

AC32. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE 2013/14 AUDIT

The committee considered a report by the Chief Finance Officer presenting Audit Scotland's report on the 2013/14 Audit.

The report advised that the annual accounts had been audited and were unqualified. The key findings of the audit report were summarised together with details of an action plan, with 6 agreed recommendations.

The committee discussed the Council's reserves strategy and the risk, as set out by Audit Scotland, in having high levels of reserves. The Chief Executive stressed the prudence in building reserves, highlighting the anticipated funding gap, in the next financial years. Members also highlighted slippage in the capital programme and sought clarity on the rationale for including, within the plans, projects which were unlikely to progress such as Avon Gorge works. The Chief Executive responded that processes had been out in place to manage areas of slippage within the capital plan and to reprofile the plan.

The Internal Audit manager, in response to a question in regard to the blue badge parking scheme, provided an overview of the process for "policing" potential fraud, and highlighted some of associated sensitivities and risks.

Decision

The Committee noted the report.