

REPORT TO: AUDIT & PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON 28TH APRIL 2010

SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL REPORT 2009/10 – IMPROVING PUBLIC SECTOR EFFICIENCY

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 This report advises the committee of the Audit Scotland National report on Improving Public Sector Efficiency.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section J (3) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to consideration of Audit Scotland's Reports concerning Council functions.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee consider the Audit Scotland National Report on Improving Public Sector Efficiency.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In February 2010 Audit Scotland published a National Report on Improving Public Sector Efficiency. A copy of the report summary and recommendations is attached as Appendix 1 to this report and a full copy of the Audit Scotland publication has been placed on the Members portal.
- 3.2 The Moray Council has been actively involved in identifying and achieving efficiency savings for a number of years and further comments on the background to the Council's progress are provided below.
 - 3.2.1 At the Policy and Resources Committee on the 1st March 2006, Members formally endorsed that "The Council recognises that Efficient Government must underpin all activities to ensure that maximum output can be delivered from the finite resources available and recognises Community Planning, Performance Management and Reporting, and Efficient Government as the 3 key areas that will drive Council business in the years ahead."

This statement was reaffirmed by the Policy and Resources Committee on the 28th March 2007.

- 3.2.2 The Council has published an Efficiency Statement in each of the last 3 financial years and has also identified efficiency savings as part of each annual budget for a number of years.
- 3.2.3 A number of aspects of the Moray Performs agenda are relevant to our continuing arrangements to become more efficient including: Workforce Planning, Performance Management and the Public Sector Improvement Framework. The Designing Better Services programme is the major focus of the Council's drive for further efficiency saving and the implementation plan

for this programme was approved by the Policy and Resources Committee on the 2nd of March 2010.

- 3.2.4 The Council has also been active regarding Shared Services and was the lead authority amongst 7 Council's in the North of Scotland for the Shared Revenues Service feasibility study.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) *Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan*

Local Priority 10 of the Single Outcome Agreement relates to continuous improvement and increased efficiency of service provision.

(b) *Policy and Legal*

The policy statement in respect of Efficient Government was established on the 1st March 2006 and reaffirmed on the 28th March 2007 by the Policy and Resources committee.

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

There are no resources arising from this report.

(d) *Consultations*

None.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 A national study was completed by Audit Scotland and their findings were published in February 2010. A summary of their findings is provided in this report together with some background relating to Moray Council's progress in respect of the Efficient Government agenda.

Author of Report: Mark Palmer, Chief Financial Officer

Background Papers:

Ref: MP/LMS/770327/770421