

AUDIT SCOTLAND NATIONAL REPORTS TO AUDIT COMMITTEE 2012 - 2013

1. SUMMARY

In compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit, on a quarterly basis the Audit Committee receives Audit Scotland reports pertaining to Local Government. There are 2 reports appended for the Audit Committee. Both reports contain a checklist for a management response.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The contents of this report are to be noted and will be followed up by Internal Audit.

3. DETAILS

3.1 In December 2012, Audit Scotland published a report entitled, "Health Inequalities in Scotland. " The report highlights that while overall health has improved in the past 50 years, deep-seated inequalities remain.

Major differences remain in the health and life expectancy of different groups of people in Scotland. The problem is complex and addressing it requires a range of public bodies working together effectively; it is not just the responsibility of health services.

The report assesses how well public sector bodies are working together to target resources at health inequalities and monitor their collective performance, and review health services and initiatives aimed at reducing health inequalities.

The national report comes with a checklist for completion. Individual partners of the CPP have prepared an initial response to the checklist in the report. These are being brought together to create a unified response to the report recommendations and will be reported to the June committee.

3.2 Audit Scotland published a report in January 2013 entitled "Protecting Consumers". The report looks at trading standards and food safety services provided by Scotland's 32 councils to protect the public in areas ranging from food poisoning to doorstep cons and internet fraud. People depend on these services more in tough economic times – vulnerable groups such as older people and low income families are particularly at risk.

The following points have been identified in the report:

- Argyll and Bute has the largest percentage of businesses classified as high risk under Trading Standards at 5.9%.
- Argyll and Bute is one of 2 authorities that have over 20% of businesses unrated for risk in terms of food hygiene.
- Argyll and Bute is one of 6 local authorities providing no help with civil cases unless exceptional reason.

The report makes a series of recommendations to councils and COSLA on staffing, national co-ordination, and advice and support for the public.

An audit checklist has been completed by the appropriate Head of Service responding to key report messages and is attached for review.

- 3.3 Full reports can either be viewed at http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/work/local_national.php 2012/13 or viewed in the Committee Room 1 where a copy has been made available.

4. CONCLUSIONS

This report and attachments are submitted to the Audit Committee for consideration and review.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1	Policy:	None
5.2	Financial:	None
5.3	Legal:	None
5.4	HR:	None
5.5	Equalities:	None
5.6	Risk:	None
5.7	Customer Service:	None

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