priorities.
- 3.5 There are 15 national outcomes within the SOA which the Council has to deliver against. Within each of these outcomes, there are a number of performance indicators which will be used to measure our delivery against them.
- 3.6 Some of the performance indicators reported under the performance monitoring reports are included within the SOA indicators but not the full range of indicators.
- 3.7 Considerable work has been undertaken to revise the performance monitoring indicators and these should provide the Committee with the information they require to scrutinise services. Given this, it may not be appropriate to discontinue the reporting of performance monitoring indicators to this Committee at this time. It may be that both performance monitoring indicators and SOA indicators be reported to this Committee. In the longer term performance monitoring reports may be reported to the Service Committees only with Audit and Performance focusing on the major priorities and the SOA.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

The Council is committed to delivering better public services year on year through Best Value, and accepts the key principles of accountability, ownership, continued improvement and transparency.

(b) Policy and Legal

There are no legal or policy requirements for the Audit and Performance Committee to scrutinise SOA performance indicators.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

Staff are already reporting performance indicators to Audit and Performance.

(d) Consultations

None.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Given the importance of the SOA it should be included within the remit of the Committee to scrutinise the delivery against the outcomes. These indicators will be monitored nationally and therefore it should be internally reviewed on a regular basis.**
- 5.2 The Committee may also wish to consider the future need to scrutinise performance monitoring information over the next year as the SOA indicators will provide a strategic overview of the Council priorities. Performance monitoring information could then be reported to Service Committees.**

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Background Papers:
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