

News release

EMBARGOED until 00:01 hours, Thursday 23 May 2019

North Lanarkshire Council has ambitious vision for the future

North Lanarkshire Council has ambitious plans for developing the area and improving services, and it now needs to work with partners to better involve and engage with residents and staff to achieve these.

A report by the local authority watchdog, the Accounts Commission, says the council's strong financial planning and management means it is in a good position to meet future challenges.

The council has a clear and ambitious plan for regeneration, addressing the area's social and economic issues and improving services. The council now needs to set out workforce plans for all employees, reflecting the expected scale and pace of change.

Services such as housing and education are performing well, but the council needs to gain a better understanding of the reasons for falling satisfaction levels, particularly for care services. At the same time the council need to keep focusing on underperforming areas, with a quarter of all service indicators currently missing performance targets.

Ronnie Hinds, Deputy Chair of the Accounts Commission said: "North Lanarkshire Council has a very high level of ambition for the future of the area, with plans that could deliver significant changes over the long term. This includes a vision to transform town centres and housing, as well as improving digital connectivity and skills. This is critical given challenging social and economic issues.

To realise this ambition the council must ensure it has the right workforce with the right skills in place, as well as effective engagement with and involvement of its residents."

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Notes to editors

1. [Read the 2008 Best Value report on North Lanarkshire Council.](#)
2. The Controller of Audit has prepared this report for the Accounts Commission. It is the 15th of the new-style Best Value Assurance Reports (BVAR), which aim to offer a rounded and comprehensive analysis of a council's performance. The new reports cover how effectively councils are managing changes in services; involving the public in decisions; ensuring enough skills and time to deliver clear priorities; and providing clear information so the public can gauge improvement.
3. Until now, some councils may not have had a Best Value audit for a decade or more, whilst others have had several. In future, we aim to ensure all 32 councils will have a BVAR at least once every five years. All councils will continue to have their accounts independently audited annually, leading to a published audit report.

4. Audit Scotland has prepared this report for the Accounts Commission for Scotland. All Audit Scotland reports published since 2000 are available at www.audit-scotland.gov.uk
 - The Accounts Commission is the public spending watchdog for local government. It holds councils and various joint boards and committees in Scotland to account and help them improve. It operates impartially and independently of councils and of the Scottish Government, and meets and reports in public
 - Audit Scotland is a statutory body set up in April 2000, under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act, 2000. It provides services to the Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commission for Scotland.