

REPORT TO: AUDIT PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW COMMITTEE 28 APRIL 2009

**SUBJECT: PROGRESS REPORT FOR KEY RISK AREAS FROM EXTERNAL
AUDIT'S ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS FOR 2008/09**

BY: CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee with a progress report on the work undertaken to mitigate the key risks highlighted in External Audit's Annual Report to Members submitted to this Committee on 16 December 2009.
- 1.2 This Report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section J (4), contributing towards making the Council and its services more responsive to the audit function and its purpose.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee consider and note the contents of the attached progress report.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Report to Members on the 2008/09 audit summarised the findings from External Audit's 2008/09 Audit of The Moray Council, focusing on the financial statements audit and any significant findings that have arisen from the review of the management of strategic risks during the year.
- 3.2 The attached **APPENDIX** is a summary of Audit Scotland's high level risks which were found during the 2008/09 audit of the Council. The statement also details the actions which officers are taking to mitigate these risks and the progress to date.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

Although not directly mentioned in the Single Outcome agreement, the work undertaken by External Audit provides assurance to the Committee on the Council's performance management, financial statements and the actions taken by the Council to address key risks.

(b) Policy and Legal

The audit is conducted in terms of statutory powers afforded to the appointed External Auditor.

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

The management of risks relating to key issues for the year ahead involves all services across the Council.

(d) Consultations

The narrative in the Progress columns has been supplied by the responsible officer.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 As can be seen from the details in the APPENDIX to this report, the Council has made good progress in mitigating these high level risks.

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Background Papers: Attached
Ref: MW/LJC/768814/746422