

West Dunbartonshire Council

Assurance and Improvement Plan

Update 2013–16

Contents

Introduction	3
Summary	4
National risks	6
Areas that remain ‘no scrutiny required’	10
Areas that remain ‘scrutiny or further information required’	13
Areas with changed assessments	15
Scrutiny plans	21
Appendix 1	22

Introduction

1. The first Assurance and Improvement Plan (AIP) for West Dunbartonshire Council (the council) was published in July 2010. That document set out the planned scrutiny activity for the council for the period April 2010 to March 2013 based on a Shared Risk Assessment (SRA) undertaken by a local area network (LAN) made up of representatives of all of the main local government audit and inspection agencies. The aim of the SRA process was to focus scrutiny activity where it is most needed and to determine the most proportionate scrutiny response over a three year period. The LAN met again in November 2010 and in November 2011 to update the AIP. The last AIP Update was published in May 2012 covering 2012 - 15.
2. This update is the result of the SRA which began in October 2012. The update process drew on evidence from a number of sources, including:
 - The annual report to the Controller of Audit and elected members for 2011/12 from the council's appointed external auditors.
 - The council's own performance data and self-evaluation evidence.
 - Evidence gathered from Education Scotland, the Care Inspectorate and the Scottish Housing Regulator (including published inspection reports and other supporting evidence).
3. A timetable for proposed audit and inspection activity between April 2013 and March 2016 which reflects the revised and updated scrutiny risk assessment is at Appendix 1.
4. Following feedback about the clarity of the SRA process we have amended our criteria to make it clearer what we mean. Our assessment criteria descriptions used last year have changed from 'significant concerns' to 'scrutiny required'; 'no significant concerns' to 'no scrutiny required'; and 'uncertainty' to 'further information required'.

Summary

5. Over the past year the council has continued to make good progress and demonstrate its commitment to continuous improvement. This is reflected in the assessment of 'An Improving Council' being an area where no scrutiny is required. However the LAN does reflect on what has been a year of considerable change for the council. From a political perspective a new Labour administration was elected in May 2012, a number of senior officers left the employment of the council and key projects such as the housing stock transfer and income securitisation have ceased or been postponed.
6. Following a fundamental review of the council's approach to strategic planning the council have prepared the West Dunbartonshire Council Strategic Plan 2012-17, which replaces the Corporate Plan. The plan was presented to full council on 26 September 2012 and made available on the council's website with a commitment to report year one progress by 30 September 2013. A ten year capital plan was agreed by council in February 2013 which established a view of potential capital investment needs covering the period from 2013/14 to 2022/23. In 2011/12 the council consolidated the outstanding actions in their Best Value Improvement Plan in the Assurance and Improvement Action Plan. Regular updates on progress against the actions are reported to council and the LAN is of the opinion that good progress is being made, albeit a number of the council's initiatives are at an early stage and we will monitor these as plans develop. Consequently the LAN has decided that the Best Value review scheduled for 2012/13 be delayed and scrutiny requirements are reassessed in next year's SRA process.
7. In the prior year AIP 'Housing maintenance and assets' was assessed as an area of significant scrutiny risk for the council due to concerns about meeting the Scottish Housing Quality Standards (SHQS) by the 2015 statutory deadline. The decision in June 2012 to opt for full housing stock retention heightened this risk. Limited progress toward achieving the SHQS by 2015 has been made. As at 31 March 2012 only 36 per cent of housing stock complied with the standard. This was significantly below the Scottish average. The council have revised their capital investment programme to prioritise SHQS compliance and are projecting that compliance will be achieved by 2015. A 100 per cent stock condition survey is to commence in May 2013 to identify the full extent of the required works to achieve compliance. Data from this will be provided incrementally to allow capital programmes to be progressed. Until the survey is progressed it is unclear what the full extent of the required works and capital investment are. Further scrutiny work on this area is dependent on the conclusion of the joint Scottish Housing Regulator and Audit Scotland inquiry into council performance which is scheduled for March 2013.
8. The council is one of 12 councils across the UK selected to run a pilot project to support the introduction of the Welfare Reform Act. This will impact across a wide range of council services including housing, asset management finance, information & communication technology (ICT) and customer service. The extent of this impact is not yet clear. This, and the overall level of change within the council, increases the need for sound risk management

practices to be in place. In the 2012-2015 AIP Update the LAN highlighted concerns about the maturity of the Council's risk management arrangements. The council have progressed this over the past 12 months and, as a consequence, the LAN have downgraded their assessment to 'further information required' which reflects this progress whilst recognising that there is further development required.

National risks

9. Local councils are operating within a context of significant change as a result of the challenging financial environment and the public service reform agenda, including the review of community planning, health and social care integration, police and fire reform, college regionalisation, and welfare reform. The Local Government Scrutiny Co-ordination Strategic Group is currently considering how audit and inspection arrangements should collectively respond to these significant strategic developments, recognising the increasing importance of partnerships, place and outcomes for Scotland's public services.

10. A number of core national risk priorities will be applied to all 32 councils. These are:

The protection and welfare of vulnerable people (children and adults) including access to opportunities

11. At the request of Scottish ministers, the Care Inspectorate is developing a model of joint inspection of children's services in Community Planning Partnership (CPP) areas in Scotland, in co-operation with other scrutiny bodies (Education Scotland, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and HMICS). These inspections will focus on how well local public bodies (councils, the NHS, police, etc.) are working together to deliver effective outcomes for children and young people. Development work involving Angus Council took place in April/May 2012. These joint inspections, which will report publicly, began in the autumn 2012.

12. In addition, the Care Inspectorate is working in co-operation with Healthcare Improvement Scotland to develop an approach to inspecting services providing care and health for adults drawing on its experience of implementing joint inspections of child protection and children's services. Development work involving a number of local authorities is underway and will continue into the early part of 2013. Following this, the Care Inspectorate will implement a programme of these inspections. Further details of the schedule will be confirmed in due course.

13. Subject to ministerial approval, the Care Inspectorate, in partnership with the Association of Directors of Social Work (ADSW) and the Risk Management Authority (RMA), will undertake supported self-evaluation across the 32 local authority criminal justice social work services during the latter part of 2013. This will look at the impact of the Level of Service Case Management Inventory (LSCMI), otherwise known as the national assessment and care planning instrument. This particular approach is one of a number of approaches the Care Inspectorate will use in its current and future scrutiny and improvement work in this area.

14. The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) plans to carry out a thematic inspection into the outcomes that local authorities are achieving by delivering a Housing Options and Prevention of Homelessness approach. The SHR will carry out this thematic inspection during the first half of 2013/14. This is likely to involve fieldwork visits to a small sample of local authorities. The SHR is currently identifying potential fieldwork sites and will be contacting those councils that it would like to visit in early 2013.

15. In May 2012 an organisational performance review praised the West Dunbartonshire CHCP's progress in integrating with existing structures. Scottish Government approval has been obtained to construct the new Vale of Leven Centre for Health and Care and commissioning strategies have been developed for areas such as Adult Learning Disability Services, Alcohol and Drug Services, Older People Services and Adult Rehabilitation Services. It also became the first integrated health and social care partnership in Scotland to have applied the Public Service Improvement Framework at a strategic and departmental level.
16. The Care Inspectorate published its report in March 2012 of its joint inspection of services to protect children (CP2) in West Dunbartonshire. The four quality indicators considered as part of the national performance framework were all evaluated as very good.
17. In addition, risk assessment and risk management was one of the areas of the social work services' approach and practices which was evaluated as part of the Care Inspectorate's ISLA completed in August 2012. The Care Inspectorate concluded that it had no significant concerns in this area.
18. The last AIP highlighted concerns regarding care home provision. Grades continued to be a concern in this area and ISLA scrutiny found that the Council/CHCP had taken too long to make a decision about future provision. In November 2012 it was decided to close the six council care homes and replace them with two Council run 90 bedded homes The LAN will continue to monitor the progress made by the Council in relation to the new care homes.

Assuring public money is being used properly

19. The annual audit of councils forms part of the baseline scrutiny of councils. This audit examines the financial management and controls in each council.
20. The council maintains a ten year Financial Strategy designed to provide clear direction on how to manage and structure its financial resources to ensure they are utilised effectively and are clearly directed at achieving the council's corporate objectives in the medium to long term. It is reviewed and updated regularly to identify required amendments to take account of any significant policy or financial developments both at a local and national level.
21. The regularity of expenditure is examined as part of the audit of the financial audit process. Within the council there are several mechanisms which assist in providing assurance that public funds are not misused including effective scrutiny by the Audit & Performance Review Committee which operates in line with best practice. There has been stability in senior finance positions in the year.
22. In the previous year the LAN was concerned about the risk profile of the income securitisation project. We note that the council have decided to postpone this project and investigate other means of generating finance. For these reasons the LAN is of the opinion that no additional scrutiny is required.

How councils are responding to the challenging financial environment

23. Recognising the significance of the uncertain financial context within which councils operate, Audit Scotland produced Scotland's Public Finances: Addressing the Challenges in August

2011. Follow-up work around the issues raised in the report will be undertaken in each council during 2013/14 to provide the Accounts Commission and the Auditor General for Scotland with evidence on the progress that public bodies are making in developing a strategic response to these long-term financial challenges. In addition, a specific piece of work on Reshaping Scotland's public sector workforce will be undertaken in 2013/14.

24. The provisional 2012 Scottish Government financial settlement for local authorities, announced in Finance Circular 5/2012, covering the years 2013/14 to 2014/15 resulted in a 2013/14 budget gap for the council of £2.7 million with a £10.5 million cumulative gap projected over the period 2014/15 to 2015/16. These ongoing budget reductions will impact on the council's ability to deliver its outcome targets and maintain service performance into the future. The extent of this is currently uncertain and will be kept under review by LAN members. The audited 2011/12 accounts show the council have unallocated reserves of £4.2 million. As a consequence the council is now limiting its exposure to financial risk and providing capacity to deal with unforeseen costs.
25. The council have identified a series of efficiency savings options which contain a range of service redesign and restructure programmes that are estimated to deliver £5.8 million in savings. Progress in achieving savings targets is monitored and regularly reported to the Corporate Management Team. We note that, with the exception of minor slippage, the council are on target to achieve the targeted savings.
26. The council presented draft 2012/13 budget proposals in December 2011 and the council engaged in public consultation to allow the public to provide feedback and perspective on the proposals. An overview of the feedback was presented to council in January 2012 to ensure it was considered as part of the final budget setting process. A net expenditure budget of £243.3 million for general services and gross expenditure budget of £35.1 million for HRA were set. In the past two years the council has returned a year end general services deficit of £0.1 million (2011/12) and £8.3 million (2010/11). Over that period the general fund balance has increased from £6.6 million at 1 April 2010 to £14.9 million at 31 March 2012. The General Services Revenue Budget control report (as at period 10) presented to council on 27 March 2013 reports a favourable variance of £0.85 million (less than 1 per cent of the phased budget). The 2013/14 budgets were agreed in February 2013 as £210.5 million net expenditure for general services and £35.8 million gross expenditure for the HRA.
27. The 2011/12 annual audit report on the council highlighted a concern about slippage in the delivery of the capital programme and also that there was only a one year capital plan in place. A ten year capital plan was agreed by council in February 2013.
28. No additional scrutiny work is planned but it should be noted that Audit Scotland will routinely continue to monitor the financial position of the council as part of the annual audit process.
29. At the request of Scottish ministers, Audit Scotland has piloted an approach to auditing Community Planning Partnerships (CPP) and the delivery of local outcomes. The CPP audit model was tested during 2012/13 in three council areas (Aberdeen City, North Ayrshire and Scottish Borders). Following evaluation of the approach in early 2013, a number of CPPs will

be audited during the second half of 2013/14. Audit Scotland will be contacting any likely audit sites in spring 2013.

30. The Equalities & Human Rights Commission has commissioned a piece of work to assess the extent to which Scottish public authorities have complied with the specific duties of section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 during 2013. Analysis of public authorities compliance with the duty to publish equality outcomes and employment information will be available later in 2013. The results of this activity will be reflected in future SRA work.
31. The LAN is committed to maintaining its engagement with the council between now and the next SRA cycle so that we can retain an overview of how the council is managing its response to the significant financial challenges that it, and all other Scottish public bodies, face.

Areas that remain 'no scrutiny required'

32. This update focuses predominantly on those areas assessed as 'scrutiny required' and 'further information required'. However, in the interest of providing a broader view of the council's overall risk assessment, it is important to highlight those areas that were previously assessed as requiring no scrutiny which continue to be so. The LAN identified that no scrutiny is required in the following areas:

Area	Update
Service area	
Education	Inspection activity remains positive with all schools and early years centres inspected in 2012/13 receiving a positive inspection report. The council's arrangements for monitoring quality of provision are strong. Although attainment levels have caused some concern it is recognised that the council have launched raising attainment strategies and the 2012 exam results show an improvement on the 2011 results.
Social work	The ISLA carried out by the Care Inspectorate during 2012/13 was predominantly positive. Social work was evaluated as low risk, with good performance and improvement.
Housing services	Council's November 2012 progress report to the SHR identified progress against all action plan points with continued focus on improvement in 2013/14. Housing maintenance and assets have been considered independently and assessed as requiring scrutiny.
Homelessness services	Homelessness applications received in 2011/12 were reduced. The council processes homelessness applications quickly and reports early achievement of the Scottish minister's 2012 homelessness target.
Corporate services	The council continues to show relatively good performance across the majority of corporate indicators.
Environmental services	In July 2012 the council became one of the first local authorities in the UK to achieve the Carbon Masters Standard. The council have exceeded targets set in relation to waste management and are working with a neighbouring local authority to provide a joint solution in managing waste targets.

Area	Update
Regulatory services	2011/12 performance exceeded targets for all relevant indicators.
Cultural services - libraries and museums	Despite a slight decrease in library usage both museum and library usage exceeded 2011/12 targets.
Roads & street lighting	The council is progressing its approach to managing the road network. The three year (2011-2014) Roads Asset Management Plan was approved in November 2011 and will be updated on an annual basis with an intention to fully redraft it in 2014.
Outcome area	
Creating sustainable and attractive living environments	Cleanliness index for West Dunbartonshire increased from 71 in 2010/11 to 72 in 2011/12. This exceeds the acceptable standard of 67. The council's 2012 Air Quality Update and Screening Assessment Report to the Scottish Government was well received and praised by the Scottish Government.
Education & lifelong learning	2011/2012 witnessed an overall improvement in the numbers of pupils moving to positive and sustained destinations with an increase in the number of young people leaving school and going into training. The percentage is now twice the national average. The educational services standards and quality report published in April 2012 described a number of key achievements. These include very good progress across schools and early years establishments in the on-going implementation of Curriculum for Excellence.
An improving council	The pace of improvement within the council is consistent with the prior year. A revised, more focused approach, to performance monitoring is being rolled out and should help the council focus on, and manage, the planned delivery of outcomes.
Corporate assessment area	
Partnership working and community leadership	The council continued to explore opportunities to share services with other neighbouring local authorities, mainly in relation to specialist areas such as ICT, Civil Contingencies, and disposal of residual waste. The CPP is supported by a strategic board with 15 members from across public bodies in West Dunbartonshire and community forums.
Community engagement	The council has a range of well established processes in place to engage with the community. In 2012 they were accredited with being the top council in the UK in relation to training

Area	Update
	undertaken and awards received from the Consultation Institute.
Governance & accountability	The 2011/12 annual audit report highlighted the issue of officer / member relations. However, the council are aware of this and have taken action to address the observations raised.
Information & communication technology	The council's Modernisation Fund includes investment to deliver a Core Infrastructure upgrade for the majority of council offices and the school estate.
Competitiveness	The council reviewed and streamlined their performance management framework including strategic and departmental planning and Public Service Improvement Framework (PSIF). They have worked in partnership with the Improvement Service to ensure the corporate team are equipped with the up to date learning and PSIF tools.
Managing people	A workforce planning template has been developed for the CHCP and will be rolled out in other departments for 2013/14. Work has been undertaken to reconcile the workforce management system and financial systems to provide a single source of workforce and budgetary information. A review of the Attendance Management Policy has been undertaken and monthly absence is reported to CMT. All departments now receive absence trigger reports and statistical absence analysis.
Procurement	The council have continued to improve their procurement capability assessment scores with the November 2012 assessment scoring them at 44% (an increase from 33% the prior year).
Equalities	The West Dunbartonshire Equality Scheme 2009-12 ended in March 2012. This made significant progress in advancing the council's compliance with the Equality Scheme with further work planned for 2012/13.

Areas that remain 'scrutiny or further information required'

33. The LAN identified that, in common with the SRA last year, scrutiny or further information is required in the following areas:

Area	Assessment	Update
Housing maintenance and assets	Scrutiny required	In May 2012 the council withdrew a policy of partial housing stock transfer and opted for full stock retention. Housing stock quality is poor and there has been limited progress toward achieving the Scottish Housing Quality Standards by the 2015 statutory deadline with only 36% of stock currently complying with the standard. The council has limited stock information but plans to improve this in 2012/13 with a new stock condition survey. The SHR and Audit Scotland plan to conduct an inquiry on the council's performance in the management of its housing assets in Q4 2012/13. Further scrutiny work is dependent on the conclusion of this inquiry.
Developing affordable and sustainable housing	Further information required	The decision to retain the housing stock is financially supported by an annual rent increase of RPI plus 4.5% between 2011/12 and 2016/17. Average weekly rent will increase from £54.48 in 2011/12 to £76.38 in 2016/17. The introduction of Welfare Reform places additional pressure on the council to develop housing of an appropriate size which is consistent with market demand and affordable within the constraints of forthcoming reductions in benefits. Audit Scotland will monitor this area through routine external scrutiny activity which will consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attending Housing, Environmental and Economic Development committees to monitor progress in terms of housing stock management and the emphasis placed on the impact of the introduction

Area	Assessment	Update
		<p>of Welfare Reform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare reform progress meetings with relevant Council officers. • Reviewing the council's welfare reform submission to the Accounts Commission.
Health & wellbeing	Further information required	<p>There are on-going concerns relating to health inequalities within West Dunbartonshire however it is recognised that the council are taking measures to address these issues with these initiatives designed to deliver improvement over a medium to longer term.</p> <p>The previous year's AIP stated that the LAN would continue to monitor this area due to concerns regarding Care Home provision. Grades continued to be a concern and ISLA scrutiny found that the Council/CHCP had taken too long to make a decision about future provision, including the council's role as a provider.</p> <p>In November 2012 it was decided to close the six council care homes and replace them with two 90 bedded homes run by the council. It is specifically the uncertainty relating to care home provision which has caused this area to be classified as requiring further information. The LAN will continue to monitor the progress made by the council in relation to the new care homes through discussions with key officers in the CHCP.</p>
Use of resources - financial outlook	Further information required	<p>The provisional 2012 Scottish Government financial settlement for local authorities covering the years 2013/14 to 2014/15 resulted in a 2013/14 budget gap for the council of £2.7 million with a £10.5 million cumulative gap over the period 2014/15 to 2015/16. As with all local authorities, the reductions in future central funding levels mean there is still uncertainty over the council's ability to deliver services to budget. Audit Scotland will continue to monitor this through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reviewing budget reports to committees • annual review of budget monitoring procedures • annual statutory audit of the council's financial statements.

Areas with changed assessments

34. The following table relates to assessments of scrutiny risk that have been changed from the 2012/13 update.

Area	2012/13 Risk Assessment	2013/14 Risk Assessment	Reason for Change
Risk management	Significant concerns	Further information required	The 2012-2015 AIP Update highlighted the LAN's concerns about the maturity of risk management arrangements within the council. The council have used the Risk Management Best Value toolkit to self assess current arrangements and applied the areas of better practice identified in the toolkit to provide guidance for improvement. Identification, ownership, monitoring and reporting of risks will be critical for the successful delivery of plans across the council. The strategic risks were agreed at council in September 2012 in line with strategic priorities. The strategic risk register has now been agreed, and is in place. Work continues to embed risk with departmental planning and performance management supported by the development of operational risk registers and business continuity plans. This classification has been amended from "significant concerns" to "further information required" to reflect the progress made however it is still too early to assess the medium to long term impact of the work carried out.

Area	2012/13 Risk Assessment	2013/14 Risk Assessment	Reason for Change
			<p>Audit Scotland will monitor this through the routine audit process, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress meetings with the Audit and Risk Manager. • Review of council's Strategic Risk Register.
Welfare reform	N/A (this is a new area that has not been previously assessed)	Further information required	<p>The Welfare Reform creates a new Universal Credit for working age claimants. It will result in significant change in terms of service delivery and bring an end to devolved administration of housing benefit. Council tax benefit will be replaced by a Scottish council tax reduction scheme from April 2013. It is not yet clear what the exact role councils will play in the delivery of welfare reforms and there will need to be consideration given to strategies and plans in areas such as housing, asset management, finance, ICT and customer service. West Dunbartonshire Council is one of 12 councils selected from across the UK by the Department of Work and Pensions to run a pilot project to support people to claim Universal Credit. Audit Scotland will monitor this area through routine external scrutiny activity which will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare reform progress meetings with relevant council officers. • Reviewing the council's welfare reform submission to the Accounts Commission.

Area	2012/13 Risk Assessment	2013/14 Risk Assessment	Reason for Change
Cultural services - Leisure trust	Uncertainty	No scrutiny required	West Dunbartonshire Leisure Trust was launched in April 2012 transferring the three main leisure facilities, community facilities and sports development activity into a leisure trust. A report was submitted to the HEED committee in February 2013 updating members on the performance of the Leisure Trust during the first nine months of operation. It details a number of initiatives which have been delivered and the Trust's performance against agreed service performance standards and the two statutory performance indicators relating to attendances at pools and indoor sports & leisure facilities. This report highlights that performance across all indicators is broadly in line with targets and therefore there is no evidence of a material decline in service uptake due to the creation of the Leisure Trust. Due to this the LAN have assessed this as an area where no scrutiny is required.
Building safe and strong communities	Uncertainty	No scrutiny required	The 2012-2015 AIP Update highlighted the LAN's concerns about the level of crime in West Dunbartonshire compared to the Scottish average. Crime statistics for West Dunbartonshire (as at December 2012) highlight that levels of serious violent crime, group 4 crimes (ie vandalism) and reported street drinking are all improving year on year over a five year basis and are materially below the performance targets set. Crime

Area	2012/13 Risk Assessment	2013/14 Risk Assessment	Reason for Change
			<p>detection rates (especially for domestic abuse and drug supply) are also exceeding targets.</p> <p>Through the Safe & Strong Communities thematic group of the CPP a wide range of initiatives and joint working practices have continued to reduce anti social behaviour and violence and particular achievements have been noted within three designated public reassurance zones with the number of reported incidents decreasing by between 19.5% and 42%. Due to continued progress being made and the initiatives in place focused on continuous improvement over a medium to long term timescale the LAN have assessed this as an area where no scrutiny is required.</p>
Regenerating and growing our local economy	Uncertainty	No scrutiny required	<p>In the previous AIP this area was classified as an area of uncertainty as many of the ongoing projects which focused on outcomes in this area were in their early stages and it was not possible to assess whether they were proving to have a positive impact. The LAN team has monitored progress in relevant initiatives and, whilst recognising that there is still a lot of regeneration work to be done, are of the opinion that there is sufficient evidence of positive progress and a commitment by the council to maintain focus on regeneration as a key priority.</p>
Use of resources - financial	Uncertainty	No scrutiny required	<p>In the previous AIP this area was classified as an area of uncertainty</p>

Area	2012/13 Risk Assessment	2013/14 Risk Assessment	Reason for Change
management			due to changes in key personnel and the potential impact of key strategic projects. During the performance of the 2011/12 audit Audit Scotland have formed the opinion that there are effective financial management processes in place.
Vision & strategic direction	Uncertainty	No scrutiny required	The council have launched a new strategic plan, and are pursuing a transformation programme and review of transactional services. As the council's vision and strategic direction has been articulated this is no longer considered an area of uncertainty. The delivery of this vision and strategy will affect other assessment areas in future AIP Updates.
Use of resources - asset management	Uncertainty	No scrutiny required	The new administration has opted for full retention of the housing stock rather than pursuing the previous policy of partial stock transfer. School estate rationalisation has not been progressed with the primary school estate still to be reviewed however there have been developments in terms of new builds – in particular the council has successfully applied to the Scottish Futures Trust for £14m funding to help build a £21m campus for Our Lady and St Patrick's High School in Dumbarton. The council have implemented the asset management strategy with Asset Management Plans now being developed for remaining activity areas. Audit Scotland will continue

Areas with changed assessments

Area	2012/13 Risk Assessment	2013/14 Risk Assessment	Reason for Change
			to monitor developments as part of their routine audit activity however asset management is no longer considered an area where more information is required.

Scrutiny plans

35. The Scottish Housing Regulator and Audit Scotland will carry out joint inquiry activity in quarter four of 2012/13. The scope of this work is currently under review but will take account of progress to ensure housing stock condition meets the 2015 SHQS and that there is sufficient resources to meet this requirement.
36. A targeted Best Value audit was provisionally scheduled for 2013/14 however the LAN were of the opinion that there is no current requirement for this to take place. This will be re-assessed during the SRA process to be carried out for the 2014-2017 AIP Update.

Appendix 1

National scrutiny activity does not result from the shared risk assessment but is either at the request of the council eg supported self-evaluation work or national activity eg national follow-up work or work requested by ministers.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL 2013-14												
Scrutiny activity year 1	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
No local scrutiny work planned												
National or supported self-evaluation work year 1												
Audit Scotland - follow-up of Audit Scotland national report "Scotland's public finances: addressing the challenges"					X							
Audit Scotland - Reshaping Scotland's public sector workforce	X											
Audit Scotland - Housing benefit performance audit				X								
Care Inspectorate - Supported Self Evaluation of the impact on quality of the newly introduced national assessment and care planning instrument (LSCMI) in local criminal justice social work services (tbc)												

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL 2014-15												
Scrutiny activity year 2	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
No local scrutiny work planned												
National or supported self evaluation work year 2												
No national work planned												

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL 2015-16	
Indicative scrutiny activity for rolling third year	Potential scrutiny bodies involved
No scrutiny work planned	

Footnotes:

The focus of the AIP Update is strategic scrutiny activity, that is scrutiny activity which is focused at corporate or whole service level, but there will also be baseline scrutiny activity at unit level ongoing throughout the period of the AIP. This will include, for example, school and residential home inspections. Scrutiny bodies also reserve the right to make unannounced scrutiny visits. These will generally be made in relation to care services for vulnerable client groups. The annual audit of local government also comprises part of the baseline activity for all councils and this includes work necessary to complete the audit of housing benefit and council tax benefit arrangements. Education Scotland, through the District Inspector, will continue to support and challenge Education Services regularly and as appropriate. The Care Inspectorate will continue to regulate care services and inspect social work services in accordance with their responsibilities under the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010.

