

Accounts Commission Report Community Empowerment: Covid-19 Update**Report by Chief Internal Auditor****Report for Noting****1 Recommendations**

The Audit Committee is asked to:

- a) Consider the Accounts Commission report Community Empowerment: Covid-19 Update; and
- b) Note that the Corporate Management Team on 12 January 2022 agreed to consider this report content in full to learn from good practice and new ways of working which emerged in response to Covid-19 and use this to shape their medium-term strategic plans and their approaches to supporting and empowering communities.

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide the Audit Committee with a summary of the Accounts Commission report, 'Community Empowerment – Covid-19 Update' published on 28 October 2021. The full report can be accessed on the Audit Scotland website using link below:

[Community empowerment: Covid-19 update | Audit Scotland \(audit-scotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/community-empowerment-covid-19-update)

The Accounts Commission highlighted in its report that Communities played a crucial role in the response to Covid-19.

Purpose of the Accounts Commission report: Public bodies can learn from good practice and new ways of working which emerged in response to Covid-19 and use this to shape the way they work in the future to promote the best outcomes for local communities and help address inequalities. The report shares some of the many good examples of the community response to the pandemic and summarises the learning. It builds on the [Principles for community empowerment](#) published in 2019 and ongoing engagement with the Community Empowerment Advisory Group. Public bodies should use this information alongside their own learning to develop longer-term approaches to supporting and empowering communities.

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