

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

At the **Meeting** of the **Charter Trust for the City of Durham** held in the Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham, on Wednesday 5 December 2012 at 1.00 pm

**Present:** The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham, Councillor John Wilkinson (in the Chair) and Councillors N Foster, D Freeman, G Holland, A Hopgood, N Martin, D Morgan, M Simmons, D Stoker, L Thomson, J Turnbull and M Wilkes

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors J Blakey, J Chaplow, K Holroyd, B Myers, M Plews, M Williams, M Wood and C Woods.

### **2 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

In relation to the working group set up to oversee the chauffeuring contract referred to under item 3 of the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2012, Councillor Stoker thanked Councillor Holland and Councillor Myers for their input and recommended that the next step would be for the working group to meet with the Treasurer and officers from Transport and Procurement to investigate a variation to the contract procedure rules with a view to extend the arrangement for a further 12 months.

### **3 Revenue Outturn for the Period ending 31 October 2012 and Projected Outturn to 31 March 2013**

Charter Trustees noted a report of the Treasurer which provided information on actual expenditure compared to the profiled budget for the period ending 31 October 2012 and the forecast of expenditure to 31 March 2013 in comparison to the 2012/13 original budget (for copy see file of minutes).

The Treasurer anticipated that there would be a small underspend at 31 March 2013, meaning that the amount needed to be drawn from reserves would reduce. The Mayor highlighted that the functions of the Charter Trustees did not provide for the award of grants, for example, during the Jubilee celebrations they had been unable to award grants for street parties which had contributed to the underspend.

Trustees queried transactions which appeared twice on the analysis of variable costs. The Mayor explained that the County Council had changed telephone numbers which required the business cards to be reprinted.

#### **4 Revenue Budget 2013/14**

Charter Trustees considered a report of the Treasurer which provided information to initiate discussions on the budget requirement for 2013/14 and consequential level of council tax (for copy see file of minutes).

Trustees discussed in detail the various options outlined in the report and queried the availability of government grant as a result of the decrease in tax base. The Treasurer confirmed that enquiries were ongoing in relation to this.

Trustees noted that a number of issues could impact on the financial position of the trust.

It was suggested that a small working group be established to consider options on the level of budget and council tax requirement for 2013/14 and report the recommendations to Charter Trustees at the next meeting in January 2013.

Trustees sought clarification regarding student subsidies. The Treasurer informed the Trustees that he would provide this information at the next meeting.

#### **Resolved:**

- (i) That a working group be established consisting of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Clerk, Treasurer, Councillor D Morgan and Councillor G Holland to consider options on the level of budget and council tax required for 2013/14 and report their recommendations to Trustees at the next meeting in January 2013;
- (ii) The next meeting arranged for 21 January 2013, agree the precept;
- (iii) The deadline for agreeing the precept for 2013/14 be noted.

Meeting Terminated at 1.40 pm