



REPORT TO: Grampian Valuation Joint Board on 16 November 2018

SUBJECT: IRRV Scottish Conference

BY: The Assessor & ERO

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 To advise the Board of attendance at the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation's Scottish conference.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **The Board note the content of this report.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The IRRV is the largest UK based professional body operating in the field of local government revenues, rating and valuation. It holds an annual conference in Scotland, which has been attended by the Assessor and Valuation Joint Board members since 1995. The Assessor is professionally qualified as a corporate member of the Institute.
- 3.2 Councillor Topping, the Assessor, a Depute and an Assistant Assessor attended the conference.

4. The 2018 Conference

- 4.1 The 2018 conference provided a total of 25 sessions focussing on a wide range of subjects relevant to valuation for local taxation, revenues, benefits, universal credit and shared service delivery models.

- 4.2 Kate Forbes MSP had been appointed as Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy on 27 June 2018 and gave the keynote speech that focussed on the Government's position regarding Universal Credit and NDR reform. In relation to NDR reform the Minister focussed on measures to improving the quality of information available to stakeholders online. The rights of stakeholders were in her view to be balanced by the responsibilities to engage in the process and she highlighted the challenge of a system that at present is faced with a culture of appealing despite the fact that the majority of appeals are withdrawn without adjustment albeit at significant cost to the public purse in terms of Assessor resources.
- 4.3 The remaining 24 sessions available to attendees covered a wide range of lands valuation assessment and local government finance-related topics. Sessions that were directly relevant to the valuation service included the impact of Brexit, future property markets, valuation appeal panels and the Tribunals Service, technical innovations for valuers, plant & machinery assessment, harmonisation with other UK and Ireland jurisdictions, recent court decisions, and the Government's plans for reform.
- 4.4 The sessions provided a valuable insight into the challenges of property taxation, innovation and responses to the desire for more frequent revaluations.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Attendance at this conference provided representatives of the organisation with access to innovators and practitioners from other jurisdictions, Scottish Government officials and the Minister for Public Finance. The sessions were very informative and extremely valuable in terms of professional development.

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