

**MEETING: 10 FEBRUARY 2022**

**REPORT BY: CHAIR OF ACCOUNTS COMMISSION**

**CHAIR'S UPDATE REPORT**

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**Purpose**

1. This report provides an update on the engagements and work of the Chair of the Accounts Commission.
2. This is my first report after being appointed Chair on 1 January 2022.

**Engagement and Audit Scotland business**

3. The engagements and work in the period of 1 to 31 January have been as follows:

***Audit Scotland Board and Committee meetings***

- 26 January – Audit Scotland Board – The main items of substance covered were a Covid-19 update, 2021/22 Spring Budget Revision and 2022/23 Budget proposal, our purpose – workstream update, building strategic capacity report, new audit appointments update and stakeholder engagement update.

***Audit Scotland engagement***

- 18 January – Introductory meeting with Antony Clark, Interim Controller of Audit and Director of Performance and Best Value.
- 18 January – Introductory meeting with Martin Walker, Acting Director of Corporate Services.
- 18 January – Introductory meeting with Carol Calder, Audit Director and Strategic Scrutiny Group Secretary.
- 20 January – Introductory meeting with Fiona Kordiak, Director of Audit Services.
- 21 January – Introductory meeting with Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland and Accountable Officer, Audit Scotland.
- 25 January – Introductory meeting with Alan Alexander, Audit Scotland Board Chair.
- 25 January – Introductory meeting with Elaine Boyd, Associate Director, Audit Quality and Appointments.

***External engagement***

- 26 January – Introductory meeting with Sean Neill, Director for Local Government and Communities and Ellen Leaver, Deputy Director for Local Government at the Scottish Government.

## **Commission business, development and support**

### **4. Commission business has been as follows:**

- Introductory meetings and then regular catch ups with Paul Reilly, Secretary to the Commission, and Jillian Elgin, Executive Assistant to the Commission.
- 6-12 January – Introductory meetings with Accounts Commission members.
- 13 January – Private members meeting.
- 25 January – Introductory meeting with Joanna Mansell, Communications Adviser.
- 27 January – Monthly sponsor catch up and draft report discussion with the Local Government Overview team to discuss the approach and timing for the Financial Local Government Overview due for publication in March.
- 27 January – Forward planning meeting with Tim McKay, Deputy Chair of the Commission, Paul Reilly and Jillian Elgin to plan up and coming Commission business.

### **5. Other areas of work have included:**

- Accounts Commission and Audit Scotland Board inductions
- introductory video to Audit Scotland colleagues
- video to promote key messages for publication of the social care briefing.

## **Forthcoming activities**

### **6. My forthcoming engagement activities include:**

- 1 February – Introductory meeting with Sarah Gadsden, Chief Executive, and Councillor Alison Evison, President of the Improvement Service.
- 1 February – Introductory meeting Colin Crosby, Audit Scotland Board member.
- 3 February – Introductory meeting with Gayle Fitzpatrick, Corporate Governance Manager.
- 3 February – Fortnightly catch up with Tim McKay.
- 3 February – Introductory meeting with Lucy Carter, Policy Manager, Accounts Commission.
- 3 February – Introductory meeting with Simon Ebbett, Communications Manager.
- 3 February – Introductory meeting with Ben MacPherson, Minister for Local Government and Social Security.

## **Conclusion**

### **7. 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**  
**27 January 2022**