

Minutes

Thursday 12 January 2023, 10.45am
Audit Scotland offices, 102 West Port,
Edinburgh, and online via Microsoft Teams

Present:

William Moyes (Chair)
Malcolm Bell
Nichola Brown
Andrew Burns
Andrew Cowie*
Sophie Flemig
Jennifer Henderson
Christine Lester
Geraldine Wooley

* Online attendance

Apologies:

Sheila Gunn
Ruth MacLeod
Tim McKay
Paul Reilly, Secretary to the Commission

In attendance:

Blyth Deans, Senior Manager, Performance Audit and Best Value (PABV)
Helena Gray, Controller of Audit
Martin McLauchlan, Policy Manager, Accounts Commission
Aileen Campbell, Auditor, PABV (item 9)
Joanna Mansell, Communications Adviser (item 9)

1. Apologies for absence

It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from Sheila Gunn, Ruth MacLeod, Tim McKay and Paul Reilly (Secretary).

2. Declaration of connections

Andrew Burns and Nichola Brown declared interests in relation to item 9 but neither required members to recuse themselves.

3. Order of business

It was recommended that the following items be considered in private session:

- Item 9 required the Commission to consider confidential policy matters.

Following discussion, it was agreed item 9 could be moved to the public session. The Chair advised that there was no business for item 10.

4. Minutes of meeting of 8 December 2022

The Commission considered a report by the Policy Manager presenting the minutes of the meeting of 8 December 2022, including a summary of business arising from those minutes.

The Commission:

- Approved the minutes as a correct record.
- Noted the summary of the matters arising.

5. Secretary's update report

The Commission considered a verbal update by the Policy Manager providing an update on significant recent activity relating to local government and issues of relevance or interest across the wider public sector.

During discussion, the Commission:

- Noted a new format for the Secretary Report is in development, with the intention for the revised report to be presented at the February Commission meeting, for information and comment.
- Noted that a briefing on the recent Scottish Government Budget is on the agenda for the February Commission meeting.

Following discussion, the Commission noted the update.

6. Chair's update report

The Commission considered and noted a report by the Chair providing an update on recent and upcoming activity.

7. Interim Controller of Audit's update report

The Commission considered and noted a report by the Interim Controller of Audit providing an update on recent and upcoming activity.

8. Any other public business

The Chair, having advised that there was no business for this item, closed the public part of the meeting.

9. Third Sector engagement programme proposal

The Commission considered a report by the Policy Manager outlining proposals relating to Commission engagement with the third sector in 2023 and a model for longer-term engagement with the sector.

During discussion, the Commission:

- Agreed there was a need to further consider the outcomes and impact of the 2021 events; and how these can be effectively communicated to relevant stakeholders.
- Advised of the need for clarification of the purpose and desired outcome from third sector engagement events prior to them resuming.

Following discussion, the Commission:

- Noted the proposals around increasing the Commission's communications with, and visibility across, the third sector.
- Agreed in principle to a proposed series of engagement events in 2023, but to pause planning of a March 2023 event.
- Agreed third sector events should be considered as part of the Commission's wider communication and stakeholder engagement strategy, rather than as a standalone workstream.
- Agreed, as part of the above wider workplans, to explore the benefits of delegating leadership of the Commission's engagement with the third sector to a sub-group of members.

Action: Third sector engagement plans are to be revised and brought forward for approval under the wider communication and stakeholder engagement workstream. (Secretary)

10. Any other private business

The Chair, having advised that there was no business for this item, closed the meeting.

Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 12.00pm