

FC39. Best Value Improvement Plan

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive advising on (a) progress with the Best Value Improvement Plan which had been agreed in October 2015; (b) the emerging best value themes as set out in the Accounts Commission's overview of local government in Scotland, and (c) the key messages contained in Audit Scotland's Annual Report in regard to their Best Value follow up work.

Council had agreed an Improvement Plan, on 7 October 2015 (ref FC48), in response to Audit Scotland's Best Value review of Falkirk Council and had agreed, in March 2016 (ref FC93), that progress made on the Improvement Plan would be reviewed by the Provost, Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition. A position statement, as at 8 September 2016, was appended to the report.

The report highlighted that the Performance Panel had agreed a three year programme of service reviews and self assessments. Progress in regard to these will be reported to the Business Transformation Board and the Performance Panel

In March 2016 the Accounts Commission had published an Overview of Local Government in Scotland in 2016.

In April and May 2016 Audit Scotland had undertaken a best value follow-up audit of the Council and it was anticipated that they would report on it to the Accounts Commission in December 2016 following which the Commission would publish its findings.

The findings are from the Commission not Audit Scotland. Audit Scotland's conclusions on the best value review (which were appended to the report) formed part of their annual report on the Council which was due to be considered by the Audit Committee on 26 September 2016.

Given how recently the report had been received, it was proposed that the Provost, Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition would meet to consider it in more detail and consider the most appropriate way to develop a response, with a report to Council to follow in due course.

Decision

Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the update on the Best Value Improvement Plan;**
- (2) to note the themes contained in the Overview of Local Government in Scotland report 2016, and**
- (3) that the Provost, Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition will meet to consider how the Council should respond to the best value follow-up work with a report on the way forward being brought back to Members.**