

MEETING: 10 MARCH 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 to 28 February have been as follows:

Audit Scotland Board and Committee meetings

- There were no meetings in February.

Audit Scotland engagement

- 1 February – Introductory meeting with Colin Crosbie, Audit Scotland Board member.
- 2 February – Monthly catch up with Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland and Accountable Officer, Audit Scotland.
- 3 February – Introductory meeting with Simon Ebbett, Communications Manager.
- 15 February – Monthly catch up with Antony Clark, Interim Controller of Audit and Director of Performance Audit and Best Value and Paul Reilly, Secretary to the Commission.
- 16 February – Introductory meeting with Jackie Mann, Audit Scotland Board member.
- 16 February – Introductory meeting with John Cornett, Audit Director, and Anne MacDonald, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Services Group.
- 16 February – Introductory meeting with Gillian Woolman, Audit Director, Audit Services Group, and Paul O'Brien, Senior Manager, Performance Audit and Best Value.
- 17 February – Introductory meeting with Gayle Fitzpatrick, Corporate Governance Manager.
- 22 February – Meeting with Stephen Boyle, Alan Alexander, Audit Scotland Board Chair, Martin Walker, Acting Director of Corporate Services, and Paul Reilly on recruitment.
- 28 February – Monthly catch up with Alan Alexander.

- 28 February – Introductory meeting with Gemma Diamond and Mark Roberts, Audit Directors, Performance Audit and Best Value.

External engagement

- 1 February – Introductory meeting with Sarah Gadsden, Chief Executive, and Councillor Alison Evison, President, of the Improvement Service.
- 3 February – Introductory meeting with Ben MacPherson, Minister for Local Government and Social Security.
- 17 February – Introductory meeting with Sally Loudon, Chief Executive, COSLA.
- 23 February – Scottish Commission for Public Audit (SCPA) business planning meeting.
- 23 February – Introductory meeting with Louise Long, Chief Executive, and Alan Puckrin, Chief Finance Officer, Inverclyde Council, and Antony Clark.

Commission business, development and support

3. Commission business has been as follows:

- Regular catch ups with Paul Reilly and Jillian Elgin, Executive Assistant to the Commission.
- 3 & 24 February – Catch ups with Tim McKay, Interim Deputy Chair.
- 3 February – Introductory meeting with Lucy Carter, Policy Manager, Accounts Commission.
- 15 February – Introductory meeting with Andrea Quinn, Geelox, Strategy Seminar facilitator.
- 16 February – Best Value discussion with Paul Reilly and Tim McKay.
- 17 February – Accounts Commission meeting.
- 24 February – Financial Audit and Assurance Committee meeting.
- 24 February – Performance Audit Committee meeting.

4. Other areas of work have included:

- Chair's introduction for Local Government Financial Overview report.
- Accounts Commission newsletter for councillors and video.

Forthcoming activities

5. My forthcoming engagement activities include:

- 2 March – Audit Scotland Audit Committee and Remuneration and Human Resources Committee meetings.
- 3 March – Best Value Working Group meeting.

- 10 March – Accounts Commission meeting.
- 14 March – Monthly catch up with Stephen Boyle.
- 14 March – Monthly sponsor catch up with Local Government Overview team.
- 14 March – Monthly catch up with Antony Clark and Paul Reilly.
- 15 March – Strategic Scrutiny Group 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
28 February 2022