



REPORT TO: Grampian Valuation Joint Board on 29 June 2018

SUBJECT: IRRV Scottish Conference 2018

BY: The Assessor & ERO

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 To advise the Board in relation to the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV) Annual Scottish Conference and to seek approval for representation at the conference.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **The Board consider attendance at the conference.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Board has supported the Scottish annual conference that addresses local taxation issues, focussing on valuation, revenues and benefits along with the performance and service improvement agendas.
- 3.2 Attendance normally extends to the Convenor, Depute Convenor and Assessor (or substitutes) and a free delegate place allocated to a member of the surveying staff. In addition, four other surveying staff usually attend the technical sessions as half-day delegates.
- 3.3 The conference sessions have proven to be a valuable source of professional development training for the Board's surveying staff who are members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).
- 3.4 In line with other professional bodies, and in accordance with the terms of the Institution's Royal charter, the RICS requires its qualified members to complete 20 hours of professional development training per year. Trainee members must complete 48 hours of professional development training each year.

4.0 Current Position

- 4.1 The draft conference programme is provided as an appendix to this report and includes a number of sessions that will be particularly relevant for Board members, qualified and trainee personnel. The keynote address is set to be provided by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution and it is anticipated that a number of sessions will focus on the reforms recommended by the Barclay Review Group that government has committed to implement.
- 4.2 The delegate fees are £468 with the fourth place provided free of charge. The half-day technical sessions are available at £150 where at least two full delegates attend the conference.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 The conference provides an excellent opportunity for the Board towards meeting its professional development and training responsibilities. The fees are reasonable when compared to alternative training providers.
- 5.2 The Board is invited to consider attendance at the 2018 conference.

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