

MEETING: 12 MAY 2022

REPORT BY: INTERIM CONTROLLER OF AUDIT

INTERIM CONTROLLER OF AUDIT UPDATE REPORT

Purpose

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

Engagement

2. Please note below my engagements in April:

- **1 April** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Steve Grimmond, outgoing Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) Chair.
- **4 April** – Falkirk Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) post project review with the team.
- **4 April** – Monthly engagement meeting with Paul Reilly, Secretary to the Commission.
- **4 April** – Attended the ‘Developing Hybrid Working’ drop in session hosted by Martin Walker, Acting Director, Corporate Services Group, for Management Team to hear staff views on how we shape our future working arrangements and develop our approach to hybrid working.
- **5 April** – Bi-monthly engagement meeting with Tim McKay as Chair, Financial Audit and Assurance Committee (FAAC).
- **6 April** – Meeting with Scottish Government (Laura Turney, Head of Public Service Reform Team, and David Milne, Public Bodies and Public Service Reform Division) as follow up to initial discussion on 28 March 2022 with the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS) and Accounts Commission Chair to discuss public sector reform.
- **6 April** – Scottish Leaders Forum (SLF) Accountability and Incentives Action Group meeting.
- **7 April** – Accounts Commission meeting.
- **7 April** – Meeting with Audit Quality and Appointments (Elaine Boyd, Associate Director, and Kathrine Sibbald, Senior Manager) with AGS to discuss new audit appointments feedback.
- **8 April** – Justice, Education and Lifelong Learning (JELL) Cluster update meeting with AGS and team.
- **11 April** – Meeting with third sector organisations (The Hunter Foundation, The Robertson Trust and 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.

- **13 April** – Scotland’s financial response to Covid-19 – additional meeting with sponsors.
- **14 April** – Best Value (BV) Working Group.
- **20 April** – Monthly catch up with the Correspondence team.
- **21 April** – Ferries briefing session at the Public Audit Committee with AGS, Angela Canning (Audit Director, Performance Audit and Best Value (PABV)) and Gill Miller (Audit Manager, PABV).
- **21 April** – Local Government Overview (LGO) sponsor meeting with team.
- **21 April** – Monthly catch up with Bill Moyes, Chair of the Commission, and Paul Reilly.
- **22 April** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Sean Neill, Director, Local Government and Communities, Scottish Government.
- **25 April** – Local Government Sector forum – additional meeting to discuss the Best Value thematic work for the 2021/22 audit year.
- **27 April** – Regular catch up meeting with Audit Scotland colleagues leading on the BV approach to councils and Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) (Fiona Mitchell-Knight, Audit Director, Audit Services Group (ASG), Carol Calder, Audit Director, PABV, and Leigh Johnston, Senior Manager, PABV).
- **28 April** – Additional Ferries briefing session at the Public Audit Committee with AGS and Angela Canning – as follow up from 21 April 2022 session.
- **28 April** – Follow up meeting with the Funders Forum to discuss charity reserves (convened by Lynn Hendry, The Hunter Foundation).

Forthcoming activities

3. My upcoming engagements in May include:

- **2 May** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Andrew Kerr, Chair, SOLACE.
- **3 May** – Scottish Government Executive team meeting with AGS and Michael Oliphant (Audit Director, ASG).
- **4 May** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Sally Loudon, Chief Executive, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).
- **5 May** – Shetland BVAR emerging messages discussion with the team.
- **6 May** – Monthly engagement meeting with Paul Reilly.
- **6 May** – Bi-monthly engagement meeting with Communications Advisor and Policy Manager to the Commission.
- **10 May** – Angus BVAR final report meeting with the team.
- **12 May** – Accounts Commission meeting.

- **12 May** – Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) extraordinary audit of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. Virtual attendance at an update meeting following previous meetings to discuss the draft audit report.
- **16 May** – Scotland's financial response to Covid-19 post clearance meeting with AGS and sponsors.
- **16 May** – Quarterly United Kingdom and Ireland (UK&I) Public Audit Forum meeting, topics for discussion were user voice and user/client/citizen in audit work and levelling up funds.
- **17 May** – Regular six monthly engagement meeting with Catriona MacLean, Deputy Director, Public Service Reform, Scottish Government.
- **18 May** – Monthly catch up with the Correspondence team.
- **19 May** – Ferries evidence session with Accountable Officers at the Public Audit Committee with AGS and Gill Miller (Audit Manager, PABV).
- **19 May** – Best Value Working Group meeting.
- **20 May** – Regular engagement with Scottish Government (Laura Turney and David Milne).
- **23 May** – Child poverty draft output discussion with AGS and sponsors.
- **24 May** – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (CnES) BVAR emerging messages discussion with the team.
- **25 May** – Joint Performance Audit Committee (PAC)/Financial Audit and Assurance Committee (FAAC) pre meeting.
- **25 May** – Moray BVAR post project review meeting.
- **26 May** – PAC/FAAC meetings.
- **26 May** – Sistema Scotland Evaluation Advisory Board meeting – first meeting with newly formed Advisory Board.

Antony Clark
Interim Controller of Audit
2 May 2022