

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 November 2014

Report by Chief Executive

MAJOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN COUNCILS - UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. In March 2013 Audit Scotland prepared a report on major capital activity in Scottish Councils. A follow up report was issued in June 2014. This report updates members on progress against the action plan arising from these reports.

RECOMMENDATION

2. The Committee is invited to note the content of the report.

REPORT

3. The main findings of the reports for East Renfrewshire Council set out that much good practice was already in evidence, however a number of points were recommended for further action. These related to the undernoted areas:-

- Circulation of the report's good practice guidance.
- Adoption of an action plan.
- Post implementation reviews of projects.
- Elected members' training.

The attached appendix lists progress made in each of the above areas.

CONCLUSION

4. Audit Scotland has produced recent reports on major capital investment in Councils and raised specific recommendations in relation to East Renfrewshire Council. In response a satisfactory action plan was submitted and accepted by Audit Scotland and the attached appendix evidences the progress made against all of these points.

RECOMMENDATION

5. The Committee is invited to note the content of the report

REPORT AUTHOR

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

This report refers to the Audit Scotland report and update on major capital activity in Scottish Councils, dated March 2013 and June 2014.

KEY WORDS

capital, investment

MAJOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN COUNCILS – ACTION PLAN			
ACTION POINT	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	TARGET DATE	UPDATE
The Good Practice guidance included in the Major Capital Investment in Councils audit report should be issued to all relevant staff.	Head of Accountancy	September 2014	<p>Guidance issued to all Directors and Heads of Service on 7 October 2014 with instruction that this be cascaded to all appropriate staff.</p> <p>Also discussed at Corporate Asset Management Group on 20 October 2014.</p> <p>Adaptation of Corporate Project Appraisal (CPA) templates is planned to ensure that good practice is built into process for new 2015 capital builds.</p>
Formal action plan should be prepared to address the recommendations of the report.	Head of Accountancy	December 2014	Action plan prepared and submitted to Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 13 November 2014.
Post implementation reviews should be undertaken to ensure that anticipated project benefits have been realised.	Director of Environment/Deputy Chief Executive as appropriate	December 2014	Need for post implementation reviews to be carried out on all projects was reiterated at Corporate Asset Management Group on 20 October 2014.

Further training on capital and treasury management should be arranged and offered to all elected members.	Head of Accountancy	December 2014	Capital Planning & Treasury Management training held on 15 October 2014.
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