

# Lothian Valuation Joint Board

Edinburgh, 6 February 2017

**Present:**

**City of Edinburgh Council** – Councillors Work (Convener), Bagshaw, Doran, Ricky Henderson, Keil, Lunn and McVey.

**East Lothian Council** – Councillor McNeil.

**Midlothian Council** – Councillors Bryant and Russell.

**West Lothian Council** – Councillors Dodds and McCarra.

## 1 Appointments

Members were advised that, on 13 December 2016, West Lothian Council had appointed Councillor David Dodds to serve on the Joint Board in place of Councillor Barry Robertson who had resigned.

Councillor Robertson had also resigned as Vice-Convener of the Joint Board and Members were invited to appoint a replacement.

**Decision**

- 1) To note the appointment of Councillor David Dodds, West Lothian Council in place of Councillor Barry Robertson who had resigned.
- 2) To appoint Councillor Margot Russell, Midlothian Council as Vice-Convener.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive and Clerk, submitted)

## 2 Minute

**Decision**

To approve the minute of the Lothian Valuation Joint Board of 28 November 2016 as a correct record.

## 3 Revenue Budget 2017/18

The Board's revenue budget for 2017/18 was presented. The budget would be funded through a flat-cash requisition of £6.118m. Recognising the financial pressures facing constituent councils, it was proposed to give a refund of the equivalent of 3% of requisition (£0.184m) funded from the Board's unallocated Reserve.

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The Board would continue to incur Individual Electoral Registration (IER) costs in 2017/18. The Cabinet Office had stated its commitment to fully fund IER until the end of the current Parliament.

The ongoing financial pressure arising from IER had also been subject to numerous reports to the Board throughout the year.

The Interim Assessor and ERO and the Treasurer recognised the need to move towards a sustainable budget position for 2018/19 and a managed position for 2017/18.

**Decision**

- 1) To approve the budget for 2017/18 and to authorise the Treasurer to requisition the individual constituent Councils for amounts as follows:

Constituent Council	Requisition 2017/18
City of Edinburgh	£3,741,157
Midlothian	£562,244
East Lothian	£666,862
West Lothian	£1,147,737
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,118,000</b>

- 2) To approve a refund of unallocated reserve of £183,500 on 1 April 2017 as follows:

Constituent Council	Proposed Refund
City of Edinburgh	£112,300
Midlothian	£16,800
East Lothian	£20,100
West Lothian	£34,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>£183,500</b>

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- 3) To note that the Interim Assessor and ERO would report to the Board on development of the service review during 2017/18.
- 4) To note that the Interim Assessor and ERO would update the Board in due course of any changes to IER with service/financial implications.
- 5) To note the risks identified in section 5 of the report by the Treasurer.  
(Reference – report by the Treasurer, submitted)

#### **4 Budget Report 2017/18**

The Interim Assessor and ERO provided an overview of the expected costs, income and risk to the Board within the budget provision for the financial year 2017/18.

The Board's Corporate Plan and Service Plan for 2017-2018 were also submitted.

##### **Decision**

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To note that the Interim Assessor would provide a briefing paper to Board Members on the net effect of the revaluation on the threshold of the small business scheme.

(Reference – report by the Interim Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer, submitted)

#### **5 Period 9 Financial Statement 2016/17**

The Board's actual and budgeted expenditure for the period to 31 December 2016 was reported together with a year end projection to 31 March 2017.

At this stage, the projected outturn against the core budget indicated a forecast spend of £5.964m resulting in a net underspend of £0.154m.

##### **Decision**

To note the projected outturn position for 2016-2017.

(Reference – report by the Treasurer, submitted)

#### **6 Annual Investment Strategy**

##### **Decision**

To approve the annual investment strategy set out in appendix 1 of the report by the Treasurer.

(Reference – report by the Treasurer, submitted)

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## 7 Future Meeting Arrangements June 2017 to June 2018

### Decision

- 1) To approve the schedule of meetings for the period to June 2017 as follows:

Monday 26 June 2017 (Unaudited Accounts)	10:00am	Edinburgh
Monday 4 September 2017	10:00am	Edinburgh
Monday 13 November 2017	10:00am	Edinburgh
Monday 5 February 2018 (Revenue Budget)	10:00am	Edinburgh
Monday 16 April 2018	10:00am	Edinburgh
Monday 25 June 2018 (Unaudited Accounts)	10:00am	Edinburgh

- 2) To agree that the meeting dates be notified to Chief Executives of all constituent authorities represented on the Board.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive and Clerk, submitted)