

LANARKSHIRE VALUATION JOINT BOARD

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, Blantyre
- ♦ 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.