

Lothian Valuation Joint Board

Edinburgh, 3 February 2020

Present:

City of Edinburgh Council – Councillors Key (Convener), Doggart, Gordon, Gloyer, Henderson, Rust and Work.

East Lothian Council – Councillors Findlay and Goodfellow.

Midlothian Council – Councillors Munro and Russell.

West Lothian Council – Councillor Timson.

1 Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Lothian Valuation Joint Board of 4 November 2019 as a correct record.

2 Annual Treasury Management Strategy

Approval was sought of the Annual Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/21. The Strategy was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

Decision

To approve the Annual Treasury Management Strategy at Appendix 1 to the report by the Treasurer.

(Reference – report by the Treasurer, submitted)

3 Revenue Budget 2020/21

Information was provided on the revenue budget options which had been developed for 2020/21 in line with the Board's Transformation Programme, including a recommendation to approve a 'flat-cash' council requisition revenue budget. It was noted that a further requisition would be issued to meet the additional costs of Non-Domestic Rates Reform in 2020/21, in line with funding allocated in the Local Government Finance Settlement in 2020/21.

Details were also provided on the indicative budget estimates for 2021/22 and 2023/24. These would be subject to ongoing review and development as the Transformation Programme progressed.

Decision

- 1) To approve the proposed core budget for 2020/21, based on Option 2, as detailed at paragraph 4.10.2 and the issue of 'flat-cash' core budget

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requisition requests from the Treasurer to constituent councils as detailed at paragraph 4.27 of the report by the Treasurer.

- 2) To recommend that funding was included in the Local Government Finance Settlement for implementing the recommendations of the Non-Domestic Rates Review be fully passed onto the Board. This may mean a supplementary requisition during 2020/21, dependent on confirmation of funding.
- 3) To note the indicative financial planning estimates included at Appendix 1, Option 2 and that these estimates will be subject of further update to the Board during 2020/21 and beyond, as the Board's Transformation Programme is progressed.

(Reference – report by the Treasurer, submitted)

4 Budget Report 2020-21

Information was provided aligning budget provision with service delivery during 2020/2021. The Board's Corporate and Service Plans for 2020/21, including additional information on service activities, were attached to the report at Appendix 1.

Details were also provided on the development of the 2020-23 Business Strategy and the implications of this.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To note the recommendation of a Phased approach to organisational changes over the Business Strategy period.
- 3) To approve Phase 1 implementation of the proposed structure and the associated reduction in staff resources.
- 4) To note that further reports and recommendations would be provided by the Assessor over the Strategy period.

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

5 Period 9 Financial Statement 2019/20

The projected revenue budget outturn position to 31 March 2020 was presented based on the position at period ending 31 December 2019. The projected outturn indicated a forecast over spend of £0.007m which represented a reduction of £0.010m to that reported to the November 2019 meeting of the Board.

Decision

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To note the projected outturn position for 2019/20.

(Reference – report by the Treasurer, submitted).

6 Recruitment of a new Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer

The Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer had indicated he planned to retire in June 2020.

The positions on the Board's Appointment Committee held by members from East Lothian and Midlothian Councils were currently vacant and members required to be appointed. A provisional timetable for the meetings of the Committee was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Decision

- 1) To note the provisional recruitment timetable in appendix 1 to the report by the Treasurer.
- 2) To note that East Lothian and Midlothian Councils would advise which members were to be appointed to the vacancies on the Appointment Committee.
- 3) To note that the date of the first Appointment Committee meeting would be changed to a date suitable for the Committee members.

(Reference – report by the Treasurer, submitted)

7 Future Meeting Arrangements June 2020 to June 2021

Decision

- 1) To approve the schedule of meetings for the period June 2020 to June 2021 as follows:
 - 10am, Monday 15 June 2020
 - 10am, Monday 7 September 2020
 - 10am, Monday 9 November 2020
 - 10am, Monday 1 February 2021
 - 10am, Monday 19 April 2021
 - 10am, Monday 14 June 2021
- 2) To agree that meetings of the Joint Consultative Group would be held on an 'on request' basis.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive and Clerk, submitted)