



## Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

To: Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

On: 23 November 2018

Report  
by  
Clerk

### **Attendance at Joint Board Meetings and Appointment of Depute Convener**

#### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Joint Board held on 17 August 2018 members considered a report relative to the non-attendance of Councillor Angela Convery and Councillor Danny Devlin, both East Renfrewshire Council, at meetings of the Joint Board.
- 1.2 The Joint Board decided that this matter be referred to East Renfrewshire Council to clarify the position of both councillors and to consider representation on the Joint Board.
- 1.3 East Renfrewshire Council has advised that discussions have taken place with both members in relation to this matter and it has been impressed on both the importance of fulfilling their role on the Joint Board. Both members have recognised this and have given assurances that they will make every effort to attend meetings in future.
- 1.4 East Renfrewshire Council has also advised, in writing, that all other elected members of their Council can act as a substitute member for the four appointed members on the Joint Board. Councillors Convery and Devlin have been advised of the option of identifying someone to substitute for them at meetings if they are unable to attend.
- 1.5 East Renfrewshire Council has confirmed that Councillors Convery and Devlin will continue to represent the Council on the Joint Board. However, whilst continuing as a representative, Councillor Devlin feels he is unable to give the role of Depute Convener the amount of time it deserves and accordingly has tendered his resignation from the post.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That it be noted that Councillors Convery and Devlin will continue to represent East Renfrewshire Council on the Joint Board;

- 2.2 That it be noted that Councillor Devlin had tendered his resignation from the post of Depute Convener of the Joint Board;
- 2.3 That consideration be given to the appointment of a Depute Convener from amongst the members from East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Councils; and
- 2.4 That it be noted that the remuneration costs for the position of the newly appointed Depute Convener, if required, shall be met by the local authority at which the position holder is an elected member.

### **3. Attendance at Joint Board Meetings**

- 3.1 The Joint Board's procedural standing orders state:
  - 10 If a member does not go to any meetings of the board for 12 months, the clerk must tell the board (unless the board has given the member permission not to attend). If the board is not satisfied about why the member has failed to attend, it will tell that member's constituent authority so that they can consider ending the appointment of that member and appointing a replacement member.
- 3.2 Councillor Angela Convery and Councillor Danny Devlin, both East Renfrewshire Council, last attended a meeting of the Renfrewshire Valuation Joint on 30 June 2017. Both councillors had advised that this had been due to work commitments. This matter was considered at the meeting of the Joint Board held on 17 August 2018.

### **4 Depute Convener**

- 4.1 The Valuation Joint Boards (Scotland) Order 1995 states:

Conveners and depute conveners

3.1 (1) Each board shall appoint from its membership a convener and depute convener, but the convener and depute convener shall not, at any time, be members of the same constituent authority.
- 4.2 Councillor Audrey Doig, Renfrewshire Council, is Convener of the Joint Board therefore only members from East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Councils can be considered for the post of Depute Convener of the Joint Board.
- 4.3 At the meeting of the Joint Board held on 1 June 2018, the Joint Board considered a report by the Clerk and Treasurer relative to remuneration of elected members who are appointed Conveners and Vice-conveners of Joint Boards. The report advised that the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007 introduced a system of remuneration for elected members, including the Convener and Vice-conveners of Joint Boards.

- 4.4 Since 2007, various amendment regulations had the effect of amending the yearly remuneration to be paid to elected members, including those elected members who were Conveners or Vice-Conveners of Joint Boards. The most recent amendment regulations had been laid before the Scottish Parliament on 8 February 2018 and came into effect on 1 April 2018. These amendment regulations, The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2018, stipulated changes to the remuneration rates payable to elected members. The change implemented by the 2018 amendment regulations was an increase of 0.4% in the yearly remuneration from 1 April 2018.
- 4.5 The 2018 amendment regulations also stipulated that the Vice-convener of a Joint Board shall be paid, from 1 April 2018, a total yearly amount of £20,183 inclusive of any amount payable to them as a local authority councillor under the 2007 Regulations. The Regulations state that “remuneration shall be paid by the local authority of which the Convener or Vice-convener (as the case may be) is a member to one Convener and one Vice-convener for each Joint Board”, and so the remuneration cost for the newly appointed Depute Convener of the Joint Board shall be met in full by the local authority at which the position holder was an elected member.
- 4.6 If the newly appointed Depute Convener is a senior councillor, any difference between the yearly remuneration as Depute Convener, £20,183 from 1 April 2018, and what the yearly remuneration would otherwise ordinarily be as a senior councillor shall be met by the local authority at which the position holder is an elected member.