

Item: 5

Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board: 26 November 2020.

Governance Review.

Report by Chief Executive, Orkney Islands Council.

1. Purpose of Report

To provide an update on progress with arrangements for the review of the governance arrangements for the Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board.

2. Recommendations

The Board is invited to note:

2.1.

That, on 5 November 2020, the Board considered an update on progress with the Action Plan arising from the Annual Audit Report on the 2019/20 Audit.

2.2.

That one of the recommendations for improvement contained in the Action Plan is that the Board should engage an independent review of its governance framework and the effectiveness of governance within the organisation.

2.3.

That the Improvement Service has confirmed that they are in a position to carry out the review referred to above with immediate effect.

2.4.

The proposed scope of the review as detailed in section 4.2 of this report.

It is recommended:

2.5.

That the scope of the review of governance arrangements for the Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board, as detailed in section 4.2 of this report, be approved.

3. Background

3.1.

On 5 November 2020, the Board considered the update on progress with the Action Plan arising from the Annual Audit Report on the 2019/20 Audit.

3.2.

One of the recommendations for improvement contained in the action plan is that the Board should engage an independent review of its governance framework and the effectiveness of governance within the organisation.

3.3.

The joint leads for this action are the Chief Executives of Orkney Islands Council and Shetland Islands Council and the target date is 31 March 2021.

4. Review of Governance Arrangements

4.1.

The Chief Executive of Orkney Islands Council has contacted the Improvement Service in respect of undertaking the governance review. The Improvement Service has confirmed that they are in a position to carry out this review with immediate effect.

4.2.

It is proposed that the scope of the review should include:

- Review of current governance framework and associated documentation.
- Benchmarking of good practice with other Valuation Joint Boards.
- Engagement with individual Board Members and Officers of the Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board.
- Facilitated joint session with Board Members and Officers of the Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board.
- Report with recommendations for the Board.
- Facilitation to implement training of Board Members and relevant officers on governing documents and good practice.

5. Financial Implications

The Improvement Service can undertake this work as part of the resourced ongoing Council engagement and therefore there will be no cost to the Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board. There may however be a relatively small charge for the training for Board Members.

6. Legal Aspects

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

7. Contact Officers

John W Mundell, Interim Chief Executive, Email john.mundell@orkney.gov.uk.

Maggie Sandison, Chief Executive, Shetlands Islands Council, Email maggie.sandison@orkney.gov.uk.