

Report to:	Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board
Date of Meeting:	6 March 2023
Report by:	Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer

Subject:

Progress Update

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-
 - Provide an overview of the service to members
 - Outline current issues and service priorities
 - Provide an update on performance
 - Highlight issues affecting the future direction of the Joint Board

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1. The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-
 - (1) that the content of the report be noted.

3. Service Overview and Priorities

3.1. Electoral Registration

3.1.1. Annual Canvass

The 2022 annual canvass of electors has been completed successfully, including the household visits, and the revised registers were published on 1 December 2022. Potential electors continue to be encouraged to use the online digital registration service at <u>www.gov.uk/register-to-vote</u>.

3.1.2. Personal Identifiers Refresh

Electoral Registration Officers are required to maintain postal voting security arrangements and to this end every five years electors with a postal vote are required to provide an updated version of their signature. This year we have issued circa 9,200 letters asking for an updated signature and will follow up with reminders after three weeks.

3.1.3. Elections Act 2022

The UK Government has introduced a number of changes to electoral registration through The Elections Act 2022 for UK Parliamentary elections. From May 2023, the requirement for electors to show photographic ID at a polling station before being issued with a ballot paper comes into force. Electors without an accepted form of photo ID can apply to the ERO via the digital service or by completing a paper application for a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) free of charge. This service went live on 16 January 2023.

In Scotland, only electors on the UK parliamentary register are eligible to be issued with a Voter Authority Certificate or an Anonymous Elector's Document as photo ID is not required at Scottish Parliament or Scottish council elections.

The Act introduces further changes which will come into force from July 2023 onwards, including extending the franchise for overseas electors and changes to the absent vote process.

Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board's (LVJB's) management team continue to implement the changes required as a result of the introduction of the Act.

3.1.4. Elections Held Since Last Board Meeting

No elections have been held since the last meeting of the Board.

3.2. Non Domestic Valuation

A summary of information in this area can be found in Appendices 1.1 to 1.5.

- 3.2.1. Changes to the 2017 Valuation Roll (Running Roll) These are highlighted in Appendices 1.1 and 1.2 for the period 1 April 2022 to 1 February 2023.
- 3.2.2. 2005 Valuation Roll Appeals (Revaluation and Running Roll)

A summary of the position with 2005 Revaluation and Running Roll appeals is contained in Appendix 1.3.

3.2.3. **2010 Valuation Roll Appeals (Revaluation and Running Roll)**

A summary of the position with 2010 Revaluation and Running Roll appeals is contained in Appendix 1.4.

3.2.4. 2017 Valuation Roll Appeals (Revaluation and Running Roll)

A summary of the position with regards to 2017 Revaluation and Running Roll appeals is contained in Appendix 1.5. Table 2 continues to include the voluminous numbers of appeals received in connection with the coronavirus pandemic and whilst some appeals continue to be withdrawn, the vast majority remain outstanding. The Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service and the Scottish Government are aware of the large number of Covid appeals still to be dealt with across the country, which have a statutory disposal date of 31 December 2023.

3.3. Council Tax

A summary of information in this area can be found in Appendices 2.1 to 2.4.

3.3.1. New Houses

A summary of the position for the period 1 April 2022 to 1 February 2023 is contained at Appendix 2.2.

3.3.2. Proposals and Appeals

Appendices 2.3 and 2.4 contain information on Council Tax proposals and appeals. Significant progress has been made in reducing outstanding appeals prior to the transfer to the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service in advance of the new appeals set up coming into effect on 1 April 2023.

4. Staffing

4.1. Since the last Board meeting and following a recruitment and selection process, the position of Administration Manager has been filled by an internal candidate following the retirement of the previous post holder. A Divisional Valuer has also retired from the organisation. LVJB's management team continue to consider staffing requirements in relation to service provision needs, in particular to ensure that statutory duties are undertaken. The annual review of the organisation's workforce plan to assist in this ongoing process has been undertaken.

I have given notice to the Head of Personnel Services that I shall retire on 31 May 2023. Since taking up the position of Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer at Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board in April 2012, following my appointment as Depute in February 2005 at LVJB, I have received fantastic support from elected members, and in particular the Board Conveners and Vice Conveners, for which I express my sincere gratitude. I wish the Board and staff every success in the future. Thank you.

4.2. Staff absence levels for the last year are summarised in Appendix 3.0.

5. Other Matters

5.1. **Complaints Received and Dealt with Since Last Progress Update Report** Since the last update provided to the Board, 2 complaints had been received, a summary of which is as follows:-

Service Area	Nature of Complaint	Outcome
Non-Domestic (ref:2022/23 - 4)	Complaint received with regards to the failure to action changes to the Proprietor/Tenant/Occupier (P/T/O) details held for a business centre.	Letter issued advising that earlier correspondence from the complainant required clarification on P/T/O details, however such clarification should have been sought sooner and apology issued for not making contact earlier.
Electoral Registration (ref:2022/23 – 5)	Complaint received with regards to the sale of the electoral register.	Letter of explanation issued advising of legislation in respect to the sale of electoral registers, and also advising of the option to opt out of the open register.

5.2. Complaints to the Ombudsman

One decision has been received from the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) since the last meeting of the Board. The complaint related to a Council Tax matter with the SPSO advising the complainant that their office has no role in the setting or assessment of Council Tax bands and that they are not a further route of appeal regarding the decision made by LVJB in this regard.

5.3. Barclay Review Implementation

With the Non-Domestic Rates (Scotland) Act receiving Royal Assent in March 2020, progress continues with regards to the new statutory undertakings as contained within the Act. The following is a summary of the progress in connection with the principal sections of the Act which affect matters relating to the Valuation Roll:-

Section 2 – (Amends the definition of "year of revaluation" such that, after 2022, revaluations will be carried out every three years, rather than every five years).

Progress update: All non-domestic properties will be revalued on 1 April 2023. This means that Assessors across Scotland will set new Net Annual and Rateable Values for all non-domestic properties based on rental levels as at 1 April 2022.

A draft Valuation Roll was published at the Scottish Assessors Association's (SAA) website (www.saa.gov.uk) on 30 November 2022. Draft valuation notices were issued to proprietor/tenant/occupiers in conjunction with the publication of the draft roll showing the Net Annual and Rateable Value provisionally set to take effect from 1 April 2023 for each property. LVJB is on schedule to publish the final valuation roll, and issue final valuation notices.

LVJB's Revaluation Strategy Group continues to manage work associated with the non-domestic revaluation.

Section 3 – (Inserts a new section into the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1975 requiring an Assessor to include a mark in appropriate entries in the Valuation Roll to show that it relates to newly built lands and heritages, or to improved lands and heritages, which the local authority will be able to use to identify properties which may be eligible for business growth accelerator relief).

Progress update: Markers continue to be placed in the Valuation Roll where deemed appropriate.

Section 5 – (Amends Section 19 of the Local Government (Financial Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1963 to require that certain subjects contained within parks should be entered in the Valuation Roll). The subjects to be entered are those which are occupied by a person or body other than a local authority or the Crown, or where persons may be required to pay for access to facilities or for goods or services.

Progress update: Subjects, as required by the new legislative requirement, have been included in the draft valuation roll and work continues in respect of this undertaking in accordance with the staff guidance note developed by the SAA to ensure consistent practice throughout Scotland.

Section 9 – (Amends Section 3 of the 1975 Act to allow Ministers to prescribe that Assessors must give ratepayers additional information at Revaluation.)

Progress update: Rented property lists have been published at the SAA Portal for a range of property types, detailing the addresses of let properties considered in determining the basic rate of valuations, in conjunction with the publication of the draft valuation roll.

Section 10 – (Makes significant changes to the appeal arrangements enabling a "proposal" to be made to the Assessor in the first instance. Where no agreement is reached as to what should be done about a proposal an appeal may be submitted to the Valuation Appeal Committee. Whilst this section sets out the basic framework much of the detail of the procedure (including whether any fee may be charged for making a proposal or an appeal) will be contained within secondary legislation.)

Progress update: Final legislation by the Scottish Government on the revised nondomestic appeal system is still awaited to be laid in the Scottish Parliament. It is anticipated that the proposed transfer of the appeal set-up to the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service will proceed on 1 April 2023. The Stakeholder Reference Group, set up to help facilitate the transfer of the duties currently undertaken by Valuation Appeal Panels, continues to consider the issues surrounding the significant change to the appeals system. LVJB continue to develop new business processes in connection with the fundamental changes to the appeals system ahead of the implementation date of 1 April 2023. **Section 26** – (Gives powers for Assessors to issue Assessor Information Notices (AINs) requiring the return of information which the Assessor may reasonably require for the purposes of exercising his/her functions in relation to non-domestic rates in respect of the lands and heritages set out in the notice. Information may be requested from the proprietor, tenant or occupier or any person who the Assessor thinks has the information.)

Progress update: Procedures are in place for the issue of AINs and the issue and pursuance of civil penalties for the non-return of information following a request.

Section 30 – (Provides for civil penalties to be issued for failure to return requested information within certain time periods.)

Progress update: As update above regarding Section 26.

LVJB staff continue to work with the SAA, who in turn continue to work positively with the Scottish Government and stakeholders to implement the new statutory undertakings as a result of the Barclay review into non-domestic rates.

5.4. Coronavirus Pandemic

LVJB's management team remain vigilant to the on-going risks associated with the virus.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. See 4 above.
- 7. Financial Implications
- 7.1. None.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

8.1. There are no climate change, sustainability, or environmental implications in terms of the information contained in this report.

9. Other Implications

9.1. There are no implications for risk in terms of the information contained in this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function, or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 10.2. There is no requirement for consultation in respect of this report.

11. Privacy Impact Assessment

11.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

Gary Bennett BSc MSc AEA (Cert-Scotland) MRICS IRRV (Hons) Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer

16 February 2023

Previous References

• Progress Update Report for Board meeting of 5 December 2022

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you require further information, please contact:-Gary Bennett, Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer Phone: 01698 476078 E-mail: <u>assessor@lanarkshire-vjb.gov.uk</u>



Alterations made to the Valuation Roll (including appeal adjustments) between 01/04/2022 and 01/02/2023

	AS AT 01/04/2022		ADDED		DELETED		ALTER	ED	AS AT 01/02/2023	
Area	SUBJECTS	RV	SUBJECTS	RV	SUBJECTS	RV	SUBJECTS	RV	SUBJECTS	RV
North Lanarkshire	10,358	288,082,270	284	1,014,715	241	1,795,125	101	-554,280	10,401	286,747,580
South Lanarkshire	10,952	693,403,145	203	1,800,385	211	1,700,190	107	-359,580	10,944	693,143,760
LVJB total	21,310	£981,485,415	487	£2,815,100	452	£3,495,315	208	-£913,860	21,345	£979,891,340



Summary of time taken to make alterations (excluding appeal adjustments) to the Valuation Roll

Period: 1	April 2022 to 1	February 2023
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Area		altere	ed 3 to 6					
	Total altered	altered < 3 months		m	onths	altered > 6 months		
	No.	No.	%age	No.	%age	No.	%age	
North Lanarkshire	417	271	64.99%	39	9.35%	107	25.66%	
South Lanarkshire	360	231	64.17%	63	17.50%	66	18.33%	
LVJB totals	777	502	64.61%	102	13.13%	173	22.26%	



Valuation Roll Appeals: Revaluation and Running Roll 2005

1. Revaluation Appeals

Area	Appeals received since 2005 Valuation Roll	Appeals resolved as at 1 February 2023	Appeals heard but awaiting stated case for appeal to Lands Valuation Appeal Court	Rateable Value of Appeals in process of appeal to LVAC	Appeals outstanding awaiting determination of Lands Tribunal for Scotland	Rateable Value of Outstanding Appeals awaiting determination of LT	Appeals Outstanding as at 1 February 2023
North Lanarkshire	3,921	3,918	0	£0	3	£76,150	3
South Lanarkshire	3,148	3,147	0	£0	1	£50,800	1
LVJB total	7,069	7,065	0	£0	4	£126,950	4

2. Running Roll Appeals

Area	Appeals received since 2005 Valuation Roll	Appeals resolved as at 1 February 2023	Appeals heard but awaiting stated case for appeal to Lands Valuation Appeal Court	Rateable Value of Appeals in process of appeal to LVAC	Appeals outstanding awaiting determination of Lands Tribunal for Scotland	Rateable Value of Outstanding Appeals awaiting determination of LT	Appeals Outstanding as at 1 February 2023
North Lanarkshire	2,023	2,022	0	£0	£0 1 £36,500		1
South Lanarkshire	1,695	1,693	0	£0	2	£90,050	2
LVJB total	3,718	3,715	0	£0	3	£126,550	3



Valuation Roll Appeals: Revaluation and Running Roll 2010

1. Revaluation Appeals

Area	Appeals received since 2010 Valuation Roll	Appeals resolved as at 1 February 2023	Appeals heard but awaiting stated case for appeal to Lands Valuation Appeal Court	Rateable Value of Appeals in process of appeal to LVAC	Appeals outstanding awaiting determination of Lands Tribunal for Scotland	Rateable Value of Outstanding Appeals awaiting determination of LT	Appeals Outstanding as at 1 February 2023
North Lanarkshire	4,460	4,460	0	£0	0	£0	0
South Lanarkshire	3 103 3 103		0	£0	0	£0	0
LVJB total	7,563	7,563	0	£0	0	£0	0

2. Running Roll Appeals

Area	Appeals received since 2010 Valuation Roll	Appeals resolved as at 1 February 2023	Appeals heard but awaiting stated case for appeal to Lands Valuation Appeal Court	Rateable Value of Appeals in process of appeal to LVAC	Appeals outstanding awaiting determination of Lands Tribunal for Scotland	Rateable Value of Outstanding Appeals awaiting determination of LT	Appeals Outstanding as at 1 February 2023
North Lanarkshire	5,480	5,480	0	£0	0	£0	0
South Lanarkshire	6/2/ 6/2/		0	£0	0	£0	0
LVJB total	12,207	12,207	0	£0	0	£0	0



Valuation Roll Appeals: Revaluation and Running Roll 2017

1. Revaluation Appeals

Area	Appeals received since 2017 Valuation Roll	Appeals resolved as at 1 February 2023	Appeals heard but awaiting stated case for appeal to Lands Valuation Appeal Court	Rateable Value of Appeals in process of appeal to LVAC	Appeals outstanding awaiting determination of Lands Tribunal for Scotland	Rateable Value of Outstanding Appeals awaiting determination of LT	Appeals Outstanding as at 1 February 2023
North Lanarkshire	4,728	4,714	0	£0	14	£2,724,100	14
South Lanarkshire	4,553	4,532	0	£0	21	£86,932,875	21
LVJB total	9,281	9,246	0	£0	35	£89,656,975	35

2. Running Roll Appeals

Area	Appeals received since 2017 Valuation Roll	Appeals resolved as at 1 February 2023	Appeals heard but awaiting stated case for appeal to Lands Valuation Appeal Court	Rateable Value of Appeals in process of appeal to LVAC	Appeals outstanding awaiting determination of Lands Tribunal for Scotland	Rateable Value of Outstanding Appeals awaiting determination of LT	Appeals Outstanding as at 1 February 2023	
North Lanarkshire	4,629	1,428	0	£0	2	£21,125	3,201	
South Lanarkshire	5,010	1,459	0	£0	27	£732,317,875	3,551	
LVJB total	9,639	2,887	0	£0	29	£732,339,000	6,752	



	ENTRIES AS AT 01/04/2022		/04/2022		ADDITION	S	DELETIONS			CURRENT ENTRIES			BAND 'D' EQUIVALENT		
BAND	NORTH	SOUTH	TOTAL	NORTH	SOUTH	TOTAL	NORTH	SOUTH	TOTAL	NORTH	SOUTH	TOTAL	NORTH	SOUTH	TOTAL
А	53037	36190	89227	21	21	42	12	168	180	53046	36043	89089	35366	24030	59396
В	37845	30751	68596	160	77	237	9	15	24	37996	30813	68809	29553	23966	53519
С	19903	26768	46671	269	192	461	6	10	16	20166	26950	47116	17926	23956	41882
D	17722	21724	39446	249	369	618	3	4	7	17968	22089	40057	17968	22089	40057
E	17158	20390	37548	195	333	528	4	4	8	17349	20719	38068	22795	27223	50018
F	10085	13307	23392	162	339	501	5	5	10	10242	13641	23883	16643	22167	38810
G	3090	6819	9909	19	172	191	0	1	1	3109	6990	10099	6088	13689	19777
Н	162	579	741	2	3	5	1	1	2	163	581	744	399	1423	1822
TOTAL	159002	156528	315530	1077	1506	2583	40	208	248	160039	157826	317865	146738	158543	305281
'D' EQIV.	145589	156751	302340	1188	1946	3134	39	154	194	146738	158543	305281			

Council Tax Subjects as at 01/02/2023

JOINT BOARD TOTALS

		01/04/2022	01/02/2023	Increase
TOTAL CHARGEABLE ENTRIES	North	159002	160039	1037
	South	156528	157826	1298
	Total	315530	317865	2335
BAND 'D' EQUIVALENT	North	145589	146738	1149
	South	156751	158543	1792
	Total	302340	305281	2941



Summary of time taken to enter new houses in Valuation (Council Tax) List

Period: 1 April 2022 to 1 February 2023

Area	Total added	added < 3	months	added 3 to 6	6 months	added > 6 months	
North Lanarkshire	1077	955	88.67%	109	10.12%	13	1.21%
South Lanarkshire	1506	1395	92.63%	87	5.78%	24	1.59%
LVJB totals	2583	2350	90.98%	196	7.59%	37	1.43%



Summary of Council Tax Proposals/Appeals received and dealt with as at 1 February 2023

Valid	Proposals/Appeals outstanding @ 1 April 2022	Proposals/Appeals received since 1 April 2022	Proposals/Appeals completely resolved 01/04/2022 to 01/02/2023	Outstanding balance
North Lanarkshire	38	30	58	10
South Lanarkshire	103	54	141	16
LVJB total	141	84	199	26

Invalid	Proposals/Appeals outstanding @ 1 April 2022	Proposals/Appeals received since 1 April 2022	Proposals/Appeals completely resolved 01/04/2022 to 01/02/2023	Outstanding balance
North Lanarkshire	46	48	91	3
South Lanarkshire	87	98	178	7
LVJB total	133	146	269	10

Combined	Proposals/Appeals outstanding @ 1 April 2022	Proposals/Appeals received since 1 April 2022	Proposals/Appeals completely resolved 01/04/2022 to 01/02/2023	Outstanding balance
North Lanarkshire	84	78	149	13
South Lanarkshire	190	152	319	23
LVJB total	274	230	468	36



Summary of resolution of Council Tax Proposals/Appeals Between 1 April 2022 and 1 February 2023

Valid	Proposals/Appeals completely resolved 01/04/2022 to 01/02/2023	Number withdrawn	Number abandoned	Number adjusted	Number dismissed by VAC	Number adjusted by VAC
North Lanarkshire	58	20	0	23	15	0
South Lanarkshire	140	73	0	37	30	1
LVJB total	198	93	0	60	45	1

Invalid	Proposals/Appeals completely resolved 01/04/2022 to 01/02/2023	Number withdrawn	Number abandoned	Number adjusted	Number dismissed by VAC	Number adjusted by VAC
North Lanarkshire	91	2	72	2	15	0
South Lanarkshire	178	12	145	0	21	0
LVJB total	269	14	217	2	36	0

Combined	Proposals/Appeals completely resolved 01/04/2022 to 01/02/2023	Number withdrawn	Number abandoned	Number adjusted	Number dismissed by VAC	Number adjusted by VAC
North Lanarkshire	149	22	72	25	30	0
South Lanarkshire	318	85	145	37	51	1
LVJB total	467	107	217	62	81	1



ABSENCE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS

Month	Self Ce	ertified	Medically	Certified	Unautho Abse		Total		Total				
	No of Days	%	No of Days	%	No of Days	%	No of Days	Work Days Avail	%	Month	No of Days	Work days available	%
February 2022	22	1.7%	44	3.5%	Nil	0.0%	66	1262	5.2%	February 2021	36	1252	2.9%
March 2022	18	1.3%	84	6.0%	Nil	0.0%	102	1402	7.3%	March 2021	50	1504	3.3%
April 2022	1	0.1%	48	3.8%	Nil	0.0%	49	1262	3.9%	April 2021	54	1441	3.7%
May 2022	17	1.3%	7	0.5%	Nil	0.0%	24	1345	1.8%	May 2021	89	1317	6.8%
June 2022	39	2.9%	60	4.5%	Nil	0.0%	99	1347	7.3%	June 2021	88	1368	6.4%
July 2022	24	1.9%	66	5.2%	Nil	0.0%	90	1277	7.0%	July 2021	72	1358	5.3%
August 2022	20	1.4%	90	6.4%	Nil	0.0%	110	1401	7.9%	August 2021	74	1356	5.5%
September 2022	16	1.2%	77	5.6%	Nil	0.0%	93	1373	6.8%	September 2021	55	1383	4.0%
October 2022	6	0.4%	63	4.7%	Nil	0.0%	69	1335	5.2%	October 2021	65	1367	4.8%
November 2022	13	0.9%	51	3.7%	Nil	0.0%	64	1378	4.6%	November 2021	95	1404	6.8%
December 2022	18	1.3%	62	4,5%	Nil	0.0%	80	1384	5.8%	December 2021	96	1459	6.6%
January 2023	12	0.9%	28	2.0%	Nil	0.0%	40	1369	2.9%	January 2022	52	1344	3.9%
Averages for 12 months	17	1.3%	57	4.2%	Nil	0.0%	74	1345	5.5%		73	1341	5.4%