



---

**REPORT TO: GRAMPIAN VALUATION JOINT BOARD ON 5 NOVEMBER 2021**

**SUBJECT: FUTURE MEETINGS**

**BY: CLERK TO THE BOARD**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

1.1 To ask the Board to consider future arrangements for holding meetings of the Grampian Valuation Joint Board

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.1 The Board is asked to agree:**

- i) how meetings will be held in the future as per the options in section 4; and**
- ii) whether the Board wish to webcast meetings of the Board live using Moray Council's webcasting facility.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic all meetings of the Board were held in person. Twice a year in Woodhill House, Aberdeen and twice in Council Offices, Elgin as agreed at a meeting of the Board on 24 August 2018 (para 12 of the minute refers).

3.2 Following the lockdowns imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic the meetings moved to being held remotely using Moray Council's committee meeting system Connect Remote.

3.3 Seven meetings of the Board have now been held remotely using Connect Remote and have proven successful following some initial connection issues which were resolved with support from ICT and Member Support staff in both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils working with Committee Services staff from Moray Council.

**4. FUTURE OPTIONS**

4.1 The options proposed are:

- to continue the meetings online;
- to return to face to face meetings when restrictions allow;
- to have a mixture of face to face and online meetings.

### **Online Meetings**

- 4.2 Holding on-line meetings is saving members and officers time, in not having to travel to either Elgin or Aberdeen and in turn savings on travel and subsistence for each of the constituent Authorities. Should the Board wish to continue with on-line meetings, meetings could start earlier at 9.30am as the 10.30am start was to allow for Members and Officers to travel to the venue.

### **Face to Face Meetings**

- 4.3 Currently face to face meetings are not possible due to social distancing restrictions and it is unclear when this will be possible.

### **Mixture of Face to Face and Online Meetings**

- 4.4 Members may wish to consider, when restrictions allow, a combination of both formats.

### **Status Quo**

- 4.5 It is acknowledged that there is only 1 more meeting of the Board before the Local Government Elections in May 2022 and Members may wish to defer the decision to allow the new Board to make the decision and continue with on line meetings until then.

### **Webcasting**

- 4.6 Webcasting the meetings of the Board is something that the Board may wish to consider.
- 4.7 Moray Council has recently purchased a new version of the Connect Remote meeting system which will allow hybrid meetings to take place, this means that some participants can physically be in the Chamber in Elgin and some attending at other locations using the Connect Remote system and the meeting can still be webcast live.
- 4.8 It is anticipated that the new system will not be available until early next year. The order has been placed, however there is an 8 – 10 week lead in period for supply and installation of the new equipment.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Board is asked to consider how it wishes to meet in the future.**

Author of Report: Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer  
 Background Papers:  
 Ref: