

CHARTER TRUST FOR THE CITY OF DURHAM

At the **Meeting** of the **Charter Trust for the City of Durham** held in the Committee Room 1B, County Hall, Durham, on Monday 21 January 2013 at 11.30 am

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham, Councillor John Wilkinson (in the Chair) and Councillors J Blakey, G Holland, K Holroyd, A Hopgood, N Martin, D Morgan, D J Southwell, L Thomson, J Turnbull, M Wilkes and M Williams

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Chaplow, Cordon, Foster, Freeman, Myers, Plews, Simmons, Stoker, Wood and Woods.

2 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

3 Revenue Budget 2013/14

The Treasurer submitted a comprehensive report to provide an outline of the detailed budget report (for copy see file of minutes).

A further report had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting to provide information to enable Charter Trustees to approve the appropriate budget requirement for 2013/14 and basic level of council tax for 2013/14.

The Treasurer presented the reports and advised Charter Trustees that they had agreed a reduction for the Support Services and Premises for 2013/14. They would also have a reserve balance of £10,220.

Councillor Wilkes sought clarification on the National Insurance Contributions for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, to ascertain if the allowances were paid weekly or monthly instead of a single payment would this result in nil contributions for National Insurance.

Members discussed this in detail, in particular the Mayor and Deputy Mayor having to wait for their allowance each month which could result in them having to spend their own monies until the allowance was paid. They also discussed the benefits of it been paid weekly or monthly which could result in National Insurance contributions not having to be paid which would allow them to receive more monies.

Members discussed that if this was a saving it would not impact on the £3.80 council tax, but would enhance the budget for next year.

The Clerk and Treasurer advised Charter Trustees that they would take advice on the National Insurance contributions and bring a report to a future meeting of the Charter Trust for the City of Durham.

Councillor Wilkes sought clarification on whether VAT was included in the Budget as the Parish Council accounts showed the amount of VAT reclaimed. He asked for copies of the documentation for the Charter Trust to show that VAT had been reclaimed for the last 5 years.

The Treasurer advised Charter Trustees that VAT was reclaimed on a quarterly basis and he was happy to share the documentation with Charter Trustees. They did submit final accounts which were subject to an external audit and that the budget was net of VAT. With regard to the lists circulated with the Revenue Outturn Report he would get clarification if these lists were gross or net of VAT but his understanding was that it was net of VAT as gross would require an income. He also advised Trustees that the accounts for Durham County Council would not show VAT as it was all recorded as cash flow.

Councillor Morgan moved and Councillor Holland seconded that the recommendation to approve the basic level of council tax of £3.80 be approved.

Resolved:

- (i) That the progress in developing the 2013/14 budget be noted.
- (ii) That the budget requirement of £90,645 for 2013/14 be approved.
- (iii) That the basic level of council tax of £3.80 be approved.
- (iv) That a report be brought to a future meeting of the Charter Trust for the City of Durham on the National Insurance Contributions for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

4 Any Other Business

Councillor Williams advised Charter Trustees that a wedding had taken place in the Town Hall and they were only allowed one door to be open. He asked if both doors in the Town Hall could be opened for such events.

He was advised that he would need to speak to Facilities as the Town Hall was not under the control of the Charter Trust for the City of Durham and the Charter Trust hired the Town Hall for their events.