

CHARTER TRUSTEES FOR THE CITY OF DURHAM

At the **Meeting** of the **Charter Trustees for the City of Durham** held in the Committee Room 1B, County Hall, Durham, on Wednesday 21 June 2017 at 12.00 pm

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham, Councillor B Kellett (in the Chair) and Councillors D Bell, J Chaplow, K Corrigan, S Dunn, D Freeman, A Hopgood, L Hovvels, C Marshall, L Mavin, M McKeon, R Ormerod, E Scott, A Simpson, P Taylor, F Tinsley, J Turnbull and M Wilson

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Blakey, L Brown, E Mavin and M Simmons.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the special meeting held on the 2 June 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Revenue Outturn for the year ended 31 March 2017

Charter Trustees considered a report of the Treasurer that provided information on the 2016/17 final revenue outturn (for copy see file of minutes).

The Treasurer reported that the total net revenue expenditure for 2016/17 was £55,362, an underspend of £10,205 against the original budget of £65,567.

Resolved:-

That the final outturn position for the financial year ended 31 March 2017 be noted.

5 Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2017

Charter Trustees considered a report of the Treasurer seeking approval of the Accounting Statements and Annual Governance Statement for the financial year ended 31 March 2017, which were included in the Annual Return (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:-

That the Annual Return (Sections 1 and 2) for the financial year ended 31 March 2017 be approved.

6 Honorary Aldermen

Councillor Hopgood recalled that a proposal was made at a previous meeting to consider bestowing the title of Honorary Freeman to three former Charter Trustees and suggested that the position of Honorary Aldermen also be considered.

The Clerk explained the distinction between an Honorary Freeman and an Honorary Alderman. He advised that the principal council, in this case Durham County Council, governed by the Local Government Act 1972, could confer the title of Honorary Alderman to a past councillor with 16 years or more service and providing two thirds of voting members agree at a special meeting.

The relevant authority for the Honorary Freeman, which is the Charter Trust, could confer the title to a person of distinction and who, in their opinion, rendered eminent services to that place or area, providing two thirds of the voting Trustees agree at a special meeting.

Trustees appreciated that the decision would be made on the merits of each individual, however, felt it would be prudent to understand the parameters and have details of previous recipients of the title in addition to a complete biography for each candidate to help make an informed decision. The Clerk advised that selection was at the Trustees discretion within the law and Trustees would have to determine how they judge if each candidate qualified for the status.

The Clerk confirmed that upon receiving any nominations together with a supporting biography to support them he could provide a report detailing legislation, previous recipients of the title and the proposals from Trustees who were proposing to bestow the title of Honorary Freeman. A special meeting would then be arranged to vote on the proposals.

Resolved:

That the Clerk, upon receipt of nominations together with supporting biographies, to provide a report to a special meeting detailing legislation, previous recipients of the title and proposals for the title of Honorary Freeman.

The Mayor agreed that in order to keep members informed, the next items of business could be reported.

7 Display Cabinets

The Clerk advised that the display cabinets for the Mayoral Robes had been successfully installed, under budget, costing £3,200 with an additional £192 for electrical installation. The Town Hall Manager was in the process of arranging a historical note to be added to the display.