

**MEETING: 7 APRIL 2022**

**REPORT BY: INTERIM CONTROLLER OF AUDIT**

**INTERIM CONTROLLER OF AUDIT UPDATE REPORT**

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## Purpose

1. This report provides an update on my engagement activity during March 2022.

## Engagement

2. Please note below my engagements in March:
  - **2 March** – Following the Pandemic Pound (FtPP) Steering Group meeting.
  - **3 March** – Attended Scottish Parliament's Public Audit Committee (PAC) with the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS) and audit team to present the January 2022 Social care briefing to the Committee.
  - **3 March** – Best Value Working Group (BVWG) meeting.
  - **4 March** – Monthly engagement meeting with Paul Reilly, Secretary to the Commission.
  - **4 March** – Interim Controller of Audit update to Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Directors of Finance Executive Committee on key local government audit issues and recent Audit Scotland developments.
  - **4 March** – Bi-monthly engagement meeting with Communications Adviser and Policy Manager to the Commission.
  - **8 March** – Supporting businesses through the Covid-19 pandemic – post clearance report discussion with the AGS and Accounts Commission (AC) sponsor (Geraldine Wooley).
  - **9 March** – Accounts Commission pre-meeting.
  - **10 March** – Accounts Commission meeting.
  - **11 March** – Child poverty output – scope discussion with AGS and AC sponsors (Andrew Burns and Sophie Flemig).
  - **14 March** – Local Government Overview (LGO) draft report discussion with AC sponsors (Bill Moyes and Tim McKay).
  - **14 March** – Engagement meeting with Paul Reilly to discuss Best Value (BV) thematic audit work proposals ahead of the Accounts Commission Strategy Seminar.
  - **15 March** – Strategic Scrutiny Group meeting – presentation with Jennifer Henderson (Keeper of the Registers of Scotland) on the Scottish Leaders Forum (SLF) report [Leadership, Collective Responsibility and Delivering the National](#)

[Outcomes: Improving accountability and incentives to deliver the National Performance Framework \(NPF\) outcomes](#) which was published on 10 March 2022.

- **16 March** – Monthly catch up with the Correspondence team.
- **16 March** – Regular catch-up meeting with Audit Scotland colleagues leading on the BV approach to councils and Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) (Fiona Mitchell-Knight, Carol Calder and Leigh Johnston).
- **17 March** – Angus Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) draft report discussion with the team.
- **17 March** – Local Government Sector Forum meeting.
- **18 March** – Scottish Leaders Forum (SLF) meeting with the Scottish Government's new Permanent Secretary ([John Paul \(JP\) Marks](#)) to discuss the SLF Action Group's NPF Accountability and Incentives work.
- **28 March** – Meeting with Scottish Government (Laura Turney, Head of Public Service Reform Team and David Milne, Public Bodies and Public Service Reform Division) with the AGS and Accounts Commission Chair to discuss public sector reform.

### **Forthcoming activities**

3. My upcoming engagements in April include:

- **1 April** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Steve Grimmond, outgoing SOLACE (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) Chair.
- **4 April** – Falkirk BVAR post project review with the team.
- **6 April** – Accounts Commission pre-meeting.
- **6 April** – SLF Accountability and Incentives Action Group meeting.
- **6 April** – Bi-monthly engagement meeting with the Chair, Financial Audit and Assurance Committee (FAAC).
- **7 April** – Accounts Commission meeting.
- **11 April** – Meeting with third sector organisations ([The Hunter Foundation](#), [The Robertson Trust](#), Wellbeing Economy Alliance Scotland ([WEAll Scotland](#))) to discuss collaboration on Scottish Government funding streams, new models of governance and accountability and innovative local public service delivery.
- **14 April** – Best Value Working Group meeting.
- **19 April** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Sean Neill, Director, Local Government and Communities, Scottish Government.
- **20 April** – Monthly catch up with the Correspondence team.
- **26 April** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Sally Loudon, Chief Executive, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).

- **27 April** – Regular catch-up meeting with Audit Scotland colleagues leading on the BV approach to councils and IJBs (Fiona Mitchell-Knight, Carol Calder and Leigh Johnston).
- **28 April** – Follow up meeting with [Scotland Funders' Forum](#) to discuss charity reserves (convened by Lynn Hendry, The Hunter Foundation).

**Antony Clark**  
**Interim Controller of Audit**  
**16 March 2022**