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Public Performance Report 2017/18

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Background

The Assessor for Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute is an independent statutory official who is responsible for the preparation and the maintenance of the Valuation Rolls and Council Tax Valuation Lists for East and West Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute. The Assessor has also been appointed as the Electoral Registration Officer for these three areas and he is therefore required to prepare and maintain their Registers of Electors. The Assessor's service is conducted from two main offices located at the addresses above.

You can contact us by e-mail at assessor@dab-vjb.gov.uk

General Information

During the year to 31st March 2018, the Assessor had a full-time equivalent staff of 50.2 and a staffing budget of £2.18m. A total of 257 days (2.3%) were lost through illness, a substantial decrease on the 506 days lost in 2016/17.

Council Tax List

The Council Tax List contains all domestic properties showing an allocated Council Tax band which is based on the market value of the property as at 1991. The bands shown are used by the local authorities within the Joint Board's boundaries for the production of domestic Council Tax bills. As at 31st March, 2018, the Council Tax Lists for Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute contained 144,773 subjects. Of the 832 houses added to the List between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018, the time between the date of occupation/completion and the issue of the banding notice is shown in the following table. Performance was ahead of our 3 month target and in line with our 6 month target.

The targets which we have set for 2018/19 are 96% within 3 months and 98% within 6 months.

Year	Number	Within 3 Months		Within 6 Months	
		Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
2017/18	832	95%	96%	98%	98%
2016/17	932	95%	96%	98%	99%
2015/16	1077	95%	94%	98%	99%
2014/15	1269	95%	97%	98%	99%
2013/14	1074	95%	95%	98%	98%
2012/13	1110	93%	96%	98%	99%
2011/12	988	92%	96%	98%	98.6%
2010/11	989	93%	90%	97%	98%

Valuation Roll

The Valuation Roll contains the rateable values of all non-domestic properties within the area. The rateable values shown are used by the Joint Board's constituent local authorities for the production of non-domestic rates bills.

As at 31st March 2018 the Valuation Rolls for Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute contained 14,581 subjects with a total rateable value of £372.69 million. Of the 989 amendments made to the Valuation Roll between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018, the performance reflecting time between the effective date of the alteration and the issue of the Valuation Notice is shown in the following table, along with previous years' data. The performance was ahead of the 3 months target but marginally behind the 6 month target.

The targets we have set for 2018/19 are 85% within 3 months and 94% within 6 months.

Year	Number	Within 3 Months		Within 6 Months	
		Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
2017/18	989	83%	85%	95%	94%
2016/17	848	83%	74%	95%	84%
2015/16	969	80%	81.9%	94%	95.4%
2014/15	950	80%	82%	94%	91%
2013/14	892	80%	78.4%	94%	90.5%
2012/13	1369	80%	78%	92%	91%
2011/12	930	80%	77.8%	92%	90.4%
2010/11	964	80%	79%	90%	91%

In addition to the 989 amendments shown above over 800 new entries were made as a consequence of Part 6 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 removing the exemption from the Valuation Roll for Shooting Rights that had existed for many years.

Electoral Registration

The Electoral Registers list the name and addresses of everyone who is registered to vote.

2017/18 saw us undertaking our role in assisting to deliver two major electoral events, The Scottish Local Government Election along with the 'snap' UK General Election.

The total electorate figure at publication of the Electoral Register was up on the total at publication in December 2017 as follows:-

Year	Electorate at Publication
2017	222,507
2016	221,078
2015	218,668
2014/15	223,594
2013/14	221,453
2012	219,117

Rolling Registration is the process of dealing with applications for changes to the register which are not part of the canvass project. During 17/18 there were 11,139 additions to the register and 8,208 deletions from the register. IER requires a pro-active approach to change throughout the year and we have continued use a variety of sources of information to initiate the issue of Invitations to Register.

Other Items of Note

During the year we also:

- Conducted a further Customer Satisfaction Survey, with 99% of the returns indicating that our staff were found to be professional, courteous and helpful, and 96% of the users of the Valuation Joint Board's services expressing their satisfaction with the information and/or advice given.
- Undertook preparatory work for the introduction of the changes to Data Protection Legislation scheduled for May 2018
- Prepared a Financial Strategy covering a ten year period.
- Continued to provide information to the Assessors Portal (www.saa.gov.uk). This website provides an on-line search facility for Valuation Roll and Council Tax entries throughout Scotland and provides for the on-line submission of Valuation Roll appeals and Council Tax banding proposals. It also provides a mapping tool for identifying the location of entries. For the 2017 Revaluation entries for most shops, offices and industrial subjects have summarised valuations available online. The Automated Appeals Logging System which allows for the receipt and acknowledgement of Revaluation continues to operate successfully.
- Disposed of 582 2017 Revaluation Appeals with the vast majority (72%) withdrawn without any adjustment to the issued valuation.

A copy of the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer's Annual Report is available on request from either office and also online at www.saa.gov.uk/dab-vjb/best-value/annual-report-financial-statement



Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute
Valuation Joint Board