

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

At the **Meeting** of the **Charter Trustees for the City of Durham** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham, on Wednesday 25 January 2023 at 11.30 am

**Present:** The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham, Councillor D Freeman (in the Chair) and Councillors J Blakey, L Brown, J Elmer, C Fletcher, A Hopgood, L Hovvels, G Hutchinson, D Nicholls, R Ormerod, E Scott, M Simmons, A Simpson, P Taylor, M Wilkes and M Wilson

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Mayor formally reported the deaths of former Mayor of Durham, Alderman Stephen T McDonnell and former Mayor of Durham, Alderman Mary Hawgood.

Alderman Stephen T McDonnell was Mayor in 1995/96 and represented Coxhoe Ward on Durham City Council between 1987 and 2009.

Alderman Mary Hawgood was Mayor in 2004/05 and represented Newton Hall Ward on Durham County Council between 1993 and 1997 and Framwellgate Ward on Durham City Council between 1991 and 2003 and Crossgate and Framwellgate Moor Ward on Durham City Council between 2003 and 2007.

Trustees stood in a moments silence as a mark of respect.

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Chaplow, O Gunn, D Hall, M McKeon and D Stoker.

### **2 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

*Councillors J Elmer and E Scott joined the Meeting at 12.43 am*

#### **4 2023/24 Budget**

Charter Trustees considered a report of the Treasurer that provided information to enable Charter Trustees to determine the appropriate budget requirement for the Charter Trust for 2023/24 and the basic level of council tax required for 2023/24 (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Treasurer was in attendance to present the report and advised Trustees of the budget options and the deadline for the 2023/24 precept.

In response to a question in relation to inflation forecasts, the Treasurer indicated that they looked at the forecast for inflation across 2023/24 to determine the rate of increase to apply against budgets and commented that rising energy prices were contributing to inflation.

**Resolved:** (i) That the forecast of outturn position for 2022/23 be noted.

(ii) That the council tax requirement of £53,937 and a £2.00 precept for 2023/24 be agreed.

(iii) That the deadline for agreeing the precept for 2023/24 be noted.

(iv) That the requirement to keep the agreed precept of £2.00 for 2023/24 to 2025/26 under review on an annual basis be noted.

#### **5 Any Other Business**

The Clerk advised Trustees that it was proposed to hold the Annual meeting of the Trust on Wednesday 7 June 2023 at Durham Town Hall and asked Trustees to save the date in their diaries.