

Lothian Valuation Joint Board

7 February 2022

Meeting held virtually by Teams

Present:

City of Edinburgh Council – Councillors Key (Convener), Booth, Doggart, Doran, Gloyer, Henderson, Rust and Work.

East Lothian Council – Councillor Findlay.

Midlothian Council – Councillor Munro.

West Lothian Council – Councillors McGuire (Vice-Convener), Dodds and Doran-Timson.

1 Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Lothian Valuation Joint Board of 27 October 2021 as a correct record.

2 Assessor's Progress Report to the Lothian Valuation Joint Board

A progress report by the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer was presented to the Board. It provided information on the overview of current service delivery, priorities, risks and future direction.

It was highlighted that the majority of staff remained working at home, however a staff had been allowed to return to the office since 1 February on a limited basis with a rota system and mitigations in place.

Decision

To note the report.

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

3 Council Tax Valuation Process Internal Audit Review

An internal audit report was presented which assessed the adequacy of design and operating effectiveness of controls established by LVJB relating to the Council Tax Valuation process. The report concluded an overall amber rating.

Decision

To note the report.

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(Reference – report by the Head of Governance, submitted)

4 Revenue Budget 2022/23 and Indicative Financial Plan 2023/24 - 2026/27

Information was provided on the revenue budget which had been developed for 2022/23, including a recommendation to approve a 'flat-cash' council requisition for 2022/23 and requisition to meet additional costs for Non-Domestic Rates Reform in 2022/23 in line with funding of £0.374m allocated in the Local Government Finance Settlement.

Details were also provided on the indicative financial planning estimates for 2023/24 to 2026/27. These would be subject to ongoing review and development as the Transformation Programme progressed.

Decision

- 1) To approve the proposed core budget for 2022/23 and the issue of 'flat-cash' core budget requisition requests from the Treasurer to constituent councils as detailed at paragraph 4.19 of the report.
- 2) To approve requisition of funding of £0.374m included in the Local Government Finance Settlement to implement the recommendations of the Non-Domestic Rates Review.
- 3) To note the indicative financial planning estimates for the period 2023/24 to 2026/27 included at Appendix 1 to the report.
- 4) To note the indicative financial planning estimates for 2023/24 to 2026/27 would be the subject of further updates to the Board during 2022/23 and beyond.

(Reference – report by the Treasurer, submitted)

5 Period 8 Financial Statement 2021/22

The Period 8 Financial Statement for the financial year 2021/22 was submitted. Net expenditure was forecast to be £175,000 less than the approved revenue budget of the Board, based on the position at 30 November 2021.

Decision

- 1) To note the projected outturn position for 2021/22.
- 2) To note the final outturn would be reported to the Board, when the Annual Accounts were reported to the Board during 2022.

(Reference – report by the Treasurer, submitted)

6 Annual Treasury Management Strategy

Approval was sought of the Annual Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23. The Strategy was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

Decision

To approve the Annual Treasury Management Strategy attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

(Reference – report by the Treasurer, submitted)

7 Membership Update

A report provided an update on the membership of the Board.

Decision

To note the City of Edinburgh Council had appointed Councillor Booth as a member of the Joint Board.

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