

FINANCE COMMITTEE

DRAFT BUDGET 2014-15

SUBMISSION FROM ANGUS COUNCIL

1. Angus Council welcomes the opportunity to provide views on the National Performance Framework. After some consideration of the extensive questions there are some general observations:

2. We recognise that assessing the performance of public bodies (including the Scottish Government) is challenging given the diversity of services provided and the constraints which are sometimes beyond our direct influence. Nevertheless we consider that the national indicators and purpose targets are a reasonably effective means of measuring the performance of government at a broad level. The current indicators and targets have been closely linked to and are clearly reflected in the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement, thus providing a perspective and the ability to compare at a local level.

3. The Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement also highlights five priority areas and within these, twelve local outcomes which the partnership have identified as important to the local community, these are reflective of and contribute to the government's sixteen national outcomes. One pertinent example is the integration agenda which Angus council is taking forward in partnership with NHS Tayside and other stakeholders.

4. We are encouraged by the recent focus on national performance arrangements across other public sector agencies exemplified by the NHS and Police Scotland who appear to be tightening up their performance arrangements and scrutiny with a greater emphasis on KPI's.

5. There may be an opportunity to include additional indicators which relate to the effectiveness and efficiency of government and public services. The point here is that Government may be achieving its targets but we have limited data to assess whether this has been achieved in the most cost effective way.

6. The linkages between performance information and the Scottish Government's spending priorities are not always apparent especially at a local level, therefore there is scope to strengthen these links. Deliverability of the targets will need to be kept under review and if necessary revised to reflect the impact of diminishing resources.

7. We don't believe there is a requirement for Scotland Performs to have a statutory basis at this time. Current arrangements allow for flexibility at a local level and also ensure that there is no duplication with other benchmarking activities e.g. SOLACE, Scottish Local Government Benchmarking Framework Group.

8. We think there is an opportunity for wider public consultation in setting performance outcomes and indicators at both a national and local level. It can be

difficult to get people fully engaged and it will be essential to consult if targets are revised in light of financial constraints.

9. Future spending decisions should continue to be shaped by the NPF by enhancing links between performance and progress being made against the indicators and budget allocations.