

**MEETING: 11 AUGUST 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 June and July 2022.

**Engagement**

2. Please note below my engagements in June and July:
  - **2 June** – Further meeting with Secretary to the Commission to discuss the Best Value (BV) approach and future reporting to the Best Value Working Group (BVWG) (follow up to 19 May 2022 meeting).
  - **6 June** – Monthly catch up with Bill Moyes and Paul Reilly.
  - **8 June** – 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, Senior Manager, Performance and Best Value (PABV) and Leigh Johnston, Senior Manager, PABV).
  - **8 June** – Preparatory session with Bill Moyes, Local Government Overview (LGO) teams and Communications Advisor for the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee evidence session on the LGO/Financial LGO reports on 21 June 2022.
  - **9 June** – Accounts Commission meeting.
  - **10 June** – Shetland Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) draft report discussion with the team.
  - **20 June** – Additional preparatory session with Bill Moyes, Local Government Overview (LGO) teams and Communications Advisor for the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee evidence session on the LGO/Financial LGO reports on 21 June 2022.
  - **20 June** – Joint Work Programme update meeting with AGS, Accounts Commission and the team.
  - **21 June** – Attending the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee evidence session on the LGO/Financial LGO reports alongside Bill Moyes and the LGO teams.
  - **21 June** – Adult mental health meeting to discuss draft Issues and Investigations (I&I) and flyer with sponsors (Bill Moyes and Christine Lester) and the team.
  - **22 June** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Sarah Gadsden, Chief Executive, Improvement Service.

- **23 June** – Monthly catch up with the Correspondence team.
- **27 June** – Adult mental health scope/I&I discussion with AGS, Commission sponsors (Bill Moyes and Christine Lester) and the team.
- **28 June** – BVWG discussion on the year one Controller of Audit Best Value reporting programme and indicative longer-term reporting programme.
- **30 June** – Local government climate change briefing with Commission sponsors (Andrew Burns and Sharon O'Connor) and team.
- **1 July** – Regular engagement meeting with the Scottish Government (Laura Turney, Head of Public Service Reform team and David Milne, Public Bodies and Public Service Reform Division) to discuss public sector reform.
- **1 July** – Child poverty additional draft discussion with AGS, Commission sponsors (Andrew Burns and Sophie Flemig) and the team.
- **5 July** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Andrew Kerr, Chair, Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE).
- **19 July** – Local Government Forum.
- **20 July** – Shetland BVAR post clearance discussion with the team.
- **21 July** – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar BVAR draft report discussion with the team.
- **27 July** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Sally Loudon, Chief Executive, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).
- **27 July** – Meeting with SOLACE representatives to discuss levelling up and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).
- **28 July** – Meeting with Helen Happer, Chief Inspector, Care Inspectorate to discuss issues arising from the May Financial Audit and Assurance Committee (FAAC) and consideration of my most recent local government current issues report.

### **Forthcoming activities**

3. My upcoming engagements in August include:

- **1 August** – Quarterly engagement meeting with Audit Scotland's Communications Manager.
- **4 August** – BVWG meeting.
- **4 August** – Early learning and childcare scope discussion with AGS, Commission sponsors (Sophie Flemig and Geraldine Wooley) and the team.
- **4 August** – Scottish Leaders Forum (SLF) Accountability and Incentives Action Group.
- **9 August** – Community Planning Improvement Board (CIPB) meeting focusing on promoting the well-being of children and young people.
- **11 August** – Accounts Commission meeting.

- **12 August** – Regular engagement meeting with the Scottish Government (Laura Turney, Head of Public Service Reform Team and David Milne, Public Bodies and Public Service Reform Division) to discuss public sector reform.
- **5 August** – Regular engagement meeting with Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive, Falkirk Council.
- **16 August** – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar BVAR post clearance discussion with the team.
- **17 August** – Monthly catch up with the Correspondence team.
- **17 August** – Monthly catch up with Bill Moyes and Paul Reilly.
- **18 August** – Risk Management (facilitated by Wylie & Bisset) and Digital Security session (facilitated by David Robertson, Digital Services Manager) for the Audit Scotland Board and Executive Team.
- **18 August** – Local Government Sector Forum.
- **24 August** – Joint Performance Audit Committee (PAC)/Financial Audit and FAAC pre meeting.
- **25 August** – PAC/FAAC meetings.
- **31 August** – 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).

**Antony Clark**  
**Interim Controller of Audit**  
**26 July 2022**