

## **External Factors Affecting Redesign**

Further information from discussion with the Senior Leadership Team (Heads of Service) supplementing the presentation from the Director of Development and Infrastructure.

### **Political**

- Awaiting new Govt. programme and information about what Local Govt. reform means, e.g.
  - Some current Council functions being run nationally/regionally or by others?
  - Some current Council functions identified by Govt. to be run more locally by others?
  - Any new functions for the Council?
  - Changing relationships with other public service providers such as NHS and HIE as they are considered for reform too?
  - What reforming community planning means?
  - Proposed changes around devolved school budgets and direct Govt. funding to Head Teachers on reducing the attainment gap?
  - Affordability of Council services, Government expectations and levels of grant?
- Community Empowerment Act – new duties for the Council and new rights for communities
- Outcome of the EU Referendum – impact on region and on EU regional programmes
- Outcome of the Local Govt. Election 2017
- Potential for future Independence Referendum
- Increased Expectations around Childcare/Child Protection
- Increase in School Health function
- Increase in Pre School Provision
- Welfare Reform continued roll out (impacts from that) and any adjustments from new Scottish powers
- Review of Planning – changes to development planning and making stronger links with community planning

### **Economic**

- Permanent Austerity for Public Services
- City-Region Deal
- Broadband improvements and challenges
- Areas of growth not evenly spread across the Region – Inner Moray Firth dominating and concerns about rural areas
- Oil and Gas Industry Impact
- Council Tax / Business Rates Changes
- High Street Changes from Internet shopping – how to support vibrant town and city centres
- How to support new types of Businesses
- Outcome of the EU Referendum – impact on region and on EU regional programmes

## **Social**

- Population Change – growth overall but varies within the region with decline and more ageing population in some rural areas
- Growth in single person households
- Community Empowerment Act – rights for community bodies but risks that places with less active communities will be left further behind
- Different Service Levels across Area – pros and cons
- Potential for widening the equalities gap
- Impacts of Welfare Reform
- Public Sector Job cuts and negative impact on regional economy
- Welfare reform cuts and negative impact on regional economy
- Care Sector Operations and increasing pressures for service

## **Technological**

- Broadband
  - Fast/Quality connections and need to avoid digital connection ghettos
  - Digital Capability – ensuring people not left behind
  - Given issues of inclusion/Digital Divide we need a blended system
- Digital Participation – reaching more people for them to have a say on Council/public services – support for implementing the Community Empowerment Act
- Less Face to Face delivery of some services
  - Education – virtual classroom
  - Webchat Solutions
- More Mobile Working
- Increase use of Electric Cars
- Cyber Security requirements
- Opportunities from Sensor Technology

## **Legal**

- Community Empowerment Act – new requirements as above
- Waste – 2021 No – Landfill
- Potential changes around “Named Person” for children
- Land Reform and land registration
- Islands Bill
- Education - restrictions on changing the School Week and School Closures
- Council House sales, short term impact of increased demand until scheme closes in August 2016 and then greater protection of affordable housing assets for rent
- Procurement duties
- H&SC Integration
- Government’s commitment to abolish Employment Tribunal Fees, may lead to an increase in demand for the Council’s legal and HR functions.

## **Environmental**

- Climate Change
  - Low Carbon Economy – Rural Landmass
  - Investment in Renewables – Tidal, Wave and Hydro
  - Coastal Environment and protection from erosion and rising sea levels
  - Waste – 2021 No – Landfill
- Maintain an outstanding quality environment
  - Tourism offer and further potential
  - Improved Connectivity (Transport)
  - Decline in Street Scaping budget
- Risks to the environment – Civil Contingencies and lobbying actions