

S.R. 2002/2

FIFE COUNCIL: THE THIRD AGE GROUP
FINDINGS

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Introduction

The Accounts Commission has considered

- The Controller of Audit's report on Fife Council and the Third Age Group dated 2 May 2002
- The response of Fife Council to the Controller of Audit's report contained in the Chief Executive's letter of 13 May 2002

The Commission notes that the Council accepted in full the findings and conclusions of the Controller of Audit in his report. The Commission approves the conclusions of the Controller of Audit and bases its findings on the facts stated in his report.

Findings

1. In its recent investigation and consideration of the issues surrounding the Third Age Group Fife Council has demonstrated effective arrangements for good governance. In particular, the role of an Audit Committee or equivalent which allows elected members to engage in scrutiny and holding to account within the Council has been significant.
2. The Commission notes that the Council has agreed that a wide ranging package of measures be carried out following the Controller of Audit's report and we expect that progress with these will be monitored through the local audit process.
3. In 1996 the Commission and COSLA introduced a Code of Practice on Funding External Bodies and Following the Public Pound because of concerns about the relationship between councils and external bodies which they fund. The Controller of Audit's report on Fife Council and the Third Age Group emphasises the need to revisit that Code and we look forward to Audit Scotland's national review of its operation as previously announced.

12 June 2002

