

Lothian Valuation Joint Board

30 January 2023

Meeting held virtually by Teams

Present:

City of Edinburgh Council – Councillors Beal (Vice-Convener), Caldwell, Dalglish, Dixon, Glasgow, Jenkinson, Finlay McFarlane, Mitchell and Staniforth.

East Lothian Council – Councillors Carol McFarlane and McMillan.

Midlothian Council – Councillor Bowen and Russell.

West Lothian Council – Councillors Adamson, Boyle and Conn (Convener).

1 Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Lothian Valuation Joint Board of 24 October 2022 as a correct record.

2 Assessor's Progress Report to the Lothian Valuation Joint Board

A progress report by the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer provided an overview of current service delivery, priorities, risks and future direction. This included updates on electoral registration activities, valuation roll maintenance and revaluation activities and council tax maintenance. Information was also provided on the Transformation Programme and the Corporate and Service Plan which was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

Approval was also sought for revised Human Resources policies on Acting Up, Alcohol, Drugs and Substance Misuse, Management of Capability, Maternity, Adoption, Shared Parental Leave, Employment Breaks, and Special Leave.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To approve the HR Policies at Appendix 3 to the report.

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

3 Revenue Budget 2022/24 and Indicative Financial Plan 2024/25 - 2026/27

Information was provided on the revenue budget which had been developed for 2023/24, including a recommendation to approve a 'flat-cash' council requisition for

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2023/24 and a separate requisition to meet additional costs for Non-Domestic Rates Reform, in line with funding of £0.374m allocated in the Local Government Finance Settlement.

Details were also provided on the indicative financial planning estimates for 2024/25 to 2026/27. These would be subject to ongoing review and development as the Transformation Programme progressed.

Decision

- 1) To approve the proposed core budget for 2023/24 and the issue of 'flat-cash' core budget requisition requests from the Treasurer to constituent councils as detailed at paragraph 4.24 of the report by the Treasurer.
- 2) To approve the adjustment of the core budget requisition to reflect the reduction in the Local Government Settlement, following transfer of the Valuation Appeals Committee to the Scottish Tribunals service as detailed at paragraph 4.25 of the report.
- 3) To approve requisition of funding of £0.374m included in the Local Government Finance Settlement to implement the recommendations of the Non-Domestic Rates Review.
- 4) To note the indicative financial planning estimates for the period 2024/25 to 2026/27 included at Appendix 1 to the report.
- 5) To note the indicative financial planning estimates for 2024/25 to 2026/27 would be the subject of further update to the Board during 2023/24, as the Board's Transformation Programme Phase Three was progressed.

(Reference – report by the Treasurer, submitted)

4 Period 8 Financial Statement 2022/23

The Period 8 Financial Statement for the financial year 2023/23 was submitted. Net expenditure was forecast to be £0.144m greater than the approved revenue budget of the Board, based on the position at 30 November 2022.

Decision

- 1) To note the projected outturn position for 2022/23.
- 2) To note the final outturn would be reported to the Board, when the Annual Accounts were reported to the Board during 2023.

(Reference – report by the Treasurer, submitted)

5 Annual Treasury Management Strategy

Approval was sought of the Annual Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24. The Strategy was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

Decision

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

(Reference – report by the Treasurer, submitted)

6 Future Meeting Arrangements August 2023 to June 2024

The Board was asked to agree its meeting dates for the period from August 2023 to June 2024.

Decision

- 1) To approve the schedule of meetings as detailed for the period August 2023 to June 2024.
- 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)

7 Membership Update

A report provided an update on the membership of the Board.

Decision

To note the appointments of Councillors Jenkinson and Boyle as members of the Joint Board by their respective authorities.

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