**Note of a Senior Management Team (SMT) Meeting held on 12 April 2022 @ 2pm (Bradford Court) to discuss the Public Reporting Programme and Impacts review**

**In attendance:** Kieran Donnelly, Chair (C&AG)

Rodney Allen (COO)

Neil Gray (Director)

Colette Kane (Director)

Brian O’Neill (Director)

Patrick Barr (Director)

Tomas Wilkinson (Director)

Louise Donnelly (Secretary)

**Apologies:** Suzanne Walsh (Director)

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| **1.** | The C&AG welcomed members to the meeting.  Apologies were recorded from Suzanne Walsh. |
| **2.** | **Public Reporting Programme** The C&AG advised the context of the meeting was to review the status of the current public reporting programme and discuss the strategic considerations of a new programme for the arrival of the new C&AG.  **Review status of current programme** Members provided an update to the C&AG on the current status of reports from the 2021-22 public reporting programme under the following headings:  Value for Money Studies  Response Studies  Shorter studies and follow-up impact studies  General reports  Good practice guides  Local government  The C&AG recognised there has been some slippage in the programme, for various reasons, not least available capacity and capability but he is content with progress and reports published, noting high quality products that have been presented to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to date.  **Strategic considerations for new programme** Discussion followed regarding the timing, the departmental breakdown and the proposed topics to be reported on during 2022-23 and the reports that will potentially be considered by a new PAC following the imminent elections. The C&AG referred to the strategic lens used to inform a new programme. There followed considerable discussion on potential topics and the form of reports. The C&AG emphasised the need to ensure suitable capacity is available to contribute further to the rich vein of good practice material that is positively recognised by a wide range of stakeholders.  Patrick Barr is leading on the development of the new public reporting programme and it was agreed he would consolidate the many areas discussed for consideration by the new C&AG before stakeholder engagement. It was agreed the timeline for completion of a new programme should be Autumn 2022. |
| **3.** | **Impacts Review**  Brian O’Neill presented a paper detailing:   * an analysis of impacts claimed in 2020-21; * list of public reports published; * an analysis of potential impacts for 2021-22; and * a review of the approach taken by the other audit agencies.   The C&AG noted there was much less quantifiable financial impact in 2021-22 and one reason for this was the reshaping of the programme and the extent of work done on reporting on expenditure on the response to the pandemic. The C&AG observed that the average achievements over many years remained impressive. However members agreed that the focus on quantifiable can be detrimental to the qualitative impact of NIAO work. It was therefore agreed to refocus and look in greater detail at the qualitative impact of our work in the 2021-22 annual report majoring on qualitative impacts first and then quantitative impacts. It was also agreed to review the overall approach to the analysis and collation of impacts for the 2022-23 year. |