

**MEETING: 10 NOVEMBER 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 September to 31 October have been as follows:

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

- 28 September 2022 – Audit Scotland Board. The main items of substance covered were our Strategic Improvement Programme update, Q1 Financial performance report, Q1 Corporate performance report, Board and Committee meetings 2023, Annual review of corporate governance policies, Annual policy review of records management policies, HSE stress survey results and action plan, Our purpose workstream: Update on Public Audit in Scotland and the new Audit Scotland corporate plan, 2023/24 Budget proposal, Medium Term Financial Plan 2022-23 to 2026-27 and 10 year review of trainee scheme provider.

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

- 6 September – Introductory meeting with Vicki Bibby, new Chief Operating Officer, Audit Scotland and further catch up's on 12 and 18 October.
- 13 September – Catch up with Jackie Mann, Audit Scotland Board member.
- 14 September & 5 October – Monthly catch ups with Stephen Boyle, Auditor General for Scotland and Accountable Officer, Audit Scotland.
- 6 October – Monthly catch up with John Cornett, Executive Director of Audit Services.
- 19 October – Catch up with Alan Alexander, Audit Scotland Board Chair.

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

- 7 September – Introductory meeting with Gillian Martin, Convener, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee.
- 7 September – Introductory meeting with Kenneth Gibson, Convener, Finance and Public Administration Committee.
- 22 September – Introductory meeting with Paul Johnston, Director General for Communities, Scottish Government.

- 22 September – Meeting with Kate Forster, Forward Communications.
- 30 September – Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) Leaders Meeting.
- 4 October – Media training with Mucklemedia.
- 4 October – Meeting with Ellen Leaver, Deputy Director, Local Government and Analytical Services Division, Scottish Government.
- 12 October – Improvement Service Board Meeting with Tim McKay, Interim Deputy Chair.
- 26 October – Annual Audit Planning Conference.

3. Commission business has been as follows:

- Regular catch ups with Paul Reilly and Jillian Elgin.
- 1 September – Accounts Commission member interviews.
- 5 September – Adult mental health team catch up with Stephen Boyle; Angela Canning, Audit Director, PABV; Christine Lester; Eva Thomas-Tudo, Audit Manager, PABV; Leigh Johnston, Senior Manager, PABV; Natalie Goddard, Senior Auditor, PABV; Claire Tennyson, Auditor, PABV; Joanna Mansell, Communications Adviser; Veronica Cameron, Senior Auditor, PABV; and Aileen Campbell, Auditor, PABV.
- 6 September, 12 & 18 October – Catch ups with Tim McKay.
- 6 September – Forward planning meeting with Paul Reilly, Tim McKay and Jillian Elgin.
- 6 September – Communications group catch up with Paul Reilly, Simon Ebbett, Communications Manager, Joanna Mansell and Jillian Elgin.
- 7 September – Internal Communications and Engagement Strategy meeting with Paul Reilly, Kirsty Gibbins, Communications Adviser and Joanna Mansell.
- 8 September – Accounts Commission meeting.
- 12 September – Accounts Commission member interviews.
- 14 September – Joint Work Programme meeting with Stephen Boyle, Paul Reilly, Antony Clark, Patrick McFall, Communications Adviser, Joanna Mansell, Tim McKay, Michelle Borland, Business Manager, PABV and Gemma Diamond, Audit Director, PABV.
- 20 September – Strategy Seminar catch up with Paul Reilly.
- 21 September – Accounts Commission Strategy Seminar with Commission members.
- 27 September – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar media preparation with Joanna Mansell, Veronica Cameron, Jillian Matthew, Senior Manager, PABV, Peter Worsdale, Audit Manager, PABV, and David Jamieson, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Services.

- 28 September – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar media interviews.
- 3 October – Local Government Overview (LGO) sponsor meeting with Antony Clark; Joanna Mansell; Blyth Deans, Audit Manager, PABV; Adam Bullough, Audit Manager, PABV; Lucy Jones, Senior Auditor, PABV; Lindsay Stother, Audit Officer, PABV; Andrew Dixon, Audit Officer, PABV; Christopher Lewis, Senior Auditor, PABV; and Martin Allan, Auditor, PABV.
- 11 October – Shetland Islands Council meeting to discuss best value report with Andrew Burns and Christine Lester, Commission members, Martin McLauchlan, Policy Manager and Zoe McGuire, Audit Manager, Performance Audit and Best Value.
- 12 October – Catch up with Blyth Deans, Audit Manager, Performance Audit and Best Value.
- 13 October – Commission member catch up's with Sharon O'Connor and Stephen Moore ahead of their terms ending on 31 October 2022.
- 26 October – Forward planning meeting with Tim McKay, Jillian Elgin, Blyth Deans and Martin McLauchlan, Policy Manager, Accounts Commission.

4. Other areas of work have included:

- Preparation for Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) media interviews.
- Signing of climate change briefing/news release.
- Approving final version of Annual Audit Planning Guidance.
- Preparation for Annual Planning Conference

### **Forthcoming activities**

5. My forthcoming engagement activities include:

- 1 November – Strategic Scrutiny pre-meeting.
- 2 November – Catch up with Ronnie Hinds.
- 2 November – LGO Sponsor Team catch up.
- 3 November – Catch up with Vicki Bibby.
- 3 November – Monthly catch up with John Cornett.
- 7 November – Catch up with Helena Gray
- 9 November – Audit Committee & Remuneration Committee meetings.
- 10 November – Accounts Commission 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**  
**31 October 2022**