
Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	2 October 2017
Report By:	Aubrey Fawcett Chief Executive, Inverclyde Council and Chair of SOA Programme Board	Report No:	
Contact Officer:	Miriam McKenna, Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager	Contact No:	01475 712042
Subject:	Inverclyde Council Best Value Assurance Report – Recommendations for the Inverclyde Alliance		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the agreement of the Alliance Board on how the recommendations for the Partnership, contained in the recent Inverclyde Council Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR), should be taken forward.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Inverclyde Council was the first local authority to be audited by Audit Scotland as part of their new process of Best Value Audit, resulting in a Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR). Best Value also covers partnership working and previous audits have focused on Community Planning, with a particular focus on community engagement.
- 2.2 The report highlights that partnership working is strong in Inverclyde and that a clear vision is shared across the partnership. The report includes three recommendations that are also of relevance to the Inverclyde Alliance:
- The Partnership should use the LOIP to develop a single set of outcomes;
 - Actions to deliver strategic improvements should identify the difference they are expected to make to the overall strategic outcomes, including key milestones;
 - The Partnership needs to consider how collectively it will support the capacity building, involvement and empowerment of communities as set out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act.
- 2.3 The Alliance Board considered a report on the BVAR recommendations at its meeting on 19 June 2018. The Alliance Board remitted it to the Programme Board to report back on how these recommendations will be taken forward by the Partnership.
- 2.4 Appendix 1 sets out a number of actions agreed by the Programme Board as to how the Audit Scotland BVAR recommendations should be taken forward.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Alliance Board:
- a. Considers and agrees to implement the actions set out by the Programme Board in Appendix 1.

Miriam McKenna
Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The statutory duty of Best Value was introduced in the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. The audit of Best Value is a continuous process that forms part of the annual audit of every council. The Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) is the first on Inverclyde Council (and the first in Scotland), under revised arrangements for Audit Scotland in carrying out Best Value audits.

5.0 PART 4: IS THE COUNCIL WORKING WELL WITH ITS PARTNERS?

- 5.1 Part 4 of the report sets out Audit Scotland's findings in relation to whether the council is working well with its partners.
- 5.2 The Accounts Commission endorsed the Controller of Audit's finding that there is good evidence that the council is working well with its main partners and the community and recognises the challenges this involves.
- 5.3 Outcomes data for Inverclyde was found to be generally improving, as it is across Scotland.
- 5.4 The young people's conference, #Clyde Conversations, which is now a recurring partnership event, was highlighted as an area of good practice of community engagement in action.

6.0 CONTROLLER OF AUDIT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The report concludes with a number of recommendations for the Council to take forward. Three of these recommendations are also relevant to the work of the Inverclyde Alliance.
- The Partnership should use the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan to develop a single set of outcomes;
 - Actions to deliver strategic improvements should identify the difference they are expected to make to the overall strategic outcomes, including key milestones;
 - The Partnership needs to consider how collectively it will support the capacity building, involvement and empowerment of communities as set out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act.
- 6.2 The Alliance Board considered a report on the BVAR recommendations at its meeting on 19 June 2018. The Alliance Board remitted it to the Programme Board to set out how these recommendations will be taken forward by the Partnership.
- 6.3 Appendix 1 sets out a number of actions agreed by the Programme Board as to how the Audit Scotland BVAR recommendations should be taken forward.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial Implications - One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
n/a					

Financial Implications - Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if applicable)	Other Comments
n/a					

7.2 Human Resources: none at present

7.3 Legal: none at present

7.4 Equalities: none at present

7.5 Repopulation: A positive BVAR for Inverclyde Council will contribute to the work to showcase Inverclyde as a good place to live and work.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 n/a

9.0 CONCLUSIONS

9.1 For the Community Planning Partnership, the report highlights that partnership working is strong in Inverclyde, and that a clear vision is shared across the partnership. There is work for the Partnership to develop the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan to include only one set of outcomes, as well as developing processes to better evidence impact on those outcomes as a result of the work of the CPP. The Partnership also needs to consider how collectively it will support the capacity building and involvement of communities as set out in the Community Empowerment Act.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

Appendix 1

Table 1: Taking forward the BVAR recommendations for the Inverclyde Alliance

Recommendation	Action
1. The Partnership should use the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan to develop a single set of outcomes.	The current SOA is coming to an end and a new Outcome Improvement Plan will be in place by the 1 October. The Alliance Board has agreed that the LOIP will contain only the one set of outcomes i.e. the SHANARRI wellbeing outcomes. Only one set out outcomes will be put forward to be adopted by the Alliance.
2. Actions to deliver strategic improvements should identify the difference they are expected to make to the overall strategic outcomes, including key milestones.	<p>Evidencing impact on outcomes has been identified as an issue at a national level by the Scottish Performance Management Forum, which the majority of Scottish Councils attend. The Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager is carrying out research into how to measure outcomes effectively with a view to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing an approach that better maps short and medium term outcomes • Working with colleagues in the Scottish Performance Management Forum to develop a common, Scotland wide approach. The work on this will begin with a workshop at the next meeting of the Forum. Audit Scotland, the Accounts Commission and Dr Ailsa Cook (What Works Scotland) will be invited to attend to inform the discussions.
3. The Partnership needs to consider how collectively it will support the capacity building, involvement and empowerment of communities as set out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act.	<p>The Alliance has just completed an extensive community engagement exercise. 1,310 people completed the 'Our Place Our Future' Survey, representing 1.7% of the total population. This is the highest number of respondents Inverclyde Alliance has ever had to an engagement process. £150,000 has been allocated by Inverclyde Council to support communities to engage in community asset transfer.</p> <p>The Partnership should also consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remitting it to the Community Engagement Network to report back to the Alliance Board on the resources that are required to effectively deliver on community empowerment / engagement and capacity building with a view to making recommendations on taking this forward. • Facilitating improved community engagement in the development of Locality Plans and community planning through the development of more robust community engagement, including the Place Standard. • Developing guidance for communities on the various elements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act and making this widely available.