

Highland and Western Isles Valuation Joint Board

Minutes of Meeting of the Highland and Western Isles Valuation Joint Board held remotely on Monday, 7 March, 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

Present:

Representing The Highland Council:

Mr L Fraser
Mr A Graham
Mr D Mackay
Mrs M Paterson

Representing Comhairle nan Eilean Siar:

Mr J Mackay

In attendance:

Mr W Gillies, Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer
Ms M Thomson, Office & Support Manager, Assessor & Electoral Registration Service
Mrs M Grigor, Finance Manager, Treasurer's Office
Ms L Harrison, Accountant, Treasurer's Office
Mr A MacInnes, Administrative Assistant, Clerk's Office

Mr L Fraser in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies Leisgeulan

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr A Mackinnon and Mr A MacLeod.

2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Proposed Revenue Budget 2022/25 Buidseat Teachd-a-Steach 2022/25

There was circulated Report No. VAL/10/22 by the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer which set out for approval a proposed revenue budget for financial years 2022/25.

The proposed budget represented an increase of 4.3% in funding from the constituent councils net of the additional "Barclay Funding" and a 5.4% increase overall. The proposed budget made reasonable provision for the Assessor to carry out his statutory duties in the current year and taken together with additional funding from the Scottish Government it should continue to allow preparation for three yearly revaluations and other Barclay reforms. However, there remained a risk that the level of service would be compromised if the staff recruitment issues were not addressed.

In response to a query, it was advised that the proposed budget for other administration costs did include £50k per annum for the 3 years covered by the budget, for paper file

digitisation to facilitate office rationalisation, hybrid working and compliance with The Data Protection Act 2018 and the Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011. There was also additional annual canvass costs of £45k in this budget heading.

It was noted that the Board had a reserve of £167k as at 31 March, 2021. The proposed budget recommended that £14k of this fund can be used to partly finance transitional or one off costs in 2022/23.

The Board **APPROVED** the proposed budget.

4. Service Plan 2022-2025

There was re-circulated Report No VAL/5/22 by the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) which presented detailed information on the work the Assessor and ERO undertakes and operational challenges faced by the Board.

Following consideration, the Board **NOTED** the Service Plan 2022-2025.

The meeting ended at 2.20 p.m.