

**MEETING: 12 NOVEMBER 2020**

**REPORT BY: CONTROLLER OF AUDIT**

**CONTROLLER OF AUDIT REPORT**

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## **Purpose**

1. This report provides an update on the engagements of Controller of Audit.

## **Engagement**

2. Please note below my engagements in October:

- **1 October** – Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE) Branch session. I accompanied the Interim Chair of the Commission to discuss the future role of audit, and Best Value in particular. The session provided a space to listen to the experiences of SOLACE colleagues as they deal with the pandemic and focus on recovery and renewal, along with their thoughts on how audit can help.
- **5 October** – Community Planning Improvement Board. The main areas discussed were the role of Community planning in responding to Covid-19 and the role/work programme of the CPIB in supporting partnerships.
- **5 & 27 October** – Scottish Leaders Forum.
  - **Accountability and Incentives Action Group** – We revisited our work programme to ensure it remained fit for purpose and agreed the topic of accountability and incentives remained vital as we think ahead to recovery and renewal. Focusing on how formal and informal systems of accountability and incentives can help, or get in the way of, ways of working that are in line with the values and outcomes contained in the National Performance Framework (NPF).
  - **Strategic Group** – Discussion focused around reflections on the Covid-19 learning discussions, hosted earlier in October. The Group also considered updates from each Action Group and the future priorities for the SLF.
- **9 October** – Jane O'Donnell, COSLA. Update on the Local Governance review.
- **16 October** – Nikki Bridle, Chief Executive, Clackmannanshire Council. Routine catch up.

## **Forthcoming activities**

3. My upcoming engagements in November include:

- **6 November** – Scottish Government Executive Team Meeting.
- **9 November** – Michelle Borland, PABV Business Manager joins Audit Scotland.
- **18 November** – Annual Audit Planning Guidance Conference.
- **23 November** – Carolyn Mcleod, PABV Audit Director joins Audit Scotland.

- **27 November** – SOLACE Branch meeting. The Interim Chair of the Commission and I have been invited back to continue building the working relationship with SOLACE. This session will focus on the financial state of Councils, in advance of the briefing session to the Local Government and Communities Committee (LGCC) in December.

## **Conclusion**

4. Commission members are invited to note this report.

**Fraser McKinlay**  
**Controller of Audit**  
**30 October 2020**