

## **REPORT TO COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 07 SEPTEMBER 2023**

### **COMMITTEE REVIEW PROCESS STAGE 1 REFERRAL: INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2312 – ASSURANCE REVIEW OF IJB GOVERNANCE**

#### **1. Executive Summary/Recommendations**

1.1 This report provides an update on progress against the action plan arising from Internal Audit Report 2312 'Assurance Review of IJB (Integration Joint Board) Governance', following previous discussion at Communities Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 and as part of the agreed framework of the Stage 1 Committee Review Process. Members are asked to consider recommendations and agree future improvement actions.

#### **1.2 The Committee is recommended to:**

**1.2.1 Consider whether this further update on the Stage 1 scrutiny report and recommendations provides the Committee with sufficient assurances on this matter; and**

**1.2.2 Where the Committee feels that the report does not provide adequate reassurance, request the delivery of a Stage 2 workshop for the Committee to allow for further exploration of the issue and identification of potential improvement actions.**

#### **2 Decision-Making Route**

2.1 On 22 March 2023, the Audit Committee considered Internal Audit Report 2312 and agreed that a request be made to the Communities Committee to conduct the Committee Review Process relating to a matter of service delivery for improvement identified on the matter of 'Assurance Review of IJB (Integration Joint Board) Governance'.

2.2 On 01 June 2023 the Communities Committee received a report from the Chief Officer of the Health and Social Care Partnership asking it to consider this referral from the Audit Committee on a proposed Committee Review Process. The Communities Committee considered the request from the Audit Committee and determined to conduct the Committee Review Process in respect of the matter of service delivery identified by the Audit Committee for improvement. The Committee agreed that the Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership would report to Committee with the Stage 1 Report on 07 September 2023 (the next Committee following summer recess).

2.3 On 06 July 2023 the Audit Committee considered a report advising that the Communities Committee had agreed to conduct the Stage 1 Report Committee Review and noted that a further report would be presented to the

Audit Committee when the Communities Committee has concluded its consideration in terms of the Committee Review Process.

### **3 Discussion**

- 3.1 The detailed scope of this review was provided in the Stage 1 Report to Communities Committee on 01 June 2023 including presentation of progress against the action plan.
- 3.2 Recommendations from Internal Audit report 2312 continue to guide the work of the Aberdeenshire HSCP Governance Short Life Working Group convened to oversee a range of related governance tasks and activities. This group includes the Legal Advisor to the HSCP who has also been seconded to the HSCP to undertake a strategic governance review of current governance arrangements and provide support in putting in place revised processes.
- 3.3 Considerable progress has been made with a further 5 recommendations being agreed as complete since the last report to Communities Committee and actions in place for ensuring completion of the outstanding recommendations. An update on all actions is included at Appendix 1. In addition to the work previously completed, a summary of the documentation and activities which have been completed in the last 3 months include:
- Update of the HSCP’s Medium Term Finance Strategy.
  - Development of a strategy tracker to enable effective monitoring of all AHSCP strategies throughout their lifespan and ensuring development, evaluation and review is undertaken within required timelines and to agreed processes, aligned with the IJB’s master forward planner.
  - Development of a draft self-assessment tool for IJB committees to support annual reviews of performance in line with their Terms of Reference.
  - Implementation of the HSCP’s revised performance reporting framework to the IJB including reports to the Communities Committee and Area Committee structures.
- 3.4 The Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership will report the Committee’s decision to the meeting of the Audit Committee on 21 September 2023.

### **4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk**

- 4.1 This report helps deliver the Strategic Priority “Health and Wellbeing” within the Pillar “People”.
- 4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Financial		<b>X</b>	
Staffing		<b>X</b>	

Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland		X	
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing		X	
Climate Change and Sustainability		X	
Health and Wellbeing		X	
Town Centre First		X	

4.3 There are no staffing or financial implications specifically arising from the recommendations if agreed.

4.4 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment process was completed when the scrutiny referral was submitted to Communities Committee on 01 June 2023. This did not identify the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken. An integrated impact assessment is not required because this report is to provide committee with information relating to a matter being processed by way of the Committee Review Process.

4.5 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

- ACORP004 Business and organisational transformation

## 5 Scheme of Governance

5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

5.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section D.7.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as the matter relates to the scrutiny and review of the effectiveness of Council policy implementation and Council service delivery in respect of a function within its remit.

**Pamela Milliken, Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership**

Report prepared by Angela MacLeod, Interim Strategy and Transformation Manager

Date 14 August 2023

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – Internal Audit Report 2312 Action Plan Update