



## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EAST LOTHIAN INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

THURSDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2021  
VIA DIGITAL MEETINGS SYSTEM

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### **Voting Members Present:**

Mr P Murray (Chair)  
Councillor S Akhtar  
Councillor F O'Donnell  
Councillor N Gilbert  
Ms F Ireland  
Councillor S Kempson  
Dr R Williams

### **Non-voting Members Present:**

Mr D Binnie	Ms C Flanagan
Ms A MacDonald	Mr I Gorman
Ms M McNeill	Ms J Tait
Dr J Turvill	Mr P White

### **Officers Present from NHS Lothian/East Lothian Council:**

Ms L Berry	Mr P Currie
Ms C Goodwin	Ms L Kerr
Ms R Laskowski	Ms G Neil
Ms J Odgen-Smith	

### **Clerk:**

Ms F Currie

### **Apologies:**

Dr P Donald  
Mr T Miller  
Prof. E Reynish

### **Declarations of Interest:**

None

## 1. IJB BUDGET OFFERS FROM PARTNERS 2021/22

The Chief Finance Officer had submitted a report presenting the IJB with confirmation on the formal budget offers from East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian to the East Lothian IJB for 2021/22.

Claire Flanagan presented the report. She outlined the formal budget offers from both Partners highlighting where these included additional funding from the Scottish Government and any commitments attached to this funding, such as payment of the Living Wage and implementation of the Carers' Act. She advised members that in total this amounted to a budget offer of £165M for the IJB. However, this was unlikely to be sufficient to meet all of the pressures in the delegated services and local efficiency plans would be required to ensure that the IJB achieved a balanced financial position in 2021/22. In line with the integration scheme, she invited members to consider whether this amounted to a 'fair and adequate' offer.

Ms Flanagan responded to questions from members. In reply to a question from the Chair, she agreed that non-recurring funding for payment of the Living Wage was not helpful and posed a financial risk for future years. While she was confident that they had secured the second tranche of funding for the current year, further work was required to make this part of baseline funding going forward.

Richard Williams asked whether the offer could be considered adequate or fair if neither Partner was providing sufficient funding to meet pay uplifts in full but still expected the IJB to honour its commitment to payment of the Living Wage.

Ms Flanagan confirmed that there had been a 1.5% uplift in the NHS Lothian offer and negotiations remained ongoing regarding its staff pay deal as part of 'Agenda for Change'. Correspondence from the Scottish Government highlighted the potential for a further funding allocation once this deal had been finalised. However, the Council's offer did not include additional money to meet any pay uplift and the IJB would be expected to manage this locally. She pointed out that both offers were in line with national guidance and that they must be considered in the context of the significant financial constraints faced by both Partners. While they may not be seen as wholly adequate, on balance, she believed they were fair and she would recommend that the IJB accept these offers.

Councillor O'Donnell asked if all funding allocations from the Scottish Government, e.g. to cover the pay uplift, had been passed on to the IJB and whether the current balloting of staff on a proposed pay deal presented a risk to the IJB. She also asked when Integrated Impact Assessments (IIAs) would be carried out in relation to the budget offers.

Ms Flanagan advised that the Council's offer was a flat cash offer rolled over from previous years and did not include any additional money for pay. Extra funding from the Scottish Government was being passed on but it had commitments attached, such as payment of the living wage. She confirmed that IIAs would be carried out once the budget offer had been agreed and the IJB had allocated a financial resource to each of its Directions.

In response to a further question from Councillor O'Donnell, Ms Flanagan advised that she would continue to monitor progress with the local government settlement via national networks and any potential impact for the IJB.

Alison MacDonald said that a great amount of work had been done nationally and that the offers the IJB had received were in line with the national position. She added that

she and Ms Flanagan would continue to work and engage with the Partners regarding staff pay uplifts.

The Chair observed that it was a hugely challenging subject for lay people to get to grips with and to forecast future impacts or outcomes. Nevertheless, he was reassured that both Ms Flanagan and Ms MacDonald had, through a thorough assessment, brought the IJB to a position where it could agree the budget offer while acknowledging that there remained some unknowns.

The Chair thanked members for their contributions and emphasised the importance of recording their concerns.

The vote on the recommendations was taken by roll call:

Mr P Murray	Agreed
Councillor S Akhtar	Agreed
Councillor N Gilbert	Agreed
Ms F Ireland	Agreed
Councillor S Kempson	Agreed
Councillor F O'Donnell	Agreed
Dr R Williams	Agreed

### **Decision**

The IJB agreed to:

- (i) accept the final budget offer from East Lothian Council for 2021/22; and
- (iii) accept the final budget offer from NHS Lothian for 2021/22.

Signed .....

Mr Peter Murray  
Chair of the East Lothian Integration Joint Board