

Tuesday, 29 November 2022

Dear Councillor

Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board

The Members listed below are requested to attend a meeting of the above Board to be held as follows:-

Date: Monday, 05 December 2022

Time: 14:00

Venue: Hybrid - Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton, ML3

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The business to be considered at the meeting is listed overleaf.

Yours sincerely

Cleland Sneddon Clerk to the Board

Members

Walter Brogan (Convener), Jim Reddin (Depute Convener), Bob Burgess, Lesley Jarvie, Tom Johnston, Fergus MacGregor, Alex McVey, William Shields, Anne Thomas, Janine Calikes, Ross Clark, Colin Dewar, Lynsey Hamilton, Martin Hose, Gavin Keatt, Mark McGeever

Substitutes

Nicky Shevlin, Mathew Buchanan, Poppy Corbett, Geri Gray, Cal Johnston-Dempsey, Monique McAdams, Carol Nugent, Norman Rae, Margaret B Walker

BUSINESS

1 Declaration of Interests

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

3 - 6

Minutes of Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board held on 5 September 2022 submitted for approval as a correct record. (Copy attached)

Monitoring Item(s)

3 Revenue Budget Monitoring and Probable Outturn Position 2022/2023 7 - 10 - Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board

Report dated 22 November 2022 by the Treasurer, Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board. (Copy attached)

Item(s) for Decision

4 Revenue Budget 2023/2024 - Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board 11 - 16 Report dated 22 November 2022 by the Treasurer, Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board. (Copy attached)

Item(s) for Noting

5 **Progress Update**

17 - 32

Report dated 22 November 2022 by the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer. (Copy attached)

Urgent Business

6 Urgent Business

Any other items of business which the Chair decides are urgent.

For further information, please contact:-

Clerk Name:	Stuart McLeod
Clerk Telephone:	07385 370 117
Clerk Email:	stuart.mcleod@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

LANARKSHIRE VALUATION JOINT BOARD

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Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 5 September 2022

Convener:

Councillor Walter Brogan, South Lanarkshire Council

Councillors Present:

North Lanarkshire Council

Councillor Bob Burgess, Councillor Lesley Jarvie, Councillor Tom Johnston, Councillor Jim Reddin (Depute), Councillor Bill Shields, Councillor Anne Thomas

South Lanarkshire Council

Councillor Ross Clark, Councillor Colin Dewar, Councillor Geri Gray (substitute for Councillor Janine Calikes), Councillor Mark McGeever

Councillors' Apologies:

North Lanarkshire Council

Councillor Fergus MacGregor, Councillor Alex McVey

South Lanarkshire Council

Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Martin Hose, Councillor Gavin Keatt

Attending:

Assessor and Electoral Registration Service

G Bennett, Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer; C Maxwell, Assistant 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; L O'Hagan, Finance Manager (Strategy), South Lanarkshire Council

Also Attending:

Audit Scotland

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

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 27 June 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2022/2023 – Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board

A report dated 17 August 2022 by the Treasurer was submitted comparing the Board's actual expenditure at 15 July 2022 against the budgeted expenditure for 2022/2023 and providing a forecast for the year to 31 March 2023.

As at 15 July 2022, there was an underspend on the Board's revenue budget of £0.113 million. The financial forecast to 31 March 2023 was a breakeven position.

The Treasurer and an Assistant Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer responded to a member's question on the underspend and position in terms of the vacant posts for which recruitment was ongoing.

The Board decided:

- (1) that an underspend of £0.0113 million on Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board's revenue budget, as detailed in Appendix A to the report, be noted; and
- (2) that the forecast to 31 March 2023 of a breakeven position be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 27 June 2022 (Paragraph 6)]

Councillor Burgess left the meeting during this item of business due to technical issues

4 External Auditors' Annual Report to the Board

A letter dated 5 September 2022, together with the Annual Audit Report 2021/2022 to Members of the Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board and the Accounts Commission, 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 2021/2022
- 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.

5 Audited Accounts 2021/2022

A report dated 18 August 2022 by the Treasurer was submitted on the Board's audited annual accounts for 2021/2022. 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, Blantvre
- on the Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board's website

The Board decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the Statement of Accounts for 2021/2022 had received a clean audit certificate from the External Auditor; and
- (2) that the audited Statement of Accounts for 2021/2022 be approved for signature.

[Reference: Minutes of 27 June 2022 (Paragraph 9)]

6 Progress Update

A report dated 18 August 2022 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 Board decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 27 June 2022 (Paragraph 14)]

7 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.



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Report to: Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board

Date of Meeting: 5 December 2022

Report by: Treasurer to Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board

Subject: Revenue Budget Monitoring and Probable Outturn

Position 2022/2023 - Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:

- provide a forecast for the year to 31 March 2023
- provide information on the actual expenditure measured against the revenue budget for the period 1 April 2022 to 4 November 2022

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1. The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):
 - that following the probable outturn exercise, the transfer to Reserves for the current financial year is £0.061 million (section 4.1 and Appendix A), be noted;
 - that following the transfer to Reserves of £0.061 million, the Reserves balance at the end of March 2023 will be £1.540 million (section 4.5), be noted; and
 - that an underspend to date of £0.162 million on Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board's revenue budget as at 4 November 2022 (section 4.8 and Appendix A), be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. This is the third revenue budget monitoring report presented to the Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board for the financial year 2022/2023.
- 3.2. The report details the financial position for Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board as at 4 November 2022 as well as detail on the annual probable outturn exercise carried out for financial year 2022/2023. These are detailed in section 4 shown in Appendix A.

4. 2022/2023 Probable Outturn and Revenue Monitoring

- 4.1. Appendix A shows the results of the probable outturn exercise. The financial forecast to 31 March 2023 is a Transfer to Reserves of £0.061 million. This is compared to a budgeted Transfer from Reserves of £0.060 million and means that the Board's Reserves will be in a better position than budgeted, by £0.121 million.
- 4.2. The improved position is mainly the result of the ongoing underspend in Employee Costs (£0.186m). This is partially offset by overspends in Supplies and Services (£0.039m), and Financing Charges (£0.024m). Explanations for these variances are detailed overleaf.
 - Employee Costs: The underspend (£0.186m) mainly reflects the level of turnover experienced in staffing to date and vacant posts, for which recruitment is ongoing.

- **Supplies and Services:** The overspend (£0.039m) reflects additional work for systems development in relation to Barclay recommendations, which were delayed from 2021/2022, and increased costs of computer equipment maintenance.
- **Financing Charges:** The overspend (£0.024m) is in relation to higher than budgeted IT leasing costs to cover the costs of both office-based desk top computers and laptops to facilitate home working, reflecting business need.
- 4.3. The transfer of Valuation Appeal Panel activities to the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service, which was due on 1 January 2023, has now been delayed until 1 April 2023, and therefore has no financial impact on the Board's budget or Probable Outturn for 2022/2023.
- 4.4. It should be noted that the probable outturn position is based on best information as at November 2022. The staffing position and the effect of inflation will continue to be monitored and the Board will be updated on any significant changes to the forecast position in the remainder of the year.
- 4.5. **Reserves:** As noted in section 4.1, in order to balance the budget in-year, there will be a transfer to Reserves of £0.061 million. At the end of 2021/2022, the Board carried forward £1.479 million into 2022/2023. Taking these together, means that a balance of £1.540 million will be carried into 2023/2024.
- 4.6. <u>Barclay Funding:</u> While the Board was allocated £0.698 million from the Scottish Government (through councils) for the current year (2022/2023), there is no agreement yet from the Scottish Government on funding for 2023/2024. While spend is being incurred on the implementation of the Barclay recommendations, the uncertainty of long-term funding means that this will be managed on an ongoing basis until future funding levels are clarified. The probable outturn position reflects the anticipated spend in the current year. Spend levels will continue to be monitored during the year and a final position noted at the year-end.
- 4.7. It is expected that as the recommendations from the Barclay report are implemented, costs will significantly rise in future years. The funding is normally notified alongside the Local Government Settlement. The Board will be updated as further information is known.
- 4.8. <u>Period 8 Monitoring Position</u>: As at 4 November 2022, the variance from phased budget to date is an underspend of £0.162 million. This is shown in Appendix A.
- 4.9. This is a continuation of the previously reported position and reflects the position as at period 8, which does not yet include the impact of the Pay Award Settlement for 2022/2023 which will be backdated to 1 April 2022. The full year impact of the 2022/2023 Pay Award is included in the Board's Probable Outturn position.
- 5. Financial Implications
- 5.1. The financial implications are noted in section 4 of the report.
- 6. Employee Implications
- 6.1. None

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

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

8. Other Implications

8.1. The main risk associated with the Board's Revenue Budget is that there is an overspend. The risk has been assessed as low given the detailed budget management applied. The risk is managed through four weekly Budget Monitoring Meetings at which any variance is analysed. In addition, the probable outturn exercise ensures early warning for corrective action to be taken where appropriate.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. 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.
- 9.2. There is also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in the report.

Paul Manning Treasurer

22 November 2022

Previous References

- ◆ Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020/2021 Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board 27 June 2022
- ◆ Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020/2021 Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board 5 September 2022

List of Background Papers

♦ Revenue Budget 2022/2023 – Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board – 6 December 2021

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:

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LANARKSHIRE VALUATION JOINT BOARD

Revenue Budget Monitoring Report

Period Ended 4 November 2022 (No.8)

	Annual Budget	Forecast for Year	Annual Forecast Variance	Budget Proportion 04/11/22	Actual 04/11/22	Variance 04/11/22		% Variance 04/11/22	Note
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000			
Budget Category									
Employee Costs	3,137	2,951	186	1,748	1,549	199	under	11.4%	1
Property Costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	n/a	
Supplies & Services	159	198	(39)	94	115	(21)	over	(22.3%)	2
Transport & Plant	0	1	(1)	0	1	(1)	over	n/a	
Administration Costs	561	562	(1)	330	330	0	over	0.0%	
Payments to Other Bodies	31	31	0	27	28	(1)	-	(3.7%)	
Payments to Contractors	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	n/a	
Transfer Payments	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	n/a	
Financing Charges	13	37	(24)	8	19	(11)	over	(137.5%)	3
Total Controllable Exp.	3,901	3,780	121	2,207	2,042	165	under	7.5%	-
Total Controllable Inc.	(17)	(17)	0	(5)	(2)	(3)	under recovery	60.0%	_
Net Controllable Exp.	3,884	3,763	121	2,202	2,040	162	under	7.4%	_
Add Non Controllable Budgets									
Central Support Costs	381	381	0	0	0	0	-	n/a	_
Total Budget	4,265	4,144	121	2,202	2,040	162	under	7.4%	
Funded By:									
North Lanarkshire Council	(2,102.5)	(2,102.5)	0	(1,227)	(1,227)	0	-	0.0%	
South Lanarkshire Council	(2,102.5)	(2,102.5)	0	(1,227)	(1,227)	0	-	0.0%	
Transfer (From) Reserves	(60)	61	(121)	0	0	0	-	n/a	_
Net Budget	0	0	0	(252)	(414)	151	under	(64.3%)	-

Variance Explanations

- Employee Costs: The underspend reflects vacant posts for which the recruitment is ongoing.

 Supplies and Services: The overspend reflects additional systems development for Barclay recommendations and higher than budgeted for costs of computer equipment maintenance.

 Financing Charges: The overspend relates to higher than budgeted for IT leasing charges to cover the costs of both office-based desk top computers
- and laptops to facilitate home working, reflecting business need.



Report to: Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board

Date of Meeting: 5 December 2022

Report by: Treasurer to Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board

Subject: Revenue Budget 2023/2024 – Lanarkshire Valuation

Joint Board

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:

◆ advise members of the draft budget for the coming financial year (2023/2024)

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1. The Board is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):
 - that the budget strategy resulting in the budget of £4.392 million being set for 2023/2024, summarised in Appendix 1, be approved; and
 - (2) that the updated Reserves position, detailed in Table 2, be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. A Financial Strategy for 2023/2024 to 2025/2026 was approved by the Board on 27 June 2022. This report approved the 2023/2024 budget based on a number of assumptions. This paper will take the opportunity to refresh these assumptions and propose the budget for 2023/2024.
- 3.2. In relation to the Board's budget strategy, the continued increase in workload across all three key business areas of the Board (Non-Domestic Valuation, Council Tax Valuation and Electoral Registration) mean that ways of maintaining service delivery and compliance with statutory duties of the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer, against a backdrop of budgetary pressures, continue to be reviewed and are reflected in the proposals in this paper.
- 3.3. Following the 2022/2023 probable outturn exercise, also presented to this meeting, a balance of £0.061 million is anticipated to be transferred to Reserves at the end of this financial year. This will be added to the Reserves carried forward from the previous financial year (£1.479 million) and will mean a balance on Reserves of £1.540 million for use in 2023/2024 and beyond. This updates the previously reported position in the Financial Strategy on 27 June 2022.
- 3.4. Section 4 provides a reminder of the 2023/2024 Budget Strategy approved as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, and an update on the assumptions used. It also includes a refresh on the level of Reserves available for 2023/2024 and beyond.

4. 2023/2024 Budget Assumptions

- 4.1. The Board's Financial Strategy (June 2022) approved a budget for 2023/2024 of £4.302 million. This included the use of £0.182 million of Reserves and was based on the following assumptions:-
 - that the Employee Cost Budget reflects the progression of staff through pay grades, in line with agreed pay structures
 - that price increases, pay awards and an estimated 1% reduction in contributions are managed by efficiencies generated by the Board in each year
 - that the budget includes a staff turnover target of 4% per annum (based on prior years' experience this is considered realistic)
 - that the pay award is budgeted at 2% for 2023/2024, and then is assumed at 1% for the following 3 years. Pay Award was noted as an area of risk (refer 4.2)
 - that the transfer of Valuation Appeal Panel activities to the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service will have no financial impact (the money will be removed from the councils' settlements and, therefore, from the income the Board receives from councils)
 - that the Barclay funding is assumed at the same level as 2022/2023, as no information is known beyond that year
 - that this position may be affected by further in-year underspends that have not yet been foreseen

2023/2024 Updated Assumptions

- 4.2. **Pay Award (2022/2023):** Since this Strategy was approved, the pay award for 2022/2023 has been confirmed at a level higher than the 2% budget for 2022/2023. This will mean an additional annual cost of £0.090 million, revising the budget for 2023/2024 to £4.392 million. It is proposed that this is funded by Reserves in 2023/2024 and beyond, but as this is not a recurring funding solution, efficiencies will be considered into 2024/2025 to manage this on a permanent basis.
- 4.3. **Valuation Appeal Panel:** The transfer of Valuation Appeal Panel activities to the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service was due to transfer on 1 January 2023, but has now been delayed until 1 April 2023. The transfer will have no overall financial impact as it is anticipated that when this is processed, the expenditure budget will be removed from the councils' settlements and from the income the Board receives from councils.
- 4.4. Taking into account the impact of the 2022/2023 Pay Award, Appendix 1 shows the revised budget for 2023/2024.

5. Reserves

5.1. The Board's Strategy reported in June 2022 included the position across the Board's Reserves. This is shown in Table 1 and shows that the Board anticipated a balance of Reserves of £0.502 million at the end of 2025/2026.

Table 1 – Reserves Forecast and Strategy (June 2022)

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	(year 0)	(year 1)	(year 2)	(year 3)
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Opening Balance	1.479	1.419	1.237	0.905
Proposed Utilisation of Reserves	(0.060)	(0.182)	(0.332)	(0.403)
Closing Balance	1.419	1.237	0.905	0.502

- 5.2. However, the Reserves position in Table 1 needs to be updated to reflect the additional Reserves available following the 2022/2023 Probable Outturn (section 3.3), as well as a base assumption that the 2022/2023 increased Pay Award will be funded from Reserves in all years (section 4.2).
- 5.3. Table 2 updates the impact on Reserves across the 3 years of the Strategy and shows that by applying the principles noted in 4.1, and the updated availability and use of Reserves, the Board would now have a balance of £0.353 million at the end of 2025/2026.

Table 2 – Reserves Forecast and Strategy – Revised December 2022

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	(year 0)	(year 1)	(year 2)	(year 3)
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Opening Balance	1.479	1.540	1.268	0.846
Proposed Utilisation of Reserves	0.061	(0.272)	(0.422)	(0.493)
Closing Balance	1.540	1.268	0.846	0.353

- 5.4. This position is after a reduction in the councils' contributions of £0.050m in 2023/2024 and 2024/2025. This still represents a significant balance. The reason it is considered appropriate to work towards holding this level of reserve relates to a risk that funding for Barclay may not be recurring.
- 5.5. Beyond 2025/2026, the Board will require to cover the risk of the Barclay funding being reduced or removed. Therefore a £0.353m balance of reserves is considered reasonable to mitigate this risk.
- 5.6. In 2025/2026, there is still a reliance on reserves (£0.493 million). As advised to the Board in June 2022, we will undertake a review of this reliance in the last year of the Strategy (2025/2026). This will be presented to the Board as required.
- 5.7. There is no prescribed minimum or maximum level of Reserves which should be held by a Joint Board. However, it is appropriate that the Board holds some monies in reserve which can be utilised as and when the need arises in any financial year. To facilitate this, notwithstanding the position as detailed in Table 2 / Appendix 1, any underspends which may arise in year, will be transferred to Reserves at the end of the financial year. This gives the Board flexibility in managing its budget across years.
- 5.8. As a body that is funded by contributions from councils under the direction of the Board, the Board will manage its budget in year with any risk items identified to the Treasurer as required. Any budget pressures and funding solution would be considered by the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer and the Treasurer.

6. Employee Implications

6.1. There are no direct employee implications contained within this report.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The proposed 2023/2024 Revenue Budget for the Valuation Board is £4.392 million.
- 7.2. This budget assumes a contribution of £0.272 million from Reserves held in the balance sheet.

7.3. The Reserves balance is expected to be £1.540 million at the end of 2022/2023, as detailed in the Revenue Budget Monitoring and Probable Outturn Position 2022/2023 report, also presented to this meeting.

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. The main risk in setting this budget is that there is no additional Barclay funding and that the level of expenditure cannot be managed within the budget set. On behalf of the Board, the Treasurer continues to have dialogue with the Scottish Government via COSLA, to confirm funding and spend expectations.
- 9.2. An additional risk associated with the Valuation Board's Revenue Budget into 2023/2024 is an overspend as a result of the increased workload across the three main service delivery areas. The risk is managed through four weekly Budget Monitoring Meetings at which any variance is analysed. In addition, the probable outturn exercise ensures early warning for corrective action to be taken where appropriate.

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 also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in the report.

Paul Manning Treasurer

22 November 2022

Previous References

- ♦ Revenue Budget 2022/2023 Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board 6 December 2021
- ◆ Financial Strategy 2023/2024 to 2025/2026 Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board 27 June 2022

List of Background Papers

♦ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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Appendix 1

Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board

Revenue Budget 2023/2024

Description	2022/23 Base Budget £m	2023/24 Required Budget £m	Budget Movement (Inc) / Dec £m
Employee Costs	3.137	3.258	(0.121)
Property Costs	0.202	0.208	(0.006)
Supplies and Services	0.159	0.159	0.000
Administration Costs	0.740	0.740	0.000
Payments to Other Bodies	0.031	0.031	0.000
Financing Charges	0.013	0.013	0.000
Gross Expenditure	4.282	4.409	(0.127)
Income	(0.017)	(0.017)	0.000
Net Expenditure	4.265	4.392	(0.127)
Net Expenditure Budget Funded by:			
Requisition from North Lanarkshire Council	2.102	2.060	0.042
Requisition from South Lanarkshire Council	2.103	2.060	0.043
Use of Monies held in Balance Sheet (c/f from previous years)	0.060	0.272	(0.212)
Net Budget	0.000	0.000	0.000



Report

5

Report to: Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board

Date of Meeting: 5 December 2022

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

Work is almost complete on this year's annual canvass of electors. The tasks associated with file production including the data matching element of canvass reform, using both national testing data and local data, have been carried out with similar matching results to last year's canvass. The first issue of canvass forms commenced the week beginning 1st August with circa 62,500 properties being issued with a canvass form where details could not be fully matched. Circa 50,800 non-responding properties received a further communication in September. Where no response was received, as with previous canvasses, further follow up action is required, including household visits. The door-to-door element of the annual canvass was able to proceed this year and has now been completed for almost 40,000 properties.

Canvass reform has introduced new methods of communication - such as a telephone canvass - which count as a personal contact to a property, reducing the number of door knocks required. Some 3,586 calls have been made to properties where a telephone number is currently held. Another method of contact utilised was sending e-communications where an email address is held. Circa 3,408 emails have been issued to encourage a canvass response.

The revised register is to be published on 1 December 2022.

Potential electors continue to be encouraged to use the online registration service at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

3.1.2. 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 November 2022.

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. Whilst some appeals have now been withdrawn which were lodged in relation to the pandemic, the vast majority remain outstanding. As it stands, these appeals are likely to be transferred to the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service for future management (refer item 5.3 below, progress update to section 10 of the Non-Domestic Rates (Scotland) Act 2020).

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 November 2022 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. Progress continues to be made in reducing the outstanding number of proposals and appeals following the increase in the number outstanding in both as a result of the pandemic. Efforts will continue to reduce numbers further prior to the transfer of the current appeals system to the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service with effect from 1 April 2023.

4. Staffing

- 4.1. Since the last Board meeting and following recruitment and selection processes, three former staff members have re-joined LVJB, one as a Principal Valuer and two as Divisional Valuers. Additionally, three new Trainee Technicians have commenced their employment with the organisation. In the same period, a part-time Divisional Valuer has left the organisation to take up a position within another local government organisation, whilst two Trainee Valuers, one part-time, have left to join other Assessors' offices.
- 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, one complaint had been received, a summary of which is as follows:-

Service Area	Nature of Complaint	Outcome
Council Tax	Complaint received with	Letter of explanation
(ref: 2022/23 - 3)	regards to the timescales	issued outlining
	involved in effecting a	legislation regarding sold
	Council Tax band	houses and reviewing
	increase.	bandings. Timeline
		explained - delays
		outwith LVJB control.

5.2. Complaints to the Ombudsman

No decisions have been received from the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) since the last meeting of the Board.

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: The Scottish Government took the decision, due to the pandemic, to postpone the next revaluation to 1 April 2023, with the tone date moving to 1 April 2022.

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 will be published at the Scottish Assessors Association's (SAA) website (www.saa.gov.uk) on 30th November 2022. Draft valuation notices are required to be issued to proprietor/tenant/occupiers following 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 draft valuation roll, and issue draft valuation notices. A final valuation notice is scheduled to be issued in March 2023 and this will contain the final Rateable Value that rates bills will be based on.

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: Associated legislation is now in place - the Non-Domestic Rates (Relief for New and Improved Properties) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 and the Non-Domestic Rates (Valuation Roll) (Modification) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 - and procedures have been developed in order that a marker can 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: Survey work continues to be undertaken to identify subjects which will be entered in the valuation roll with effect from 1 April 2023. LVJB staff continue to follow 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: Development work is at an advanced stage in respect of facilitating the provision of information at the SAA Portal for the forthcoming Revaluation in connection with requirements to publish certain information as contained within the Non-Domestic Rates (Valuation Notices) (Scotland) Regulations 2022. Rented property lists have to be furnished for a range of property types, detailing the addresses of let properties considered in determining the basic rate of valuations, when draft values are published on 30th November 2022. The new requirement means that development work is being undertaken with LVJB's local valuation software application to facilitate the data transfer to the SAA Portal.

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 non-domestic appeal system is expected to be laid in the Scottish Parliament within the first couple of weeks in December 2022. The proposed transfer of the appeal set-up to the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service has been delayed from 1 January 2023 until 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 monitor activity on the transfer to the new appeal set-up, and will review current business processes to align with the new legislative requirements in time for their implementation on 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 continue to be implemented in connection with AINs and, in particular, the new civil penalties regime. The SAA continue to emphasise the importance of returning AINs, in particular with reference to the possibility of civil penalties being raised, to relevant parties at meetings of the Scottish Ratepayers' Forum, and Scottish Ratepayers' Surveyors' Forum.

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.

The SAA continues to work positively with the Scottish Government and stakeholders to consider the detailed application of the reforms, and will continue to do so via the various forums set up for stakeholder engagement purposes.

5.4. Coronavirus Pandemic

LVJB's management team remain vigilant to the on-going risks associated with the virus, in particular as we move into the winter period.

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

22 November 2022

Previous References

Progress Update Report for Board meeting of 5 September 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 01/11/2022

	AS AT 0	1/04/2022	ADDED		DELETED		ALTERED		AS AT 01/11/2022	
Area	SUBJECTS	RV	SUBJECTS	RV	SUBJECTS	RV	SUBJECTS	RV	SUBJECTS	RV
North Lanarkshire	10,358	288,082,270	247	757,220	181	1,297,335	81	-570,205	10,424	286,971,950
South Lanarkshire	10,952	693,403,145	185	966,610	161	1,246,290	100	-334,155	10,976	692,789,310
LVJB total	21,310	£981,485,415	432	£1,723,830	342	£2,543,625	181	-£904,360	21,400	£979,761,260



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

Period: 1 April 2022 to 1 November 2022

Area	Total altered	altered < 3 months		altered 3 to 6 months		altered > 6 months	
	No.	No.	%age	No.	%age	No.	%age
North Lanarkshire	299	236	78.93%	21	7.02%	42	14.05%
South Lanarkshire	323	221	68.42%	48	14.86%	54	16.72%
LVJB totals	622	457	73.48%	69	11.09%	96	15.43%



Valuation Roll Appeals: Revaluation and Running Roll 2005

1. Revaluation Appeals

South Lanarkshire	3,148	3,147	0	£0	1	£50,800	1
North Lanarkshire	3,921	3,918	0	£0	3	£76,150	3
Area	Appeals received since 2005 Valuation Roll	Appeals resolved as at 1 November 2022	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 November 2022

2. Running Roll Appeals

Area	Appeals received since 2005 Valuation Roll	Appeals resolved as at 1 November 2022	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 November 2022
North Lanarkshire	2,023	2,022	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 November 2022	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 November 2022
North Lanarkshire	4,460	4,460	0	£0	0	£0	0
South Lanarkshire	3,103	3,102	0	£0	1	£46,500	1
LVJB total	7,563	7,562	0	£0	1	£46,500	1

2. Running Roll Appeals

Area	Appeals received since 2010 Valuation Roll	Appeals resolved as at 1 November 2022	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 November 2022
North Lanarkshire	5,480	5,480	0	£0	0	£0	0
South Lanarkshire	6,727	6,727	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	Appeals resolved	Appeals heard but	Rateable Value of	Appeals outstanding	Rateable Value of	Appeals
	received since	as at	awaiting stated case	Appeals in	awaiting determination	Outstanding Appeals	Outstanding
	2017	1 November	for appeal to Lands	process of appeal	of Lands Tribunal for	awaiting determination	as at
	Valuation Roll	2022	Valuation Appeal Court	to LVAC	Scotland	of LT	1 November 2022
North Lanarkshire	4,728	4,710	0	£0	18	£2,761,475	18
South Lanarkshire	4,553	4,526	0	£0	27	£87,047,700	27
LVJB total	9,281	9,236	0	£0	45	£89,809,175	45

2. Running Roll Appeals

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Area	Appeals	Appeals resolved	Appeals heard but	Rateable Value of	Appeals outstanding	Rateable Value of	Appeals
	received since	as at	awaiting stated case	Appeals in	awaiting determination	Outstanding Appeals	Outstanding
	2017	1 November	for appeal to Lands	process of appeal	of Lands Tribunal for	awaiting determination	as at
	Valuation Roll	2022	Valuation Appeal	to LVAC	Scotland	of LT	1 November
			Court				2022
North	4.000	4 000	0	00		200 050	0.500
Lanarkshire	4,620	1,028	0	£0	3	£29,250	3,592
South	4,999	1,058	0	£0	30	£804,027,125	3,941
Lanarkshire	4,555	1,000	O	20	30	2004,027,123	5,541
						·	
LVJB total	9,619	2,086	0	£0	33	£804,056,375	7,533



Council Tax Subjects as at 01/11/2022

	ENTRIES	AS AT 01	/04/2022		ADDITION	S	DE	LETION	S	CURRENT ENTRIES			BAND 'D' EQUIVALENT		
BAND	NORTH	SOUTH	TOTAL	NORTH	SOUTH	TOTAL	NORTH	SOUTH	TOTAL	NORTH	SOUTH	TOTAL	NORTH	SOUTH	TOTAL
Α	53037	36190	89227	12	17	29	5	15	20	53044	36192	89236	35364	24129	59493
В	37845	30751	68596	154	42	196	5	7	12	37994	30786	68780	29552	23945	53497
С	19903	26768	46671	231	122	353	6	9	15	20128	26881	47009	17892	23895	41787
D	17722	21724	39446	202	246	448	1	1	2	17923	21969	39892	17923	21969	39892
E	17158	20390	37548	143	228	371	3	4	7	17298	20614	37912	22728	27085	49813
F	10085	13307	23392	105	230	335	5	4	9	10185	13533	23718	16551	21991	38542
G	3090	6819	9909	8	115	123	0	0	0	3098	6934	10032	6067	13579	19646
Н	162	579	741	0	3	3	1	1	2	161	581	742	394	1423	1817
TOTAL	159002	156528	315530	855	1003	1858	26	41	67	159831	157490	31321	146471	158016	304487
'D' EQIV.	145589	156751	302340	909	1304	2214	28	39	67	146471	158016	304487			

JOINT BOARD TOTALS

		01/04/2022	01/11/2022	Increase
TOTAL CHARGEABLE ENTRIES	North	159002	159831	829
	South	156528	157490	962
	Total	315530	317321	1791
BAND 'D' EQUIVALENT	North	145589	146471	882
	South	156751	158016	1265
	Total	302340	304487	2147



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

Period: 1 April 2022 to 1 November 2022

Area	Total added	added < 3 months		added 3 to	6 months	added > 6 months		
North Lanarkshire	855	750	87.72%	96	11.23%	9	1.05%	
South Lanarkshire	1003	933	93.02%	50	4.99%	20	1.99%	
LVJB totals	1858	1683	90.58%	146	7.86%	29	1.56%	



Summary of Council Tax Proposals/Appeals received and dealt with as at 1 November 2022

Valid	Proposals/Appeals outstanding @ 1 April 2022	Proposals/Appeals received since 1 April 2022	Proposals/Appeals completely resolved 01/04/2022 to 01/11/2022	Outstanding balance
North Lanarkshire	38	24	56	6
South Lanarkshire	103	43	120	26
LVJB total	141	67	176	32

Invalid	Proposals/Appeals outstanding @ 1 April 2022	Proposals/Appeals received since 1 April 2022	Proposals/Appeals completely resolved 01/04/2022 to 01/11/2022	Outstanding balance
North Lanarkshire	46	45	67	24
South Lanarkshire	87	83	127	43
LVJB total	133	128	194	67

Combined	Proposals/Appeals outstanding @ 1 April 2022	Proposals/Appeals received since 1 April 2022	Proposals/Appeals completely resolved 01/04/2022 to 01/11/2022	Outstanding balance
North Lanarkshire	84	69	123	30
South Lanarkshire	190	126	247	69
LVJB total	274	195	370	99



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

Valid	Proposals/Appeals completely resolved 01/04/2022 to 01/11/2022	Number withdrawn	Number abandoned	Number adjusted	Number dismissed by VAC	Number adjusted by VAC
North Lanarkshire	56	20	0	21	15	0
South Lanarkshire	120	61	0	31	27	1
LVJB total	176	81	0	52	42	1

Invalid	Proposals/Appeals completely resolved 01/04/2022 to 01/11/2022	Number withdrawn	Number abandoned	Number adjusted	Number dismissed by VAC	Number adjusted by VAC
North Lanarkshire	67	1	55	1	10	0
South Lanarkshire	127	4	103	0	20	0
LVJB total	194	5	158	1	30	0

Combined	Proposals/Appeals completely resolved 01/04/2022 to 01/11/2022	Number withdrawn	Number abandoned	Number adjusted	Number dismissed by VAC	Number adjusted by VAC
North Lanarkshire	123	21	55	22	25	0
South Lanarkshire	247	65	103	31	47	1
LVJB total	370	86	158	53	72	1



ABSENCE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS

Month	Self Ce	ertified	Medically	Certified	Unautho Absei			Total			Total		
	No of Days	%	No of Days	%	No of Days	%	No of Days	Work Days Avail	%	Month	No of Days	Work days available	%
November 2021	29	2.1%	66	4.7%	Nil	0.0%	95	1404	6.8%	November 2020	87	1316	6.6%
December 2021	13	0.9%	83	5.7%	Nil	0.0%	96	1459	6.6%	December 2020	85	1442	5.9%
January 2022	0	0.0%	52	3.9%	Nil	0.0%	52	1344	3.9%	January 2021	28	1315	2.1%
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%
Averages for 12 months	17	1.3%	62	4.6%	Nil	0.0%	79	1351	5.8%		59	1344	4.4%