

# LANARKSHIRE VALUATION JOINT BOARD

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 6 September 2021

## **Convener:**

Councillor Alex McVey, North Lanarkshire Council

## **Councillors Present:**

### **North Lanarkshire Council**

Councillor Bob Burgess, Councillor Tom Castles, Councillor Tom Johnston, Councillor Jim Reddin, Councillor William Shields, Councillor Annette Valentine

### **South Lanarkshire Council**

Councillor Walter Brogan, Councillor Poppy Corbett, Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Isobel Dorman, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton (Vice Convener), Councillor Ann Le Blond, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh

## **Councillors' Apologies:**

### **North Lanarkshire Council**

Councillor Caroline Stephen

### **South Lanarkshire Council**

Councillor Geri Gray

## **Attending:**

### **Assessor and Electoral Registration Service**

G Bennett, Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer; R Pacitti, Assistant Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer

### **Clerk's Office**

K McLeod, Administration Assistant; S McLeod, Administration Officer, South Lanarkshire Council

### **Treasurer's Office**

P Manning, Treasurer; C Mitchell, Accountant (Treasury Management); J Taylor, Head of Finance (Strategy), South Lanarkshire Council

## **Also Attending:**

### **Audit Scotland**

B Gillespie, Lead Auditor; A Kerr, Senior Audit Manager

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## **1 Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared.

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## **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 7 June 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

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## **3 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2021/2022 - Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board**

A report dated 26 July 2021 by the Treasurer was submitted comparing the Board's actual expenditure at 16 July 2021 against the budgeted expenditure for 2021/2022 and on the forecast for the year to 31 March 2022.

As at 16 July 2021, there was an underspend on the Board's revenue budget of £0.136 million. The financial forecast to 31 March 2022 would continue to be monitored and an update on the expected outturn position would be reported to the next meeting of the Board.

In response to a member's question, the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer advised that the vacant posts had not yet been filled as the revaluation exercise had been postponed for a year and the course for Trainee Valuers had also been postponed which had meant that recruiting Trainee Valuers had not been possible.

**The Board decided:**

- (1) that an underspend of £0.136 million on Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board's revenue budget, as detailed in Appendix A of the report, be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that the forecast to 31 March 2022 would continue to be monitored and an update on the expected outturn position would be reported to the next meeting of the Board.

*[Reference: Minutes of 7 June 2021 (Paragraph 3)]*

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#### **4 External Auditor's Annual Audit Report to the Board**

A letter dated 6 September 2021, together with the Annual Audit Report 2020/2021 to Members of the Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board and the Controller of Audit, was submitted by Audit Scotland, the Board's External Auditor.

Details were given on the key messages contained in the External Auditor's report in relation to:-

- ◆ the audit of the Board's Annual Accounts for 2020/2021
- ◆ financial sustainability, governance arrangements and performance of the Board

The accounts had received an unqualified and unmodified independent auditor's report.

**The Board decided:** that the report be noted

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#### **5**

A report dated 17 August 2021 by the Treasurer was submitted on the Board's audited annual accounts for 2020/2021. The accounts, which required to be approved for signature, had been audited by the External Auditor, Audit Scotland, and had received a clean audit certificate.

The accounts would be available for inspection:-

- ◆ on request from Finance Services, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton
- ◆ from the office of the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer, David Dale House, Blantyre
- ◆ on the Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board's website

**The Board decided:**

- (1) that it be noted that the Statement of Accounts for 2020/2021 had received a clean audit certificate from the External Auditor; and
- (2) that the audited Statement of Accounts for 2020/2021 be approved for signature.

*[Reference: Minutes of 7 June 2021 (Paragraph 6)]*

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## 6 Proposal to Live Stream Future Meetings

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A report dated 24 August 2021 by the Clerk was submitted on a proposal to live stream future meetings of the Joint Board.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Board meetings were currently being held virtually and, in the interests of openness and transparency, it was proposed that the non-restricted element of the Joint Board's business be live streamed to facilitate public access to meetings. It was further proposed that recordings of Board meetings would remain on South Lanarkshire Council's YouTube channel until the minutes were approved at the subsequent meeting.

### **The Board decided:**

- (1) that future meetings of the Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board be live streamed to the South Lanarkshire Council YouTube channel; and
- (2) that the recordings of meetings would remain on the South Lanarkshire Council YouTube channel until the minutes of each meeting were approved at the subsequent meeting.

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## 7 Change in Membership of the Board

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A report dated 15 July 2021 by the Clerk was submitted on a change to North Lanarkshire Council's membership of the Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board.

At the meeting of North Lanarkshire Council held on 17 June 2021, it was agreed that Councillor Trevor Douglas replace Councillor Meghan Gallacher as a substitute member of the Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board.

### **The Board decided:**

that it be noted that Councillor Trevor Douglas had replaced Councillor Meghan Gallacher as a substitute member for North Lanarkshire Council on the Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board.

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## 8 Progress Update

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A report dated 24 August 2021 by the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer was submitted on:-

- ◆ an overview of the Service
- ◆ current issues and Service priorities, including the response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- ◆ 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.

In response to a question from the Convener, the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer advised that there had not been any significant challenges in terms of holding the virtual Valuation Appeal Committee hearings.

### **The Board decided:**

that the report be noted.

*[Reference: Minutes of 7 June 2021 (Paragraph 12)]*

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**9 Urgent Business**

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There were no items of urgent business.