

LANARKSHIRE VALUATION JOINT BOARD

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 4 September 2023

Convener:

Councillor Walter Brogan, South Lanarkshire Council

Councillors Present:

North Lanarkshire Council

Councillor Bob Burgess, Councillor Kenneth Duffy, Councillor Lesley Jarvie, Councillor Tom Johnston, Councillor Alex McVey, Councillor Jim Reddin (Depute), Councillor Anne Thomas

South Lanarkshire Council

Councillor Ross Clark, Councillor Colin Dewar, Councillor Martin Hose, Councillor Gavin Keatt

Councillors' Apologies:

North Lanarkshire Council

Councillor Margaret Hughes

South Lanarkshire Council

Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Mark McGeever

Attending:

Assessor and Electoral Registration Service

R Pacitti, Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer; C Maxwell, Assistant Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer

Clerk's Office

C Sneddon, Clerk; S McLeod, Administration Officer; L Wyllie, Administration Assistant, South Lanarkshire Council

Treasurer's Office

P Manning, Treasurer; J Taylor, Head of Finance (Strategy), South Lanarkshire Council

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board held on 5 June 2023 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Board decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/2024 - Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board

A report dated 16 August 2023 by the Treasurer was submitted:-

- ◆ comparing the Board's actual expenditure at 11 August 2023 against the budgeted expenditure for 2023/2024
- ◆ providing a forecast for the year to 31 March 2024

The UK Government had allocated £0.049 million of funding to the Board for 'New Burdens' which related to the implementation of Voter Authority Certificates. The budget, shown in Appendix A of the report, had taken account of the additional funding and included an additional expenditure budget to allow spend to be made appropriately.

As at 11 August 2023, there was an underspend on the Board's revenue budget of £0.174 million.

The financial forecast to 31 March 2024 was a breakeven position.

The Treasurer advised that it was unlikely that Audit Scotland would complete the audit of the Board's accounts for 2022/2023 within the indicated timescale and added that an update would be provided to the Board in due course.

The Treasurer and Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer responded to members' questions on the:-

- ◆ recruitment and retention of staff
- ◆ route for trainee valuers to achieve graduate status

The Board decided:

- (1) that the underspend of £0.174 million on the Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board's revenue budget at 11 August 2023, as detailed in Appendix A to the report, be noted; and
- (2) that the forecast to 31 March 2024 of breakeven be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 5 June 2023 (Paragraph 4)]

4 Changes in Membership of the Board

A report dated 17 August 2023 by the Clerk was submitted on changes to North Lanarkshire Council's membership of the Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board.

At the meeting of North Lanarkshire Council held on 22 June 2023, it had been agreed that Councillor Kenneth Duffy replace Councillor William Shields and Councillor Margaret Hughes replace Councillor Fergus MacGregor as members of the Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board.

The Board decided:	that it be noted that Councillor Kenneth Duffy had replaced Councillor William Shields and Councillor Margaret Hughes had replaced Councillor Fergus MacGregor as nominated representatives of North Lanarkshire Council on the Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board.
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5 Progress Update

A report dated 28 August 2023 by the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer was submitted on:-

- ◆ an overview of the Service
- ◆ current issues and Service priorities
- ◆ an update on performance
- ◆ issues affecting the future direction of the Joint Board

Statistical information, illustrating progress made in terms of key areas of the work undertaken by Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board, was provided in the appendices to the report.

The Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer advised that a by-election would be held in the Motherwell South East and Ravenscraig ward of North Lanarkshire Council on 16 November 2023.

The Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer and Clerk responded to members' questions on the:-

- ♦ use of photographic voter ID during the Rutherglen and Hamilton West recall petition and the forthcoming resultant by-election
- ♦ arrangements to publicise the requirement for photographic voter ID

The Board decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 5 June 2023 (Paragraph 13)]

6 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.