

**AUDIT SCOTLAND NATIONAL REPORTS
HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN SCOTLAND and IMPROVING COMMUNITY
PLANNING IN SCOTLAND**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This paper updates the Audit Committee on progress in relation to the two Audit Scotland National Reports on Health Inequalities and Improving Community Planning.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Audit Committee notes the content of the report and notes that a further management report will be brought to the Audit committee in September 2013.

3 DETAIL

- 3.1 The Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership (CPP) has recently agreed a new structure and new governance arrangements that put more emphasis on leadership and the roles of partners across the CPP network. This approach aligns closely with the Statement of Ambition set out by the Scottish Government and COSLA and is reflected in the Audit Scotland national report on community planning.
- 3.2 The Scottish Government issued guidance to Community Planning Partnerships on the development of Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs), and significant emphasis has been placed by the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership on the development of a new 10 year SOA. The national guidance for SOAs specifically refers to the need for health inequalities to be addressed.
- 3.3 In December 2012, Audit Scotland published a report entitled, 'Health Inequalities in Scotland'. The report highlights that whilst overall health has improved over the past 50 years, deep-seated inequalities remain. The national report came with a checklist for completion. The Audit committee requested that responses to the checklist in the report be discussed with the CPP to create a unified response with these reported to the June Committee. An initial response to the checklist was prepared by the council and circulated to CPP members for consideration. The joint response was considered in draft but not presented to the CPP Management Committee. The information collated as part of the response is being critically reviewed as a mechanism for informing the preparation of the new Argyll and Bute Single Outcome Agreement, which is currently in draft format.

- 3.4 The process of compiling the Argyll and Bute SOA was affected significantly by the publication of the 2011 census in March 2013. Although the trend of depopulation was anticipated, its scale was not. The results show that Argyll and Bute has the highest rate of depopulation in Scotland and the highest old age dependency ratio. Argyll and Bute also exhibited the greatest departure from the inter census trend information in many areas, particularly in relation to population decline and number of households.
- 3.5 A complete review of the strategic outcomes in the SOA is now underway, with close discussion taking place with colleagues in Scottish Government, and across the partnership. Consultation has taken place with elected members and a proposed SOA will be presented to council on 27 June.
- 3.6 The specific consideration of health inequalities will be a key element of the new Single Outcome Agreement and will comply with the recommendations set out in the guidance from the Scottish Government on SOAs and the guidance set out in the Audit Scotland National Report on Health Inequalities.
- 3.7 A further, fuller report on Community Planning and Health Inequalities in respect of the Audit Scotland National reports will be presented to the Audit Committee in September, once the CPP has finalised the 10 Year Single Outcome Agreement.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Changes to the management, leadership and governance structures of Argyll and Bute’s Community Planning Partnership, along with unanticipated census results have required a full review of the draft Single Outcome Agreement and the position regarding how the partnership tackles health inequalities. These will be reported in detail to the Audit Committee in September.

5 IMPLICATIONS

Policy	The SOA sets the context for council and partner policy on delivering outcomes.
Financial	None
Personnel	None
Legal	The council has a duty to facilitate community planning.
Equal Opportunities	None
Risk	None
Customer Service	None

Jane Fowler, Head of Improvement and HR