

MEETING: 12 AUGUST 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 June and July 2021.

Engagement

2. Please note below my engagements in June and July:

- **1 June** – Holyrood explained: post-election analysis with Newsdirect – the first Insight event for *Audit Scotland 2021: Shaping our future*.
- **2 June** – Audit Scotland Board meeting – for 2020/21 annual report on international work.
- **3 June** – Best Value (BV) programme under the new Code of Audit Practice – planning meeting with Audit Scotland colleagues leading on the BV approach to councils and Integration Joint Board (IJB) (Fiona Mitchell-Knight, Carol Calder and Leigh Johnston).
- **3 June** – Trainee meeting – introduction meeting with new Audit Scotland trainees (including a Q&A session).
- **4 June** – Monthly engagement meeting with Secretary to the Commission.
- **7 June** – First of two workshops on Best Value in IJBs pilot audit work.
- **9 June** – Christine Lester, Chair, Performance Audit Committee – introductory meeting on how best to support the Chair and the Committee.
- **9 June** – Local Government Quarterly Forum.
- **11 June** – Steve Grimmond, Chair, Solace Scotland – general introductory engagement meeting.
- **14 June** – Audit Partners meeting.
- **15 June** – Nicola Killeen and David Sinclair, Sistema Scotland – planning meeting ahead of second evaluation workshop on 29 July.
- **16 June** – Meeting with Audit Scotland and Commission colleagues (Paul Reilly, Lucy Carter, and Gemma Diamond) to progress joint areas of work for Audit Scotland/Accounts Commission and the Improvement Service.
- **16 June** – Angela Scott, Chief Executive, Aberdeen City Council – Best Value annual report (BVAR) feedback meeting.
- **18 June** – Sean Neill, Director of Local Government (LG) and Communities, Scottish Government (SG) – general introductory engagement meeting.

- **24 June** – New Audit Appointments (NAA) Steering Group meeting.
- **1 July** – Anne-Louise Clark, Executive Director, Communications and Change, Audit Wales – general introductory engagement meeting.
- **1 July** – Councillor Alison Evison, President, Convention of the Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) – general introductory engagement meeting.
- **13 July** – Scottish Leaders Forum (SLF) Accountability and Incentives Action Group.
- **15 July** – Local Government Overview (LGO) scope discussion with audit team and sponsors ahead of taking LGO scope to August Commission meeting.
- **15 July** – Tim McKay, Chair, Financial Audit and Assurance Committee – regular engagement meeting with Chair of the Financial Audit and Assurance Committee (FAAC).
- **16 July** – Monthly engagement meeting with Secretary to the Commission.
- **16 July** – Bimonthly meeting with Joanna Mansell (Communications Advisor) and Lucy Carter (Commission Support Team) to discuss Accounts Commission communications.
- **19 July** – Audit Scotland Climate Change stakeholder roundtable discussion – hosted the event (which included Andrew Burns and Sharon O'Connor, Accounts Commission sponsors) to gather views on how audit work can support the climate change agenda and progress towards a just transition to Net Zero by 2045.
- **21 July** – Catherine Whitaker, Business Manager, Solace Scotland – general introductory discussion around Audit Scotland liaison with Solace Scotland leads.
- **22 July** – Strategic Alliance discussion – meeting with Elma Murray, Sarah Gadsden (Chief Executive, Improvement Service) and Annie Gunner Logan (Director, CCPS - Coalition of Care and Support Providers) to discuss potential joint areas of work.
- **23 July** – Sally Loudon, Chief Executive, COSLA – regular engagement meeting.
- **27 July** – Catriona MacLean, Deputy Director, Public Service Reform, SG – general introductory engagement meeting.
- **29 July** – Sistema Scotland Evaluation workshop – the second of two workshops to help Sistema Scotland to develop their evaluation strategy with input from community representatives, Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH), Improvement Service, Scottish Government, Stirling Council, Dundee City Council, Aberdeen City Council, Biggar Economics, Fraser of Allander Institute, and Education Scotland.

Forthcoming activities

3. My upcoming engagements in August include:

- **5 August** – LG Sector Forum.
- **5 August** – BV in IJBs Advisory Group – second workshop on Best Value in IJBs pilot.
- **13 August** – National organisations integration huddle meeting – short slot to introduce the current thinking on the approach to auditing BV in IJBs.

- **18 August** – Audit Partners Meeting.
- **19 August** – Lynn Hendry, Hunter Foundation – to discuss third sector work.
- **24 August** – Strategic Scrutiny Group meeting.
- **26 August** – Joint work programme update meeting with Accounts Commission Interim Chair, Interim Deputy Chair and Auditor General for Scotland.

4. Commission members are invited to note this report.

Antony Clark
Interim Controller of Audit
28 July 2021