

DUNBARTONSHIRE AND ARGYLL & BUTE VALUATION JOINT BOARD

At a Hybrid Meeting of the Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute Valuation Joint Board held in the Denny Meeting Room, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton and using MS Teams on Friday, 3 November 2023 at 11.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Graham Archibald Hardie and Peter Wallace (Argyll & Bute Council); Councillors Vaughan Moody and Jim Gibbons (East Dunbartonshire Council); and Councillors Lawrence O'Neill and Jonathan McColl (West Dunbartonshire Council).

Attending: Russell Hewton, Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer (ERO); Darryl Rae, Depute Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer (ERO); Laurence Slavin, Treasurer; Janine Corr, Accountant; Rosemary Nelson, Principal Administration Officer – VJB and Lynn Straker, Committee Officer, West Dunbartonshire Council.

Also Attending: Tom Reid, Audit Director – Mazars.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Stewart MacDonald and Calum Smith (East Dunbartonshire Council), Councillor Paul Donald Kennedy (Argyll & Bute Council) and Councillors Karen Murray Conaghan and Gurpreet Singh Johal (West Dunbartonshire Council)

Councillor Vaughan Moody in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Valuation Joint Board held on 23 June 2023 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2023 (PERIOD 6)

A report was submitted by the Treasurer advising Members on the progress of the revenue budget and the capital programme for 2023/24.

Having heard the Accountant in further explanation of the report, the Joint Board agreed:-

- (1) to note that it was anticipated that £0.244m of revenue reserves would be required to be used in-year to balance the revenue account;
- (2) to note the virements as explained at 3.5 and 3.6;
- (3) to approve the payment of the ill health liability insurance cost of £50,546, in accordance with the financial regulations, as explained at 3.7; and
- (4) to note the projected capital re-profiling of spend and earmarked resource of £0.047m, to be carried forward into 2024/25 to fund the completion of the existing capital projects.

ASSESSORS SERVICE UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Depute Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer advising Members of the General Background of Non-Domestic Rating and Council Tax and detailing progress, forthcoming priorities and next steps.

Having heard the Depute Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer in further explanation of the report, the Joint Board agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress and planning which is ongoing to effect reform brought about by the Non-Domestic Rating (Scotland) Act and the recommendations of the 'Barclay' Review including the transfer of the powers of the local Valuation Appeal Committees to the First Tier Tribunal of the Local Taxation Chamber of the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service;
- (2) to note the progress in relation to the general maintenance of the Valuation Roll and the disposal of both 'running roll' appeals and appeals that are before the Upper Tribunal;
- (3) to note the progress in relation to the general maintenance of the Council Tax List, including the disposal of Council Tax proposals and appeals; and
- (4) to note the progress being made in relation to forthcoming priorities and next steps.

ELECTORAL REGISTRATION SERVICE UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Principal Administration Officer providing members of the Joint Board with an update on the current position in relation to Electoral Registration.

Having heard the Principal Administration Officer in further explanation of the report, the Joint Board agreed to note the content of the report.

WORKFORCE PLANNING – UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer advising Members of an update to the 2023/24 Workforce Plan which was approved at a meeting of the Valuation Joint Board on 3 March 2023 and to seek Members' approval of the updated Workforce Plan for 2023/24.

Having heard the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer in further explanation of the report, the Joint Board agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress in relation to implementing the 2023/24 Workforce Plan; and
- (2) to note the completion of the audit action to include target dates against actions in the Workforce Plan.

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY REPORT

A report was submitted by the Depute Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer seeking members approval of The Public Sector Equality Duty Report and the approval of the Equality Outcomes contained within the report.

Having heard the Depute Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer in further explanation of the report, the Joint Board agreed to note the Public Sector Equality Duty Report.

NEXT MEETING OF VALUATION JOINT BOARD

Members noted that the next meeting of the Valuation Joint Board would be a Hybrid Meeting on Friday, 22 March 2024 in the Tom Johnston Chamber, Southbank Marina, 8 Strathkelvin Place, Kirkintilloch G66 1XT.

The meeting closed at 11.15 a.m.