

## **INTERIM ASSESSOR'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE LOTHIAN VALUATION JOINT BOARD**

24<sup>th</sup> October 2022

### **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To provide members with an overview of current service delivery, priorities, risks and future direction.
- 1.2 Staff continue to work on a hybrid approach, part home based, part office based. The implementation of the Board's Hybrid Working Policy has started and will be carried out over the coming months.

### **2.0 ELECTORAL REGISTRATION – MAINTENANCE**

- 2.1 Since the last progress report to the Board on the 5th September 2022 all maintenance tasks supporting the registration process have continued.
- 2.2 Key processing volumes reflecting the period 1st July to 6th October inclusive are shown below.

	Edinburgh	Midlothian	West Lothian	East Lothian	Totals
Additions	17,164	2,042	3,716	2,217	25,139
Deletions	29,111	3,114	5,978	3,593	41,796
Amendments	699	129	215	114	1,157

### **3.0 ELECTORAL REGISTRATION – HOUSEHOLD CANVASS 2022**

- 3.1 The annual household canvass continues. With the updated register due to be published on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

### Canvass 2022 Stats

2022

Total Properties in Route 1	331,279
Total Properties in Route 2	104,275
Total Properties in Route 3	17,911
Total number of properties	451,933

Current returns rate	86.5%
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### Data Matching Stats

National Data Matching	58%
Data Matching Post-Local Data	73.80%

Electors Matched	76.40%
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Increase in properties since last year	5,515
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Response to e-Comms prior to CCA issue	44.90%
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### Tablet Canvass Stats

Properties visited	11,678
Percentage responded	89.26%
Unsolicited ITRs collected	642

## 3.2 Absent Voter Stats

### **City of Edinburgh Council**

Postal Voters	108341
Proxy Voters	1293
Postal Proxy Voters	267
<i>Total Absent Voters</i>	109901

### **East Lothian Council**

Postal Voters	24221
Proxy Voters	203
Postal Proxy Voters	19
<i>Total Absent Voters</i>	24443

### **Midlothian Council**

Postal Voters	19533
Proxy Voters	102
Postal Proxy Voters	20
<i>Total Absent Voters</i>	19655

### **West Lothian Council**

Postal Voters	33499
Proxy Voters	180
Postal Proxy Voters	20
<i>Total Absent Voters</i>	33699

## **4.0 ELECTORAL LEGISLATION – ELECTIONS**

4.1 There is a by-election due to be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> December in Ward 2 West Lothian.

## **5.0 ELECTORAL REGISTRATION ENGAGEMENT**

5.1 The Board continues to engage with unregistered electors. The previous Assessor's report of 5<sup>th</sup> September goes into some detail about our current activities.

## **6.0 VALUATION ROLL – MAINTENANCE**

6.1 For the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 838 changes have been made to the valuation roll with respect to running roll activities. These changes comprised 208 amendments to existing entries, 346 deletions and 284 inserts with an additional 1,720 name changes.

	Edinburgh	Midlothian	W. Lothian	E. Lothian	Total
Inserts	198	24	39	23	284
Deletions	245	17	55	29	346
Amendments	128	24	32	16	208

## **7.0 VALUATION ROLL – APPEALS**

7.1 As previously reported LVJB have c.17,000 outstanding appeals that have been lodged on the basis of Covid 19. The disposal date for these appeals is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

7.2 Since the last Board report in September 701 Covid appeals have been withdrawn by either the appellant or their agent. I would anticipate, though cannot guarantee, that more withdrawals will follow in due course.

7.3 The valuation of all non-domestic subjects for the 2023 Revaluation is ongoing. Despite major legislative change progress is good to date and we are course to issue draft valuation notices by the 30<sup>th</sup> November to all non-domestic properties.

## 8.0 COUNCIL TAX – MAINTENANCE

8.1 Over the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 3,230 new houses have been added to the list.

The breakdown in bands for new housing is shown below for the period 01/04/22 to 10/10/22.

<b>Band</b>	<b>Edinburgh</b>	<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>West Lothian</b>	<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>Total</b>
A	31	8	2	3	<b>44</b>
B	170	6	46	21	<b>243</b>
C	300	13	97	31	<b>441</b>
D	354	33	99	91	<b>577</b>
E	432	93	84	125	<b>734</b>
F	221	151	121	143	<b>636</b>
G	241	83	78	101	<b>503</b>
H	44	2	2	4	<b>52</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,793</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>3,230</b>

8.2 There are currently c.250 outstanding Council Tax appeals. A number of appeals have been cited for hearing before the Local Valuation Appeal Committee in November.

## 9.0 Governance Strategy Group

9.1 The Governance Strategy Group has yet to meet following the appointment of the new Board members after the recent Local Government Elections. I intend to arrange a meeting in the near future to recommence these sessions as they provide an excellent platform for more detailed discussions on a range of topics affecting the organisation.

## 10.0 Annual Accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

10.1 I note the content of the Annual Accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Prior to his retiral the previous Assessor provided me with a letter to confirm that he was satisfied with their content. That being the case, I am prepared to sign off the accounts on behalf of the Board.

## **11.0 RECOMMENDATION**

13.1 The Board is asked to note the content of this report.

## **INTERIM ASSESSOR & ERO**