

**MEETING: 12 MAY 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.

### **Engagement and Audit Scotland business**

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

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

- 5 April – Audit Scotland Board. The main items of substance covered were our Strategic Improvement Programme update, 2022/23 Operational budget, Quarter Three Financial performance report, Quarter Three Corporate performance report, Best Companies survey results, Annual policy review of Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Requests and Data protection policy, Scheme of Delegation and Management Team responsibilities, New audit appointments – lessons learned, Audit Scotland Annual Report and Accounts and Internal audit procurement. Copies of the key papers have been loaded onto the Commission's SharePoint site and brought to members' attention.
- 5 April – Audit Scotland Board development session with Judith Strange, external consultant.

#### ***Audit Scotland engagement***

- 20 April – Monthly catch up with Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland and Accountable Officer, Audit Scotland.
- 20 April – Recruitment meeting to discuss Audit Scotland Executive Director of Audit Services interviews.
- 21 April – 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.
- 27 April – Audit Scotland's Leadership Group meeting to provide an update on Commission priorities.
- 28 April – Regular catch up with Alan Alexander, Audit Scotland Board Chair.

#### ***External engagement***

- 13 April – Meeting with Councillor Andrew Drever, Convener, and Karen Greaves, Clerk, Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board with Paul Reilly to discuss recent statutory report.

- 20 April – Introductory meeting with Arianne Burgess, Convener, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, accompanied by Paul Reilly.

3. Commission business has been as follows:

- Regular catch ups with Paul Reilly and Jillian Elgin, Executive Assistant to the Commission.
- 7 April – Accounts Commission meeting.
- 7 April – Communications catch up with Joanna Mansell and Elizabeth Sargeant, Communications Advisers, to discuss Accounts Commission communications, engagement and public profile.
- 14 April – Best Value Working Group meeting. Updates are shared with Commission members at each monthly Commission meeting as a standing item on our agenda.
- 14 April – Catch up with Tim McKay, Interim Deputy Chair.
- 21 April – Local Government Overview sponsor catch up with Tim McKay, Antony Clark and Local Government Overview team to discuss the approach, timing and emerging messages for the Local Government Overview due for publication in May.
- 28 April – Forward planning meeting with Tim McKay, Paul Reilly and Jillian Elgin to discuss up and coming Commission business.

4. Other areas of work have included the Commission Change Programme.

**Forthcoming activities**

5. My forthcoming engagement activities include:

- 4 May – Audit Scotland Executive Director interviews.
- 12 May – Accounts Commission meeting.
- 17 May – Audit Scotland Board.

**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 April 2022**