

BASELINE REVIEW OF COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIPS

AUDIT SCOTLAND

22 December 2004

Dear Mr McLellan

Baseline review of community planning partnerships

I am writing to inform you of an Accounts Commission proposal to undertake a baseline review of community planning partnerships in Scotland. This would be a study under Section 97A of the 1973 Local Government (Scotland) Act. The aim of the study is to review the progress made by councils and partner agencies in developing community planning since the Local Government Act 2003 came into force. The review will set community planning in the context of other partnership initiatives, identifying different approaches to joint working and highlighting good practice.

The Accounts Commission will use the findings from the baseline review to identify any further work required to enable it to discharge its statutory functions in relation to community planning, under the 2003 Act. The Commission does not intend to publish a Direction on community planning indicators at the present time and will consider further how to use its Direction powers following this study.

The review will be conducted as a joint study with the Auditor General, given the cross-sectoral nature of community planning. Audit Scotland will prepare a detailed project brief for the Commission and Auditor General to consider in February 2005. We are proposing to collect data during the spring and summer of 2005, aiming for publication of the report in the winter of 2005/06. Audit Scotland will work closely with other organisations to ensure data collection demands on partnerships are minimised.

The study will be undertaken under the overall direction of Miranda Alcock (Portfolio Manager, email malcock@audit-scotland.gov.uk) and project managed by Andra Laird (email alaird@audit-scotland.gov.uk).

Before undertaking performance studies the Commission consults with interested parties including associations of local authorities and of relevant employees. Consequently I invite you to send Miranda or Andra any comments that you have on this proposal.

Yours sincerely



David Pia
Director of Performance Audit
Local Government