

## **VJB25. Programme of Meetings 2021**

The Board considered a report by the Clerk to the Board which proposed dates and arrangement for meetings in 2021.

The proposed dates for 2021 were as follows:-

Friday 26 February at 9.30 a.m. (budget setting) (this date may be subject to change depending on the Scottish Government's budget setting timetable)

Friday 25 June at 9.30 a.m.

Friday 24 September at 9.30 a.m.

Friday 19 November at 9.30 a.m.

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic the Board had met remotely and working from home remained the default position nationally. It was proposed that blended meetings could be introduced, as the default position, when the Scottish Government announced that the country was moving into Phase 4 of the Routemap out of Lockdown. Blended meetings would involve, initially, a small number of members being physically present in a meeting room with the remaining members and most officers attending remotely.

It was also proposed that the Board consider livestreaming its meetings and/or posting recordings online for public scrutiny.

The Board discussed the accessibility of virtual meetings and supported the proposal that meetings be livestreamed. Members however questioned whether the recordings should be hosted on the Falkirk Council website and suggested that it would be more appropriate for the Assessor to look into the possibility of establishing a dedicated website for the Board, from which the public could access livestreamed meetings and recordings of meetings. Members also sought clarity on the security of any recordings of Board meetings.

### **Decision**

#### **The Board:-**

- (i) approved the dates of Friday 26 February; Friday 25 June; Friday 24 September and Friday 19 November 2020 for ordinary meetings of the Board, noting that the budget setting date may be subject to change;**
- (ii) agreed that meetings would continue to be held remotely, with blended meetings being introduced from Phase 4 of the Routemap out of Lockdown;**
- (iii) agreed to livestream meetings and, in principle, to publish recordings of meetings subject to consideration of a further report on the potential to establish a dedicated Board website (including costs) together with information on the security of any recordings posted online; and**

- (iv) noted that special meetings may be convened as necessary outwith the planned timetable.