

## **DUNBARTONSHIRE AND ARGYLL AND BUTE VALUATION JOINT BOARD**

At a Special Meeting of the Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute Valuation Joint Board held in Committee Room 2, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Friday, 23 January 2004 at 11.00 a.m.

**Present:** Councillors Donald MacMillan, Robin Currie, Daniel Kelly and Donald McIntosh, Argyll & Bute Council; Provost Pat Steel\* and Councillor Margaret McNaughton, East Dunbartonshire Council; and Councillor Gail Casey, West Dunbartonshire Council.

\* Arrived later in meeting.

**Attending:** Duncan Wilson, Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer; Gerry McInerney, Head of Personnel; David Connell, Manager of Accounting; and Craig Stewart, Administrative Assistant.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Sidney MacDougall, Argyll & Bute Council; Councillors Rhondda Geekie and Vaughan Moody, East Dunbartonshire Council; Councillors Geoff Calvert, Jackie Maceira and Marie McNair, West Dunbartonshire Council.

**Councillor Donald MacMillan in the Chair**

### **CONVENER'S REMARKS**

Before commencing with the business of the meeting, the Convener, Councillor MacMillan, took the opportunity to thank Mr. Wilson for all his hard work as Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer over the years.

### **ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE RETURN OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TO CONVENTIONAL RATING**

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Valuation Joint Board held on 12 December 2003, a report was resubmitted by the Head of Personnel, West Dunbartonshire Council asking the Board to agree to expenditure from the sum of £50,000 received from the Scottish Executive in recognition of the new burden of additional duties and responsibilities connected with Public Utilities.

In this connection there was submitted, for information, Excerpt from the Minute of the Meeting of the Valuation Joint Board held on 12 December 2003 and further report by the Head of Personnel, West Dunbartonshire Council providing additional information as requested by the Board.

Having heard the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer in elaboration of the additional duties and responsibilities given to Assessors in terms of Public Utilities, Members considered the terms of the further report on the matter. After hearing the Convener, it was agreed that the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer would leave the meeting during consideration of this item.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Personnel in answer to Members' questions, the Convener, seconded by Councillor McIntosh, moved approval of recommendations 5.1.1, 5.1.2 and 5.1.3 of the Head of Personnel's report:-

- (1) the retrospective application of a responsibility payment to the Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer based on the difference between current earnings (£75,819) and Chief Officials SCP45 £80,115 with effect from 1 April 2003;
- (2) the retrospective application of a responsibility payment to the 2 Depute Assessors based on the difference between current earnings (£56,864) and Chief Officials SCP31, £60,054 with effect from 1 April 2003; and
- (3) that these responsibility payments would be initially for a period of 12 months subject to review in the light of future funding.

As an amendment, Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor McNaughton, moved:-

That the Joint Board takes no action in respect of recommendations 5.1.1, 5.1.2 and 5.1.3 of the report and that the expenditure involved be instead used for the recruitment of other staff.

On a vote being taken, two Members voted for the amendment and four Members voted for the motion. The motion was accordingly declared carried.

**NOTE:** As Provost Steel entered the meeting during the early part of the discussion on this item, she took no part in the decision thereon.

#### **POST OF ASSESSOR & ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER – MEMBERSHIP OF RECRUITMENT PANEL**

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Valuation Joint Board held on 12 December 2003 the Board was reminded that it had been agreed that the Recruitment Panel which was established in connection with the post of Assessor & Electoral

Registration Officer would consist of 5 members of the Valuation Joint Board, including the Convener and Depute Convener and one other member from each of the constituent Councils, with 3 members being required for a quorum.

It was noted that following the meeting of the Joint Board held on 12 December 2003, Argyll & Bute Council had nominated Councillor Donald McIntosh to serve on the Recruitment Panel. It was also noted that Provost Pat Steel, East Dunbartonshire Council and Councillor Gail Casey, West Dunbartonshire Council would serve on the Recruitment Panel.

The meeting closed at 11.45 a.m.