

East Lothian
Integration Joint Board



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
EAST LOTHIAN INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD**

**THURSDAY 24 MARCH 2022
VIA DIGITAL MEETINGS SYSTEM**

Voting Members Present:

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

Non-voting Members Present:

Ms M Allan	Mr D Binnie
Dr P Conaglen	Mr I Gorman
Mr D King	Ms A MacDonald
Dr C Mackintosh	Ms M McNeill

Officers Present from NHS Lothian/East Lothian Council:

Ms L Berry	Mr P Currie
Ms H Gray	Mr M Kennedy
Ms L Kerr	Ms R Miller

Clerk:

Ms F Currie

Apologies:

Dr P Donald
Councillor F O'Donnell
Ms L Cowan
Dr W Hale
Ms J Tait
Dr J Turvill

Declarations of Interest:

None

The IJB resolved to exclude the public from the discussion on Item 7.

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EAST LoTHIAN IJB ON 24 FEBRUARY 2022 (FOR APPROVAL)

The minutes of the meeting on 24th February 2022 were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 24 FEBRUARY

The following matters were raised:

Item 2 – Councillor Shamin Akhtar requested an update on progress with the vaccination roll-out (particularly for ages 5 - 11 years) and also the situation at Edington Hospital.

Alison MacDonald reported that the staffing situation at the East Lothian Community Hospital remained challenging. The unprecedented levels of sickness absence continued to impact service delivery across the county, including at the Edington Hospital. A report would be presented to the next 'Gold' meeting at the end of the month, with a further update to members thereafter. On the vaccine roll out, she informed members that the new vaccination centre at the Corn Exchange in Haddington was performing well, as were other vaccine facilities across the county, and 5 – 11 year olds were now able to receive their jabs. However, an 'anti-vac' protest outside the Corn Exchange last weekend had caused some concern for staff and the police had been called to the facility twice. That incident aside, the uptake of vaccinations across the county was on a par with the national average.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair and Laura Kerr updated members on recent progress with work to address health inequalities.

The Chair highlighted a report from the Common Wheel entitled 'Caring for All' which provided a perspective on the National Care Service (NCS). He said he would share a link to the report with members, for their information.

The Chair also updated members on the recent work of the IJB Chairs & Vice Chairs Group which would shortly be participating in a workshop on the NCS bill, community health & social care boards and collaborative commissioning. He said he would share further updates as this work progressed.

4. MEMBERSHIP OF EAST LoTHIAN IJB

The Chief Officer had submitted a report informing the IJB of the renewal of the term of office for Peter Murray and seeking agreement to the transitional arrangements for the approval of minutes.

The Clerk presented the report outlining the background and inviting members to agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

The members agreed to note recommendation i. The vote was taken by roll call on recommendation ii, and this was approved unanimously.

Decision

The IJB agreed:

- i. To note the renewal of the term of office for Peter Murray as a voting member of the IJB appointed by NHS Lothian; and
- ii. That the minutes of the most recent meetings, which could not be approved by the IJB or the Audit & Risk Committee before the change in voting membership, be submitted to the current Chairs for verification and signing.

5. 2022/23 BUDGET SETTING

The Interim Chief Finance Officer had submitted a report laying out the budget offers for 2022/23 from the IJB's partners (East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian) and considering if these met both the Scottish Government's and the IJB's own criteria for acceptance. Utilising the information provided from the partners, the report also considered the outline financial position for the IJB for 2022/23, and asked the IJB to agree to set its 2022/23 budget.

David King presented the report outlining the key points of the budget offers from the partners and the impact which their differing approaches to budget-setting had on the IJB's ability to agree its own budget for 2022-23. He also summarised details of additional funding for COVID costs and the impact that the current year underspend would have on the IJB's Reserves position. Mr King then considered both offers from the partners against the 3 tests: compliance with Scottish Government guidelines; fairness; and adequacy. He concluded that both offers met these tests and, based on the information provided by the partners, the IJB could set a balanced budget for 2022/23.

Mr King went on to highlight the next steps for the IJB which included considering how best to use the increased Reserves to push forward the IJB's Strategic Plan and manage ongoing pressures in the system; using the forecasts and confirmed budget details to create budgets for individual Directions; and financial planning for 2023/24. He also highlighted the question of non-recurring funding and its impact of future budgets and he encouraged the IJB to move forward on setting a multi-year financial plan.

The Chair thanked Mr King for providing a helpful picture of the current and future position. He acknowledged the potential impact of non-recurring funding but pointed to the development of the new strategic plan as an opportunity for the IJB to address some of these challenges.

Mr King responded to questions from Councillor Gilbert providing some background on the differing budget-setting processes adopted by the partners and confirming that the partners were required to honour their budget offers once made to the IJB. Although he added that it may be the case that the IJB was required to spend more than it had received during the year and, in such circumstances, further discussion would be required with the partners.

Richard Williams said he found the paper very clearly set out and the additional narrative helpful. However, he asked for further clarification on the reference to efficiency savings in the NHS forecast letter. Mr King and Ms MacDonald explained that this was a reminder that the IJB must consider how to do things differently and to

redistribute its budgets in a way that delivered more efficient services while also helping to reduce pressures elsewhere in the system.

Mr King also addressed questions from Councillor Akhtar about demographic growth within East Lothian and a strategy for dealing with pressures in 2023/24 in the absence of further COVID funding.

Ms MacDonald acknowledged that there had been a high COVID spend within budgets but that some of these larger outlays, such as staffing of the two additional wards at the Community Hospital, could be absorbed elsewhere in the system.

The members agreed to note recommendations iii and iv. The vote was taken by roll call on recommendations i, ii and v, and these were approved unanimously.

Decision

The IJB agreed:

- i. That the budget offer from East Lothian Council met the Scottish Government criteria;
- ii. That the budget offer from NHS Lothian met the Scottish Government criteria;
- iii. To note the projected movement in the IJB's Reserves;
- iv. To note the projected financial position for 2022/23; and
- v. That the 2022/23 budget proposal was balanced and therefore agreed to set the IJB's indicative 2022/23 budget.

6. EAST Lothian COMMUNITY HOSPITALS AND CARE HOMES PROVISION CHANGE BOARD

The Chief Officer had presented a SBAR updating the IJB on the progress of the East Lothian Community Hospitals and Care Homes Provision Change Board with a focus on the initial findings from the Capacity and Planning Working Group.

Iain Gorman presented the report updating members on recent progress from the 3 working groups: Communications and Engagement; Capacity and Planning; and Finance and Capital. He highlighted the findings of the Capacity and Planning working group around inpatient, care home and intermediate care capacity and wider property development considerations. He advised that this work was being done alongside consideration of the financial implications of re-provision which was the focus of the Finance and Capital working group. All proposals would be subject to consultation before any final decisions were taken and the main communication and engagement work would begin in May 2022.

The Chair said it was important for the IJB to get an update on the Change Board's progress and that the work currently being done by Laura Kerr would be critical to this and to the public consultation stage. He added that it would take some years for whole project to come to fruition.

Mr Gorman responded to questions from Councillor Akhtar on the options for intermediate care which would be presented as part of the engagement work and how dementia care housing would sit within the wider housing strategy.

The Chair concluded that the IJB must be focused on delivering services across the county and communities as a whole and that this focus must be clearly set out when consulting on any proposed changes.

Decision

The IJB agreed to:

- i. Note the actions and work to date undertaken by the Change Board in relation to the 3 working groups; and
- ii. Note the continuous and ongoing pressure on staff as a result of the impact of COVID-19 and service impacts of COVID-19 through high levels of sickness, high vacancies and staff self-isolating.

Valedictories

The Chair wished to place on record his thanks to David King for acting as Interim Chief Finance Officer over the past nine months. It had been a great pleasure to have him back in the role.

The Chair also thanked the four Councillors for their contributions during their varying tenures as voting members of the IJB. He offered his good wishes to Sue Kempson and Fiona O'Donnell who would be standing down from Council in May. He said it was impossible to understate the contribution Councillor O'Donnell had made to the IJB in her roles as Chair and Vice Chair during the past five years. He wished success to Neil Gilbert and Shamin Akhtar who were both standing for re-election; and he hoped to see them both return to the IJB in the future. He also thanked Shamin for her support and counsel as Vice Chair.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS – EXEMPT INFORMATION

The IJB unanimously agreed to exclude the public from the following business containing exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 5.9.1 of its Standing Orders (the Integration Joint Board is still in the process of developing proposals or its position on certain matters, and needs time for private deliberation).

Lothian Strategic Development Framework

The IJB considered a report updating them on progress in developing the Lothian Strategic Development Framework. The IJB agreed the recommendations contained within the report.