



AGENDA ITEM 4

VALUATION JOINT BOARD FOR CENTRAL SCOTLAND

Subject: Assessor's Publication Scheme
Meeting: Central Scotland Valuation Joint Board
Date: 4th September, 2009
Author: Ian Ballance, Depute Assessor

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 obliges "Scottish Public Authorities" to publish and maintain Publication Schemes. Both the Assessor and the Valuation Joint Board are named separately in Schedule 1 of the Act and thus both must satisfy this obligation.

2.0 Publication Scheme

- 2.1 A Publication Scheme is a guide to what information a public authority publishes or intends to publish, if there is a charge (and if so what that charge is) and the format and detail of such information. The Publication Scheme must be approved by the Scottish Information Commissioner and must be published by the authority but it may do so in such manner as it thinks fit.
- 2.2 The Scottish Information Commissioner may approve a Model Publication Scheme for a public authority falling within particular classes. The Commissioner has approved a Model Publication Scheme for Assessors and for Valuation Joint Boards and these Schemes are based on the Models.
- 2.3 These revised Publication Schemes are effective from 30th June, 2009. They should be reviewed by the start of 2013 or if significant changes are proposed before that date. Any alterations must be approved by the Information Commissioner.

3.0 Publication Scheme for Central Scotland Valuation Joint Board

3.1 A copy of the new revised Scheme is attached to this Report.

4.0 Publication Scheme for Central Scotland Assessor

4.1 A copy of the new revised Scheme is attached to this Report.

5.0 General

5.1 It can be seen that the Publication Schemes are similar except that the Assessor's Scheme is expanded to cover the information which is substantially more extensive than that held by the Joint Board. The section covering information costs is also therefore larger.

5.2 A Publication Scheme allows members of the public to see what information will be made available and at what cost. One benefit of the Scheme is that there can be no arguments over what information is chargeable and what the charge will be.

6.0 Recommendation

I recommend that the Joint Board note that content of each Publication Scheme.

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Ian Ballance
Depute Assessor
Date: 11th August, 2009

APPENDICES

1.0 Central Scotland Valuation Joint Board Publication Scheme.

2.0 Central Scotland Assessor Publication Scheme.