

Lothian Valuation Joint Board

Edinburgh, 23 March 2009

Present: -

City of Edinburgh Council – Councillors Beckett, Buchanan, Burns, Gordon Mackenzie and Wheeler.

East Lothian Council – Councillors Bell and Williamson (substituting for Councillor Knox).

Midlothian Council – Councillor Beattie (Vice Convener).

1 Chair

In the absence of the Convener, Councillor Beattie (Vice-Convener) chaired the meeting.

2 Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Lothian Valuation Joint Board of 6 February 2009 as a correct record.

3 Quarterly Progress Report to the Joint Board

The Board considered a progress report by the Assessor updating members on the service overview and priorities, current issues and the future direction of the Joint Board.

Decision

- 1) To approve the closure of the offices of the Lothian Valuation Joint Board over the 2009 festive period.
- 2) To approve the schedule of charges for 2009/10, as appended to the Assessor's Report.
- 3) The Assessor report to the next meeting of the Board on the general uplift in valuations of non-domestic properties.

Lothian Valuation Joint Board
23 March 2009

- 4) The Assessor encourage Returning Officers in Lothian to give greater consideration in future to using compatible software systems for their identifier checking process on absent voters.
- 5) Members of the Board be encouraged to identify additional initiatives aimed at encouraging voter participation.
- 6) To acknowledge the professionalism and commitment demonstrated by staff in relation to dealing with revaluation appeals by the deadline of 31 December 2008 and arrangements for the 2010 Revaluation targeted to be completed by August 2009.

(Reference – report by the Assessor, submitted.)

4 Electoral Registration Report 2008/09

The Board considered a report by the Assessor providing an update on the work carried out for Electoral Registration during 2008. During the period under consideration the main tasks were the annual household canvas, Rolling Registration and Elections.

Decision

To note the report by the Assessor and in particular the commitment by the Electoral Registration Officer and Staff in ensuring the accuracy of the Electoral Register and the efforts taken to maximise registration.

(Reference – report by the Assessor, submitted.)

5 Application for Early Retiral

The Board resolved, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

The Board considered an application for voluntary early retirement from a member of staff.

Decision

- 1) To approve the application for voluntary early retirement.

Lothian Valuation Joint Board
23 March 2009

- 2) To approve a revised salary for the remaining Depute Assessor as outlined in paragraph 3.4 of the Assessor's report, with effect from 1 September 2009.
- 3) To approve, in principle, the creation of the post of Head of Valuation Service on the understanding the Assessor report further to the Board at a later date.

(Reference – report by the Assessor, submitted.)