

1 JULY 2020 – 31 JULY 2020

REPORT BY: INTERIM CHAIR OF ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

CHAIR'S REPORT

Purpose

This report provides an update on the engagements of the Accounts Commission Interim Chair.

Audit Scotland Board and Committee meetings

- There were no meetings in July.

Audit Scotland Engagement

- 2 July - New Audit Appointments Steering Group. Commission Review of Project to date presented to Steering Group. Update was provided to Commission Members by email on 3 July.
- 8 July - Auditor General. Initial discussion about how we will work together. Elma Murray invited Stephen Boyle to attend the Accounts Commission Strategy Away Day on 12th August.
- 21 July - Engaged with the Local Government Overview team, along with the Interim Deputy Chair to discuss the approach to the Local Government Overview in 2020/21.
- 28 July - Elma/Fraser McKinlay catch up
- 29 July - Alan Alexander, Chair of Audit Scotland Board. Initial discussion about how we will work together. Very supportive and productive meeting.
- 8 July and 29 July - Forward Planning meeting with Secretary and Interim Deputy Chair. We discussed the draft agenda and papers for 13th August; papers for Strategy Day; future work programme including forthcoming BVARs.
- 30 July - Meeting to discuss engagement plans for the draft Code of Audit Practice and how the Commission, Secretary and the Team will work over the coming weeks and months.
- Weekly catch-ups with the Secretary and Executive Assistant

External Engagement

- 1 July - Sally Loudon, Cosla and Sarah Gadsden, Improvement Service
- 2 July - Jim Savege, Solace
- 6 July - Sarah Davidson, Carnegie UK
- 20 July - Brenda Campbell, Scottish Government
- The key areas for discussion included the importance of the Commission having strong relationships with each of these bodies; a good understanding of challenges; opportunities for further engagement e.g. The Insight programme proposals; critical areas for local government and IJBs emerging from the pandemic.

Commission Development and Support

- 121 meetings with Commission Members. Report prepared for issue week beginning 3rd August.
- Worked with Andrea Quinn, Sheila and Tim to finalise report on outcome of Commission Support Review. For circulation week beginning 3rd August.
- Several discussions with Paul, Fraser, Antony and Andrea to prepare for the Strategy Day on 12th August.

Other

- Took a few days off.

Forthcoming activities:

- 4 August - Prep meeting for Commission on 13th August (Secretary, Controller, Deputy Interim Chair)
- 5 August - Anna Fowlie, Chief Executive, SCVO
- 5 August - Auditor General
- 5 August - Comms Team – media plans
- 6 August - SSG Prep mtg with the Team
- 7 August - Initial mtg with new AS Board member, Jackie Mann
- 10 August - Convenor of LGCC at Scottish Parliament
- 11 August - Work Programme with Auditor General and Team

Conclusion

Commission members are invited to:

- a) Note this report
- b) Direct any questions to the Chair

Elma Murray
Interim Chair of Accounts Commission
31 July 2020