

MEETING: 9 DECEMBER 2021

REPORT BY: INTERIM CONTROLLER OF AUDIT

INTERIM CONTROLLER OF AUDIT UPDATE REPORT

Purpose

1. This report provides an update on my engagement activity during November 2021.

Engagement

2. Please note below my engagements in November:

- **1 November** – Attendance at the memorial service of Robert Black, CBE (ex-Controller of Audit and ex-Auditor General for Scotland).
- **3 November** – Accounts Commission pre-meeting with Interim Chair, Deputy Chair and Secretary to the Commission.
- **3 November** – Bi-monthly meeting with Communications Advisor and Policy Manager to the Commission.
- **4 November** – Monthly engagement meeting with Secretary to the Commission.
- **4 November** – Best Value in IJBs audit update at Scottish Government divisional meeting with Leigh Johnston, Senior Manager, Performance Audit and Best Value (PABV).
- **8 November** – Meeting with Mark McAteer, Director of Strategic Planning, Performance and Communications, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS).
- **8 November** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Communications Manager.
- **9 November** – Regular catch-up meeting with Audit Scotland colleagues leading on developing new approaches to auditing Best Value (BV) in councils and Integration Joint Board (IJBs) (Fiona Mitchell-Knight, Carol Calder, and Leigh Johnston).
- **10 November** – Attended Fiona Kordiak's keynote event 'What does the future look like for the audit profession?'.
- **11 November** – Accounts Commission meeting.
- **12 November** – UK&I Public Audit Forum (National Audit Office, Northern Ireland Audit Office, Wales Audit Office and Audit Scotland) introduction meeting.
- **15 November** – Pre-meeting with Interim Chair of the Commission and Audit Scotland colleagues ahead of Elma's meeting with the Public Audit Committee (PAC) Convener, Richard Leonard MSP.
- **15 November** – Audit Scotland Annual Audit Planning Conference.

- **16 November** – Strategic Scrutiny Group meeting.
- **17 November** – Introductory meeting with Interim Chair of the Commission and Eddie Fraser (Chief Executive) and Joe McLachlan (Chief Financial Officer and Head of Finance and Information and Communications Technology) at East Ayrshire Council.
- **17 November** – Monthly engagement meeting with Interim Chair of the Commission.
- **18 November** – Meeting with Pat Kenny, Managing Partner, and Conor Healy, Audit Manager (Deloitte) for an update on issues associated with the audit of the Orkney and Shetland Joint Valuation Board.
- **19 November** – Meeting with Oliver Escobar, University of Edinburgh, to discuss the Local Governance Review, innovations in community engagement, new models of empowering public services, and the impact of digital on governance and social relations.
- **19 November** – Meeting with Paul Johnston, Director-General, Communities, Linda Bauld, Chief Social Policy Adviser, Mary McAllan, Claire Hicks, and Lisa Baird (Scottish Government) with Michael Oliphant to discuss progress with the Scottish Government's Covid-19 Recovery Strategy.
- **19 November** – Meeting with Jennie Barugh and Tim Ellis (Scottish Government Performance and Strategic Outcomes Team) to discuss Scottish Government performance reporting and the National Performance Framework (NPF).
- **22 November** – Regular engagement meeting with Tim McKay as Chair, Financial Audit and Assurance Committee (FAAC).
- **23 November** – Attended Insight event 'Exploring the desirability, feasibility and impact of a shorter working week', hosted by Fiona Kordiak.
- **24 November** – Pre-meetings for FAAC and Performance Audit Committee (PAC).
- **25 November** – FAAC and PAC meetings.
- **25 November** – New Audit Appointments (NAA) Steering Group meeting.
- **29 November** – Quarterly update engagement meeting with Sarah Gadsden, Chief Executive, Improvement Service.
- **30 November** – Sistema Scotland evaluation strategy meeting.

Forthcoming activities

3. My upcoming engagements in December include:

- **1 December** – Accounts Commission pre-meeting with Interim Chair, Deputy Chair and Secretary to the Commission.
- **1 December** – Scottish Leaders Forum (SLF) Accountability and Incentives Action Group.
- **2 December** – Public Audit Forum (PAF) Conference, hosted by Gordon Smail, Audit Director, Professional Support.
- **3 December** – Lynn Hendry, The Hunter Foundation – follow up to August introductory meeting, including discussions about the foundation's work, new models of public service leadership, service innovation and the role of the third sector.
- **7 December** – Karen Watt, Scottish Funding Council (SFC) – follow up to Sept meeting to discuss the development of SFC's approach to managing the performance of colleges and universities and reporting on the effectiveness of public investment in Scotland's Higher Education (HE) and Further Education (FE) sectors in improving outcomes.
- **7 December** – Best Value Working Group (BVWG) meeting.
- **8 December** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Steve Grimmond, Chair, Solace Scotland.
- **8 December** – Keynote event 'Workplace transformation in the digital age – Where could we go from here?', hosted by Diane McGiffen who will be joined by Rachel Statham, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) Scotland and Professor Lynne Baillie, Director of the Interactive and Trustworthy Technologies Research Group at Heriot-Watt University.
- **9 December** – Accounts Commission meeting.
- **15 December** – Accounts Commission pre-meeting (for January meeting) with Interim Chair, Deputy Chair and Secretary to the Commission.
- **15 December** – Monthly engagement meeting with Interim Chair of the Commission.
- **16 December** – Local Government Sector Forum.
- **16 December** – Joint Work Programme meeting with Auditor General for Scotland (AGS) and Accounts Commission.

Antony Clark
Interim Controller of Audit
23 November 2021