

MEETING: 12 MARCH 2020

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF 20 FEBRUARY 2020

Minutes of meeting of the Performance Audit Committee of the Accounts Commission held in the offices of West Port, Edinburgh on Thursday 20 February 2020, at 14.00.

PRESENT: Elma Murray (Chair)
Christine Lester
Stephen Moore
Graham Sharp
Andrew Cowie

IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Reilly, Secretary to the Commission
Fraser McKinlay, Director of Performance Audit and Best Value (PABV)
Carol Calder, Senior Manager, PABV (item 5)
Graeme Greenhill, Senior Manager, PABV (item 6)
Leigh Johnston, Senior Manager, PABV (item 5)
Jillian Matthew, Senior Manager, PABV (item 5)
Gill Miller, Audit Manager, PABV (item 6)
Claire Sweeney, Audit Director, PABV (item 5)
Rikki Young, Business Manager, PABV (item 4)

<u>Item no.</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1.	Apologies for absence
2.	Declarations of interest
3.	Minutes of meeting of 28 November 2019
4.	Work programme update
5.	Policy cluster briefing: Health, care and communities
6.	Briefing: Scotland's economic development
7.	Any other business

1. Apologies for absence

It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from Sophie Flemig.

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Minutes of meeting of 28 November 2019

The minutes of the meeting of 28 November 2019 were noted, having previously been approved as a correct record by the Commission.

Arising therefrom, the Committee:

- In relation to item 5 (first bullet point) and following a query from Stephen Moore, noted advice from the Director of PABV that he would be referring to the proposed briefing paper on leadership in his report to the Commission at its March meeting on the refresh of the work programme.
- In relation to item 10
 - Noted advice from the Chair that she was taking forward with the Chair and Secretary a number of actions agreed by the Committee in discussion, to be considered by the Commission in due course.
 - Agreed to recommend to the Commission that it consider the following areas for future investigation and reporting in the work programme (including through overview and Best Value auditing work):
 - Interconnectedness between public policy and the citizen (suggested by Stephen Moore)
 - A theme around women and girls (Christine Lester)
 - A theme around corporate parenting (Christine Lester).

Action: Secretary

4. Work programme update

The Committee considered a report by the Director of PABV providing an update on the progress of the Commission's work programme.

During discussion, the Committee

- In relation to paragraph 13 (audit fees), noted advice from the Director that he was liaising with chairs of integration joint boards on a letter received from them on the level of audit fees for 2019/20.
- Noted advice from the Director, in response to a query from Christine Lester, that he would be including workforce planning in his report to the Commission at its March meeting on the refresh of the work programme.

Following discussion, the Committee noted the report.

5. Policy cluster briefing: Health, care and communities

The Committee considered a report by the Director of PABV introducing a briefing for the health, care and communities policy cluster.

During discussion, the Committee:

- Noted advice from the Director in relation to ongoing programme development work on 'kindness'.
- Agreed that the Director circulate details of a 'knowledge café' event for Audit Scotland staff, to which Commission members were also invited.

Action: Director of PABV

- Noted advice from the Director in relation to ongoing development of human rights-based approaches to auditing.
- Agreed, following a query from Stephen Moore, that the audit team and sponsors consider how the following feature in the scope of the upcoming performance audit on Social care sustainability:
 - The role of the independent sector
 - Services beyond older people.

Action: Director of PABV

- Noted advice from the Director, in response to a query from Stephen Moore, that he would keep the Committee updated on the framework for community based health and social care integrated services developed by the Ministerial Strategic Group for Health and Community Care, including ongoing development of joint work by the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland in this regard.

Action: Director of PABV

- Following a query from Stephen Moore, agreed that the Director provide further information on vacancy levels in social care.

Action: Director of PABV

- Agreed to recommend to the Commission to inform the Strategic Scrutiny Group of the Commission's desire that it expedite proposed joint scrutiny work on drug and alcohol policy, and recommend to the Commission that it consider featuring such work in its work programme refresh exercise, to be considered by the Commission at its March meeting.

Action: Secretary and Director of PABV

- Further in this regard, agreed to note advice from the Director, in response to a query from Andy Cowie, that ongoing Best Value auditing work in Dundee City Council was addressing drug policy.
- Agreed that the Director provide further information on the progress of Public Health Scotland.

Action: Director of PABV

Following discussion, the Committee noted the briefing.

6. Scotland's economic growth: the role of councils

The Committee considered a report by the Director of PABV discussing options for taking forward the proposed performance audit *Scotland's Economic Growth: the role of councils*.

Following discussion, the Committee:

- Agreed to recommend to the Commission not to proceed with a performance audit in this regard at this time.

Action: Secretary and Director of PABV

- Meantime, that the Director continue to monitor councils' economic development services, with a view to programming a performance audit at a later point in the 2020-2025 programme, with the scope to be determined nearer the time.

- That such consideration includes inclusive growth.

Action: Director of PABV

7. Any other business

The Committee Chair, having advised that there was no business for this item, closed the meeting.