

CHARTER TRUSTEES FOR THE CITY OF DURHAM

At the **Meeting** of the **Charter Trustees for the City of Durham** held in Committee Room 1A , County Hall, Durham, on Wednesday 23 October 2024 at 11.35 am

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham, Councillor L Brown (in the Chair) and Councillors G Hutchinson, J Blakey, C Fletcher, O Gunn, L Hovvels, E Mavin, L Mavin, D Nicholls, E Scott, M Wilkes and M Wilson

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Chaplow, J Elmer, D Hall, A Hopgood, R Ormerod and M Simmons.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 5 June and 26 June 2024 were confirmed as correct records and signed by the Mayor.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Forecast of Revenue Outturn for 2024/25 as at 30 September 2024

Charter Trustees received a report of the Treasurer that provided information on the forecast of expenditure to 31 March 2025 in comparison to the 2024/25 original budget (for copy see file of minutes).

The Treasurer reported that the projected net expenditure of £68,285 at 31 March 2025 would be lower than the original budgeted of £78,425 by £10,140. The sum required to be drawn from reserves to balance the budget was expected to reduce from £19,085 to £8,947.

The forecast of outturn position was mainly due to the projected underspend on the Mayor's hospitality budget, an underspend on the administration budget and additional bank interest, offset slightly by a projected overspend in relation to civic transport.

The Treasurer advised that a report would be presented on the 11 December 2024 and provide information to enable Charter Trustees to determine the budget requirement for 2025/26 and the basic level of council tax for the financial years 2025/26 to 2028/29.

Responding to a query from Councillor Blakey, the Treasurer confirmed that a list of budget options would be provided in the report for consideration at the meeting on the 11 December 2024.

Resolved:

- i) That the forecast of outturn position to 31 March 2025 be noted;
- ii) That the 2025/26 Budget report be presented to the meeting on 11 December 2024.

5 Any Other Business

In order to keep members informed, the next items of business were reported.

Durham Town Hall Refurbishment

The Mayor advised that Durham Town Hall would be closing at the end of November 2024 for refurbishment, further details would be circulated in due course. Alternative venues were being arranged for upcoming events and it was hoped that refurbishment would be completed for the Mayors Civic Dinner in April 2025.

Mayoral Visits – Nettlesworth Primary School

The Mayor informed Trustees that she had been invited to attend Nettlesworth Primary School which was 0.5 miles outside the Charter Trustee area. She advised that the Chairman of Durham County Council was happy for her to attend the visit and asked Charter Trustees permission, which was agreed.

Mayors Charity - 2023/24

Councillor L Mavin advised that during her year in office 2023/24, £9,923.13 had been raised for St Cuthberts Hospice. The Mayor congratulated Councillor Mavin and Mrs Sutcliffe who had worked extremely hard during their term in office.