

MEETING: 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF 27 AUGUST 2020

Minutes of meeting of the Performance Audit Committee of the Accounts Commission held via online meeting on Thursday 27 August 2020, at 10.45am.

PRESENT: Elma Murray (Chair)
Andrew Cowie
Sophie Flemig
Christine Lester
Tim McKay
Stephen Moore

**OTHER MEMBERS
IN ATTENDANCE:** Pauline Weetman

IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Reilly, Secretary to the Commission
Fraser McKinlay, Director of Performance Audit and Best Value (PABV)
Carol Calder, Senior Manager, PABV (item 4)
Antony Clark, Audit Director, PABV (item 4)
Leigh Johnston, Senior Manager, PABV (item 4)
Kathrine Sibbald, Audit Manager, PABV (item 4)

<u>Item no.</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1.	Apologies for absence
2.	Declarations of interest
3.	Minutes of meeting of 20 February 2020
4.	Policy briefing: Health, care and communities (HCC) cluster
5.	Any other business

1. Apologies for absence

It was noted that no apologies for absence had been received.

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Minutes of meeting of 20 February 2020

The minutes of the meeting of 20 February 2020 were noted, having previously been approved as a correct record by the Commission.

Arising therefrom, the Committee:

- In relation to item 3, second bullet point, noted advice:
 - from the Secretary that the areas for further investigation and reporting as identified by the Committee would be taken forward as part of the development of the work programme.
 - from Elma Murray that the Strategic Scrutiny Group was considering the development of good practice guidance in relation to policy for women and girls.
- In relation to item 5:
 - On the first bullet point, noted advice from Elma Murray that 'kindness' would remain an area of further interest for the Commission.
 - On the second bullet point, noted advice from the Secretary that details of knowledge cafes are posted on the Member sharepoint site as they are notified.
 - On the third bullet point, noted advice from Elma Murray that the Strategic Scrutiny Group maintains an interest in the development of human rights-based approaches to scrutiny.
 - On the sixth bullet point, noted advice from the Director that matters around vacancy levels in social care would be considered as part of the scope for the forthcoming audit on social care sustainability.
 - On the seventh bullet point, noted advice from Elma Murray that the Strategic Scrutiny Group was considering activities around drug and alcohol policy.
 - On the eighth bullet point, noted advice from Elma Murray that the Commission would be considering the Best Value Assurance Report for Dundee City Council at its September meeting.
 - On the ninth bullet point, agreed that the Director report at future meetings on the progress of Public Health Scotland.

Action: Director of PABV

4. Policy briefing: Health, care and communities (HCC) cluster

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

During discussion, the Committee:

- Agreed, in response to a point made by Sophie Flemig, to note the importance of the Local Government Overview Report (and the NHS Overview Report) on reporting the wide impact of the Covid-19 emergency, for example in relation to the National Performance Framework.
- Agreed, in response to a point made by Andrew Cowie, to note the urgency of ensuring articulation of the Commission's emerging approach to Best Value auditing of health and social care integration joint boards.
- Noted further in this regard that the Best Value Working Group would be meeting on 2 September and would report to the Commission thereafter.
- Noted advice from the Director, in response to a point by Stephen Moore, that the proposed performance audit on social care sustainability would consider quality as well as cost matters.
- Further in this regard to note advice from the Director that the Care Inspectorate and Health Improvement Scotland were also undertaking substantial ongoing work in this regard.
- Noted advice from Elma Murray that the Financial Audit and Assurance Committee had considered matters around councils' governance and decision-making arrangements in the light of the Covid-19 emergency and had:
 - Noted advice from the Controller of Audit that he would report back to the Commission on options for reporting issues arising from 2019/20 annual audit reports in this regard
 - Noted that the Commission would consider how to feature the matter as part of annual planning guidance to auditors for the 2020/21 audit.

Following discussion, the Committee noted the briefing.

5. Any other business

The Committee Chair advised that it would be proposed to the Commission to cancel the next scheduled round of committee meetings in September, and scheduled business, including the policy cluster briefing for the Justice, Education and Lifelong Learning cluster, would be dealt with by advising the Committee when the briefing was available and inviting comments at that time. These would be reviewed at the next Committee meeting in November.

The Committee confirmed that it was content with this proposal.

She then, having advised that there was no further business for this item, closed the meeting.