



Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

Report to: Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

Meeting on: 22nd November 2019

Subject: Barclay Review - Update

Author: Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer

1. Background

It was agreed that the Board should be updated at each meeting on developments and expenditure arising from the Barclay Review.

The Non Domestic Rating (Scotland) Bill, if it passes final scrutiny, will be partially implemented in April 2020, with full implementation to follow thereafter.

There are six main Barclay recommendations which are reflected in this bill, these are listed below;

- i. The change of the revaluation cycle from 5 yearly to 3 yearly
- ii. New property markers to be shown against properties in the Valuation Roll
- iii. Changes to valuation of properties within a Park
- iv. From the 2022 Revaluation going forward access will be given to a list of comparative subjects used to value a particular entry in the Valuation Roll
- v. The existing Appeals system to be changed to a two stage appeal system
- vi. Information Gathering powers to be strengthened with the possibility of Assessors issuing Civil Penalties to those who do not respond.

The cumulative effect of all these changes results in the necessity to recruit more staff and to develop and upgrade existing IT systems into a fit for purpose future proofed alternative. These both require funding, and this has been made available by the Scottish Government with a commitment to sustain funding to 2025, at which time the bulk of the changes will be affected and in force. At this time, it is not known what arrangements past 2025 will be in place.

The Scottish Assessor's Association (SAA) has regular contact with the Scottish Government and is feeding into consultations and committees as appropriate to ensure a consistent approach. Assessors will continue working jointly to ensure delivery of all these new duties and will also support work to enhance the SAA Portal in providing ratepayers and their agents with more information in line with the duties outlined above.

2. Recruitment

Following on from the report in August to the Board I can report we have advertised for a Property Assistant to help with the delivery of the new requirements following the Barclay recommendations. We also advertised for two qualified surveyors to replace the loss of two members of staff both of which had years of experience with our department but unfortunately received no suitable applications. This highlights an ongoing issue across Assessor's offices in Scotland regarding the ability to recruit and maintain qualified valuers.

3. IT Valuation System

Work is ongoing with other Assessors' offices in designing and procuring a new IT Valuation system. The timetable for delivery of this system is expected to be 9 months from now.

4. Internal Barclay Project Group

Given the changes to current working practices which will be required to deliver these recommendations an internal working group has been established. This group will now be able to begin meeting on a regular basis given that there is some certainty emerging on the direction the new legislation is taking. The group's first task will be to devise a project plan for the delivery of the Barclay recommendations and going forward to evaluate progress and suggest solutions to ensure timely delivery of these changes.

5. Recommendations

- i. The Board note the contents of the report.

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7th Nov 2019

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