

To: POLICY & RESOURCES (FINANCE) SUB-COMMITTEE		Subject: JOINT BOARDS REVENUE BUDGET 2007/08	
From: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE			
Date: 12 December 2006	Ref: CE/JL/03/18		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the Joint Boards revenue budgets for the year 2007/2008. The Joint Boards budgets comprise of the following:

- Police Force.
- Fire Brigade.
- Lands Valuation.
- Strathclyde Passenger Transport.
- Concessionary Fares.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Spending Review and the Council's three-year financial plan reflect the importance of many of the services delivered by the Joint Boards and the expenditure priorities identified by the Scottish Executive have been reflected by the Council in its funding contributions for the forthcoming 2007/08 financial year.

2.2 The estimates for each of the Joint Boards are still in draft and any subsequent change will be subsumed into the Council's overall budget. For instance the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006 simplifies the current complex funding in relation to services such as forensic science and the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency. This will involve the funding currently contained within local authorities' revenue support grant being removed with consequential reduction in the precept payment by councils. These changes will be detailed over the coming weeks and included within the Local Government Finance (Scotland) Order 2007.

2.3 It is worth noting that the basis of the contribution to Strathclyde Police has changed due to the transfer of Police Common Services to the new Scottish Police Services Agency (SPSA) from 1 April 2007. The Council's current Financial Plan had previously anticipated a £1m (or 3%) increases in North Lanarkshire Council's contributions for 2007/08. Due to a combination of the transfer of Police Common Services, the identification of further loan charge savings and the application of balances these resources will no longer be required for this purpose.

2.4 The revenue estimate for Concessionary Fares now contains the residual element of travel only which is not supported by the National "Free Travel Scheme" and this will include elements of journeys by rail and underground. Due to the ability of the new Regional Transport Authority to attract direct grant funding from the Scottish Executive the precept levels for 2007/08 has reduced by £120,720 (or 22.7%).

3. REVENUE ESTIMATES 2007/08

- 3.1 The revenue estimate for 2007/2008 has been prepared by incorporating the expenditure pressures and service improvements advised to the Council by the Joint Boards and reflected within the indicative financial settlement from the Scottish Executive.
- 3.2 The movements in precept levels to the Council can be summarised as follows:

	NLC Contribution 2006/2007	NLC Contribution 2007/2008	Increase / (Decrease)	%
Police	£31,006,000	£31,004,000	£(2,000)	-
Police – Emergency Planning	£6,000	£6,000	-	-
Fire Brigade	£14,750,000	£15,195,000	£445,000	3.0
Lands Valuation	£1,656,630	£1,706,630	£50,000	3.0
SPT	£5,127,527	£5,203,905	£76,378	1.5
Concessionary Fares	£532,000	£411,280	£(120,720)	(22.7)

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Committee is requested to note the budgets for the Joint Boards as set out in Section 3.2 above.



Director of Finance

For further information on this report please contact Paul Hughes on extension 2671