

MEETING: 7 OCTOBER 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 September 2021.

Engagement

2. Please note below my engagements in September:
 - **1 September** – Audit Scotland Board meeting for Audit Quality update agenda item.
 - **1 September** – Karen Watt, Chief Executive, Scottish Funding Council (SFC) – 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.
 - **2 September** – Pre meeting with Sharon O’Connor, the Auditor General for Scotland and Carrie Lindsay, Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES President) ahead of their joint session on the Education Outcomes report at the Scottish Learning Festival on 21 September.
 - **3 September** – Monthly engagement meeting with Secretary to the Commission.
 - **3 September** – Bi-monthly engagement meeting with Communications Advisor and Policy Manager to the Commission.
 - **6 - 17 September** – Annual leave.
 - **21 September** – Attendance at the Scottish Learning Festival to observe Sharon O’Connor, the Auditor General for Scotland and Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director Education and Children’s Services, Fife Council (ADES President) delivering a joint session on the [improving education outcomes](#) audit report.
 - **22 September** – Monthly engagement meeting with Interim Chair of the Commission.
 - **23 September** – Joint Local government overview (LGO) Issues and Investigations (I&I) discussion with Commission sponsors and the team.
 - **23 September** – Bi-monthly engagement meeting with Chair of the Financial Audit and Assurance Committee (FAAC).
 - **28 September** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Steve Grimmond, Chair, Solace Scotland.

- **30 September** – Regular catch-up meeting with Audit Scotland colleagues leading on the Best Value (BV) approach to councils and Integrated Joint Board (IJBs) (Fiona Mitchell-Knight, Carol Calder, and Leigh Johnston).

Forthcoming activities

3. My upcoming engagements in October include:

- **1 October** – Monthly engagement meeting with Secretary to the Commission.
- **6 October** – Introductory meeting with Fiona Duncan, Chair, The Promise Oversight Board and colleagues (Claire Stuart, Head of Evidence and Fi McFarlane, Head of Oversight).
- **8 October** – Scottish Leaders Forum (SLF) Accountability and Incentives Action Group.
- **12 October** – Monthly engagement meeting with Interim Chair of the Commission.
- **13 October** – Regular engagement meeting with Sally Loudon, Chief Executive, COSLA.
- **19 October** – Pre meeting with Jennifer Wallace, Head of Policy at the Carnegie Trust and Anna Fowlie, Chief Executive of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) in advance of Audit Scotland 2021 keynote event on how public services and public audit need to change in response to the impact of Covid-19.
- **20 October** – Meeting with Improvement Service to discuss joint working on auditing Best Value in IJBs focusing in particular on how self-evaluation can be embedded into the new BV audit approach.
- **28 October** – Audit Scotland 2021 keynote event – I will be leading this joint session with Jennifer Wallace, Head of Policy at the Carnegie Trust and Anna Fowlie, Chief Executive of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO). The event will be focusing on how public services and public audit need to change in response to the impact of Covid-19. Given Jennifer and Anna's backgrounds there is likely to be a strong focus on how we might shift towards a wellbeing economy, including consideration of the key contribution that the third sector and communities can play in improving local outcomes. Collaborative leadership and addressing inequalities are likely to feature heavily as topics too.

Antony Clark
Interim Controller of Audit
22 September 2021