

## Purpose

1. This report provides an update on the engagements and work of the Chair of the Accounts Commission.

## Engagement and Commission business

2. Details of my engagements and work since the start of November are as follows:

### Audit Scotland engagement

- 5 November – Meeting with Alison Cumming, Executive Director of Performance Audit and Best Value
- 11 November – Attendance at Audit Scotland Audit Committee & REMCO
- 11 November – Audit Scotland Risk Deep dive: - Failure of people/ capacity/ health, safety and wellbeing
- 25 November – SPI direction working group meeting
- 26 November – Audit Scotland Board meeting & Board/Accounts Commission prep session
- 2 December – Meeting with Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland
- 3 December - Glasgow Christmas Lunch
- 11 December – LG Financial Bulletin – draft report discussion
- Regular meetings with Vicki Bibby, Chief Operating Officer.
- Regular meetings with Helena Gray, Controller of Audit

### Commission business

- Regular meetings with Sarah Watters, Secretary to the Commission, Jack Nixon, Executive Assistant to the Commission and Joe Chapman, Policy Manager, Accounts Commission.
- 5 November – Accounts Commission prep session with Andrew Burns, Accounts Commission, Sarah Watters, Secretary to the Commission and Joe Chapman, Policy Manager to Accounts Commission.
- 7 November – Accounts Commission meeting.
- 12 November - Performance Management discussion with Internal Auditor, following Audit Scotland's internal Best Value assessment.

- 5 December – Accounts Commission prep session with Andrew Burns and Accounts Commission support team
- 12 December – Accounts Commission Meeting

I have also received an update from the Controller of Audit on the implementation of a new equitable pay and grading structure in Glasgow City Council. This update was provided via correspondence, which is attached at Annex A, in response to a request by the Commission for an update by the end of 2024. The Controller notes that a further update will be provided by the external auditor in the 2023/24 Annual Audit Report which is expected in March 2025.

### **External Engagement**

- 14 November - Accounts Commission visiting Clackmannanshire Council
- 18 November - Solace/IS Transformation Programme round table
- 21 November – Best Value follow up meeting at Edinburgh Council with Councillor Day and Chief Executive, Paul Lawrence
- 21 November – Andrew Burns and Blyth Deans attended Ayrshire Leadership Collaborative Session – Accounts Commission/Audit Scotland
- 27 November – Best Value in Scottish Borders media day
- 4 December – Best Value in Scottish Borders Council follow up meeting (Andrew Burns to chair)

### **Forthcoming activities**

**3.** My forthcoming engagement activities include:

- 17 December – Housing Benefit audit update discussion
- 10 January – COSLA Special Interest Group
- 16 January – Accounts Commission Meeting
- Commission Member Appraisals – across January to March 2025

### **Conclusion**

**4.** The Commission is invited to:

- Note this report and enquire about any areas of interest.