

LANARKSHIRE VALUATION JOINT BOARD

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 5, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 5 September 2011

Convener:

Councillor Bill Shields, North Lanarkshire Council

Councillors Present:**North Lanarkshire Council**

Bob Chadha, James McGuigan, Peter Nolan, Gordon Stewart, John Taggart, Brian Wallace

South Lanarkshire Council

John Cairney (Depute), Hugh Dunsmuir, Beith Forrest (Substitute), Lesley McDonald, Alex McInnes, Alice Marie Mitchell, Jim Wardhaugh

Councillors' Apologies**North Lanarkshire Council**

Kaye Harmon

South Lanarkshire Council

Jim McGuigan, Patrick Ross-Taylor

Attending:**Assessor and Electoral Registration Service**

E Duffy, Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer

Clerk's Office

J Burke, Administration Assistant; P MacRae, Administration Officer, South Lanarkshire Council

Treasurer's Office

P Manning, Treasurer; L O'Hagan, Finance Manager (Accounting and Budgeting), South Lanarkshire Council

Convener's Remarks

The Convener, on behalf of Members, congratulated Paul Manning on his appointment to the post of Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) and as Treasurer to the Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board.

The Convener also intimated that Councillor John Taggart had replaced Councillor Clare Adamson as a Board member and that Councillor Peter Nolan had replaced Councillor Robert Burrows who would now serve as a substitute member.

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 6 June 2011 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 2010/2011 Annual Accounts for Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board

A report dated 12 August 2011 by the Treasurer was submitted on the Board's Final Annual Report and Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2011. The Annual Report and Accounts detailed the Revenue Accounts and Balance Sheet position as at 31 March 2011 which showed an operating surplus of £1.375 million. After implementing statutory accounting practice, the net balance on the Board's Income and Expenditure account was zero.

The Board decided: that the Annual Report and Accounts for the Board for the year ended 31 March 2011 be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 30 August 2010 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2011/2012 - Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board

A report dated 12 August 2011 by the Treasurer was submitted comparing the Board's actual expenditure at 5 August 2011 against the budgeted expenditure for 2011/2012 and providing a forecast for the year to 31 March 2012.

The Board decided: that the underspend on the Board's revenue budget of £0.001 million at 5 August 2011, as detailed in Appendix A to the report, and the forecast to 31 March 2012 of a break even position be noted.

5 Lanarkshire Valuation Joint Board Efficiency Savings 2010/2011

A report dated 17 August 2011 by the Depute Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer was submitted on the Board's efficiency savings for the financial year 2010/2011.

The report, which detailed both cashable and non-cashable efficiency savings, amounting to £70,320 and £312,923 respectively, had been provided to South Lanarkshire Council for inclusion in its Efficiency Statement for the same period.

The Board decided: that the report be noted.

6 Individual Electoral Registration

A report dated 16 August 2011 by the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer was submitted on proposed changes to the system of electoral registration.

A White Paper and draft legislation on Individual Electoral Registration (IER) were published on 30 June 2011. Consultation on proposals for IER was currently taking place and would conclude on 14 October 2011.

The following changes to electoral registration were proposed under IER:-

- ◆ there would be no obligation to register to vote
- ◆ all applications to register would require to be made individually
- ◆ all electors would require to provide evidence of identity in order to register
- ◆ all applications would need to be verified before electors could be added to the electoral register
- ◆ the canvass would change from 2014 with special transitional arrangements in that year for eligible electors who were not registered under IER

Details were given on:-

- ◆ the operation of the proposed system
- ◆ the requirements for the Electoral Registration Officer
- ◆ IER arrangements for 2014
- ◆ IER arrangements in 2015 and subsequent years
- ◆ implications for the annual canvass
- ◆ challenges for the Joint Board

The Board decided: that the report be noted.

7 Progress Report

A report dated 16 August 2011 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

The Board decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 6 June 2011 (Paragraph 11)]

8 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.