

## **CHARTER TRUSTEES FOR THE CITY OF DURHAM**

At the **Meeting** of the **Charter Trustees for the City of Durham** held in Committee Room 1B - County Hall, Durham, on Wednesday 20 June 2018 at 11.30 am

**Present:** The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham, J Lethbridge (in the Chair) and Councillors D Bell, J Blakey, J Chaplow, K Corrigan, S Dunn, D Freeman, A Hopgood, L Hovvells, B Kellett, R Ormerod, E Scott, M Simmons, P Taylor, F Tinsley, J Turnbull and M Wilson

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Brown, D Hall, C Marshall, E Mavin, L Mavin, M McKeon, A Simpson, D Stoker and M Wilkes.

### **2 Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual meeting held on the 6 June 2018 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 ending 31 March 2018**

Charter Trustees considered a report of the Treasurer that provided information on the 2017/18 final revenue outturn (for copy see file of minutes).

The Treasurer reported that the actual net revenue expenditure for 2017/18 was £50,283, an underspend of £16,153 against a budget of £66,436. He confirmed that £4,191 would be transferred back into reserves increasing the reserve balance to 72,269 as of 31 March 2018.

Councillor Hopgood referred to the policy regarding the use of the civic car and asked if the policy could be reviewed to ensure the Deputy Mayor can use the civic car in the event that the Deputy Mayor is unable to drive.

Councillor Turnbull was concerned that the Deputy Mayor was expected to use public transport to attend civic occasions and felt there was a risk when wearing Mayoral chains on public transport.

#### **Resolved:-**

- i) That the final outturn position for the financial year ended 31 March 2018 be noted;
- ii) That the civic transport policy be reviewed.

## **5 Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2018**

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 2018, 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 2018 be approved.

## **6 Honorary Aldermen – Recognition**

Charter Trustees considered a report of the Clerk detailing discussions of the sub group regarding eligibility of Honorary Aldermen to take part in ceremonial events (for copy see file of minutes).

The Clerk reminded the sub group of the previous Charter Trustees decisions from June and October 2015 where it was agreed in principle to invite past Mayors to attend ceremonial events and wear black and silver trimmed robes. The Honorary Alderman who had served as past Charter Trustees would be invited to ceremonial events and wear red robes. The sub group proposed a slight refinement to the second point to reflect the number of years served on a previous Durham City ward.

Councillor Hopgood commented that Charter Trustees were appointed as they represent wards from the former Durham City area and 3 Councillors were appointed as they received the highest number of votes from the Trimdon and Thornley, Willington and Hunwick and Esh and Witton Gilbert wards. She explained that all Councillors representing those wards would be eligible to take part in ceremonial events after they had served 14 years as they all represent the people of the City, not just the 3 Councillors who were appointed as Charter Trustees. Councillor Hopgood also mentioned that the Leader of the Council could appoint 3 additional members as Charter Trustees representing the wider area who do not represent a Durham City ward.

Councillor Turnbull felt that the main issue was the proposed people listed to be considered, as 3 out of the 4 former Councillors had never been part of the Durham City area and had never contributed towards the City council tax. He commented that residents in his area would be unhappy paying towards an organisation for other people out of the area to benefit.

Councillor Hopgood explained that previously Councillors would have served 16 year's service to be considered Honorary Alderman, however, it was reduced to 14 years as the City Council was abolished 2 years before the end of the elected term. The decision was made to reduce to 14 years' service to ensure those Councillors who would have served the natural term would not miss out on Alderman status.

The Clerk clarified that from the 4 former Councillors proposed in the previous report, only former Councillor Nigel Martin would qualify, having 14 years service representing a Durham City Ward.

Referred to a request at last meeting for the sub group to consider any additional costs, the Clerk advised that no additional cost would be incurred as there were enough red robes in storage.

In response to a question from Councillor Kellett regarding storage of the robes, the Clerk explained that the robes were well protected and individual covers would be an added expense.

Councillor Turnbull moved and Councillor Simmons seconded to agree the recommendations of the sub group.

**Resolved:**

That Honorary Aldermen who had served 14 years representing an old Durham City area (as it was defined at cessation in 2009) be eligible to take part in ceremonial events and wear red robes.

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

**7           RAF Centennial Celebration and Freedom of the City Presentation**

The Clerk informed Charter Trustees that invitations had been issued for the RAF Centennial celebration at Durham Cathedral on Saturday 23 June 2018. Following the service, the Mayor of the City of Durham would give a presentation to confer upon no.607 (County of Durham) squadron of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force the Honorary Freedom of Entry to the City of Durham.

**8           Honorary Recorder**

The Clerk informed Charter Trustees that the Honorary Recorder, Clare Pattinson had recently left the Authority, however, she expressed an interest in continuing her role as Honorary Recorder to Charter Trustees. The Clerk advised that there was no requirements for the Honorary Recorder to be an employee of the Authority and it was a matter for Charter Trustees to consider.

**Resolved:**

That Clare Pattinson continue her role as Honorary Recorder to Charter Trustees.