

Lothian Valuation Joint Board

Edinburgh, 16 March 2015

Present:

City of Edinburgh Council – Councillors Work (Convener), Doran, Keil, McInnes and McVey.

East Lothian Council – Councillor McNeil (substituting for Councillor Hampshire).

Midlothian Council – Councillor Russell.

West Lothian Council – Councillor McCarra.

1 Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Lothian Valuation Joint Board of 9 February 2015 as a correct record.

2 Budget 2014-2015 – Projected Outturn

Details were given of the Board's projected revenue outturn position to 31 March 2015 based on the position at 31 January 2015 prepared in consultation with the Assessor.

The projected outturn at this stage against the core budget indicated net forecast expenditure of £5.997m which would result in an underspend of £121,000. The resulting reduction of £0.118m was principally due to the Scottish Government agreeing to refund Scottish Independence Referendum costs of £110,000 in relation to staffing (£74,000) and postage (£36,000).

Decision

To note the projected outturn position for 2014-2015.

(Reference – report by the Treasurer, submitted)

3 Annual Audit Plan 2014-2015

The external auditor's annual Audit Plan for the Board for 2014-15 was presented. Stephen O'Hagan, Audit Scotland presented an overview of the Audit Plan and highlighted key audit issues and risks.

Decision

To note the annual audit plan for 2014-2015.

(Reference – report by Audit Scotland, submitted)

4 Annual Investment Strategy

Decision

To approve the annual investment strategy set out in appendix 1 of the report by the Treasurer.

(Reference – report by the Treasurer, submitted)

5 Assessor's Quarterly Progress Report

The Assessor presented an update on the service overview and priorities, current issues and the future direction of the Joint Board.

Key priorities for the service included the transition to Individual Electoral Registration (IER), preparations for the Armadale/Blackridge by-election on 26 March 2015 and the UK General Election on 7 May 2015.

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – report by the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer, submitted)