

7 AUDIT OF BEST VALUE AND COMMUNITY PLANNING (AN463-2004)

The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 introduced new statutory requirements for Scottish local authorities, including duties relating to Best Value and Community Planning. The Accounts Commission holds councils to account in relation to these duties, and Audit Scotland is conducting Audits of Best Value (including the other duties contained in the Act) on the Commission's behalf.

Audit Scotland is currently undertaking a Best Value Audit of every Council in Scotland over the next three years. Dundee City Council is amongst the first tranche of Councils to be audited with Angus Council being the first Council to undergo an audit which was completed and published on 29th September 2004.

Dundee's audit is scheduled to begin in January 2005. As a start to the process, officers of the Council have been asked to produce a high-level self-assessment of how it is meeting its statutory duties of Best Value and Community Planning and how the services it delivers are performing. The council will also be asked to identify the main areas where improvements should be made. In order to assist the Chief Executive and Management Team in responding to the audit it is recommended that a Best Value Advisory Group consisting of the Chief Executive (Chair) and one elected member from each of the political groups be set up on a similar basis to that established in regard to the Local Government Boundary Commission.