

MEETING: 8 DECEMBER 2022

REPORT BY: CHAIR OF ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

CHAIR'S UPDATE REPORT

Purpose

1. This report provides an update on the engagements and work of the Chair of the Accounts Commission.

Engagement and Audit Scotland business

2. The engagements and work in the period of 1 November to 30 November have been as follows:

Audit Scotland Board and Committee meetings

- 23 November 2022 – Audit Scotland Board. The main items of substance covered were our Q2 Financial performance report, Q2 Corporate performance report, Corporate Governance Documents, Bullying and harassment policy, update on Public Audit in Scotland and the new Audit Scotland corporate plan, SCPA budget proposal 2023/24, Spring Budget Revision 2022/23, Environment, Sustainability and Biodiversity annual report 2021/22 and the Procuring External Quality Assurance 2022-28 report.
- 9 November 2022 – Audit Committee meeting

Audit Scotland engagement

- 3 November – Monthly catch up with Vicki Bibby, Chief Operating Officer.
- 3 November – Monthly catch up with John Cornett, Executive Director of Audit Services.
- 16 November - Monthly catch up with Antony Clark, Interim Controller of Audit and Executive Director of Performance Audit and Best Value.

External engagement

- 8 & 30 November – Catch ups with Sean Neill, Director for Local Government and Communities.
- 15 November – Public Audit in Scotland meeting with Business Jigsaw Consultants.
- 16 November – Improvement Service interview with their Executive Team to discuss their strategic framework.
- 17 November – Public Audit Committee business planning meeting with Tim McKay, Interim Deputy Chair.
- 25 November – Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) Meeting.

- 29 November – Introductory meeting with Sue Webber MSP, Education Convener.

3. Commission business has been as follows:

- Regular catch ups with Commission Support Team: Blyth Dean, Audit Manager; Martin McLauchlan, Policy Manager and Jillian Elgin, Executive Assistant.
- 1 November – New member introductory meetings with Ruth MacLeod, Jennifer Henderson and Malcolm Bell.
- 1 November – Strategic Scrutiny Group pre-meeting with Carol Calder, Strategic Scrutiny Group Secretary and Jillian Elgin.
- 2 November – Catch up with Ronnie Hinds.
- 3 November – New member introductory meetings with Nichola Brown.
- 3 November – Local Government Overview (LGO) sponsor meeting with Antony Clark; Carol Calder, Interim Audit Director, PABV; Joanna Mansell; Blyth Deans, Audit Manager, PABV; Adam Bullough, Audit Manager, PABV; Lucy Jones, Senior Auditor, PABV; Lindsay Stother, Audit Officer, PABV; Andrew Dixon, Audit Officer, PABV; Christopher Lewis, Senior Auditor, PABV; Martin Allan, Auditor, PABV and Lisa McNeely, Trainee Auditor, PABV.
- 7 November – Catch up with Helena Gray, new Controller of Audit who will begin her appointment on 9 January 23.
- 10 November – Accounts Commission meeting.
- 15 November – Strategic Scrutiny Group meeting. Update will be shared with members at the December Commission meeting.
- 16 November – Catch up with Tim McKay.
- 16 November – Preparatory Public Audit Committee meeting with Tim McKay and Blyth Dean.
- 17 November – Communications group catch up with Simon Ebbett, Communications Manager; Joanna Mansell, Communications Adviser; Jillian Elgin and Martin McLauchlan.
- 24 November – Preparatory session with Blyth Dean ahead of SOLACE meeting.
- 24 November – Financial Audit and Assurance Committee meeting
- 24 November – Performance Audit Committee meeting
- 29 November – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Council to discuss best value report with Geraldine Wooley and Christine Lester, Commission members, Martin McLauchlan and Brian Howarth, Audit Director, Audit Services Group.
- 30 November – Adult mental health team catch up with Stephen Boyle; Antony Clark; Christine Lester; Eva Thomas-Tudo, Audit Manager, PABV; Leigh Johnston, Senior Manager, PABV; Natalie Goddard, Senior Auditor, PABV; Claire Tennyson, Auditor, PABV; Joanna Mansell, Communications Adviser; Veronica Cameron, Senior Auditor, PABV; and Aileen Campbell, Auditor, PABV.

4. Other areas of work have included:

- Reviewing internal and external best value blog and news release.
- Recording video and signing off November newsletter to councillors
- Reviewing Local Government Overview Financial Bulletin draft report

Forthcoming activities

5. My forthcoming engagement activities include:

- 1 December – Forward Planning meeting
- 1 December – Monthly catch up with Vicki Bibby.
- 5 December – Monthly catch up with Stephen Boyle.
- 5 December – Monthly catch up with John Cornett.
- 8 December – Accounts Commission meeting.

Conclusion

6. The Commission is invited to:

- a) note this report and enquire about any areas of interest
- b) consider whether there are any changes that they would wish to see to the format and content of the report for the future.

William Moyes
Chair
30 November 2022