

VJB29. Sharing of Software

The Board considered a report by the Assessor setting out a proposal to share in-house developed software with two other Valuation Boards. The arrangement would allow joint development in future and could result in a budget saving of £33-50k in staff costs. The Assessor had taken legal advice from the Board's external advisors and it had been confirmed that the Board could share costs but could not profit from any such arrangement. Mr Wildman set out the benefits to the Board in the proposal, together with potential risks. At this stage he sought authority to investigate further.

In response to a question the Assessor stated that if agreed it was likely that the number of programmers would increase from 2 to 3. However the costs would be shared between the 3 Boards. Mr Wildman confirmed that the intention was not to host data on behalf of the other, Boards. The arrangement would be restricted to sharing and developing software and the license for any software would be held by Central Scotland Valuation Joint Board. He confirmed that any deal would include governance protocols and as such could be bureaucratic but nonetheless worthwhile.

The Board discussed the proposal in detail and indicated agreement, in principle subject to further information on the outcome of discussion coming forward. Members suggested that similar arrangements should be encouraged to the Scottish government.

Decision

The Board agreed:-

- (1) in principal to the proposal and authorised the Assessor to investigate the feasibility of sharing software with other Joint Boards, and**
- (2) that a further report be submitted to the Board on this matter once investigations were completed.**