

MEETING: 9 SEPTEMBER 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 August 2021.

Engagement

2. Please note below my engagements in August:
 - **2 August** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Communications Manager.
 - **5 August** – Local Government Sector Forum.
 - **5 August** – Best Value (BV) in Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) Advisory Group meeting – the second of two workshops on the BV in IJBs pilot.
 - **6 August** – Monthly engagement meeting with Secretary to the Commission.
 - **10 August** – New Audit Appointments (NAA) Steering Group meeting.
 - **13 August** – Monthly Integration huddle – presentation with Leigh Johnston, Senior Manager, Performance Audit and Best Value (PABV), to health scrutiny partners and improvement agencies on the Commission's current thinking on its proposed approach to auditing BV in IJBs.
 - **17 August** – Monthly engagement meeting with Interim Chair of the Commission.
 - **18 August** – Audit Partners meeting.
 - **19 August** – Best Value Working Group meeting.
 - **19 August** – Lynn Hendry, The Hunter Foundation – general introductory meeting, including discussions about the foundation's work, new models of public service leadership, service innovation and the role of the third sector.
 - **20 August** – Meeting with Secretary to the Commission – general catch up on Commission business outwith the monthly meeting schedule.
 - **23 August** – Anna Fowle, Chief Executive, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) – general introductory meeting, including discussions around collaborative leadership, new models of service commissioning and the role of third sector work in supporting improved outcomes. This meeting also covered Anna's participation with Antony and Jennifer Wallace (Carnegie Trust) in the Audit Scotland 'Shaping our Future' staff conference event on 28 October (2pm-3:30pm).
 - **24 August** – Pre meeting ahead of the briefing session with the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee on the Local Government

Overview (LGO) and Financial Local Government Overview (FLGO) reports on 31 August (Elma Murray, audit team and Communications team).

- **24 August** – Strategic Scrutiny Group meeting.
 - **24 August** – Emily Lynch, Programme Manager, Improvement Service – pre meeting to discuss the Community Planning Improvement Board (CPIB) deep dive into 'Climate Change: the role for Community Planning' on 26 August.
 - **25 August** – Sarah Gadsden, Chief Executive, Improvement Service – quarterly engagement meeting, including discussions on research into a future 21st century operating model for councils, progress in implementing the IS/Accounts Commission's strategic alliance, Climate Change activity in councils, Child Poverty, Christie 10 years on, and the leadership and effectiveness of Community Planning in Scotland.
 - **26 August** – Joint Work Programme meeting with Auditor General for Scotland (AGS) and Accounts Commission.
 - **27 August** – Jennifer Wallace, Carnegie Trust – general introductory meeting about their work, including discussions around the well-being economy, National Performance Framework (NPF) outcome and flourishing towns. This meeting also covered Jennifer's participation with Antony and Anna Fowlie (SCVO) in the Audit Scotland 'Shaping our Future' staff conference event on 28 October (2pm-3:30pm).
 - **31 August** – Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee – briefing on Local Government Overview report and Financial Local Government Overview 2021 reports (with Elma Murray and audit team).
3. Commission members are invited to note this report.

Antony Clark
Interim Controller of Audit
26 August 2021