

CHARTER TRUSTEES FOR THE CITY OF DURHAM

At the **Meeting** of the **Charter Trustees for the City of Durham** held in the Committee Room 1B - County Hall, Durham, on Wednesday 23 January 2019 at 11.30 am

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham, Councillor J Lethbridge (in the Chair) and Councillors D Bell, L Brown, J Chaplow, K Corrigan, S Dunn, D Freeman, A Hopgood, L Hovvels, B Kellett, C Marshall, E Mavin, L Mavin, M McKeon, A Simpson, F Tinsley, J Turnbull, M Wilkes and M Wilson

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Mayor formally reported the death of Jeff Young, former Durham City Councillor and Alderman.

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

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Blakey, D Hall, R Ormerod, E Scott, M Simmons, D Stoker and P Taylor.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5 December 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 period ending 31 December 2018 and Projected Outturn to 31 March 2019

Charter Trustees considered a report of the Treasurer that provided information on the actual expenditure compared to the profiled budget for the period ending 31 December 2018; and the forecast of expenditure to 31 March 2019 in comparison to the 2018/19 original budget (for copy see file of minutes).

The Treasurer reported that at 31 December 2018 actual net expenditure was £43,086, a small underspend of £46 against a profiled budget of £43,132. It was anticipated that actual expenditure at 31 March 2019 would be slightly lower than the original budget of £67,415 by £3,597. The sum required to be drawn from reserves to balance the budget was therefore expected to reduce from £12,086 to £8,489.

Councillor Wilkes asked for clarification in relation to government funding for properties rented by students and if the Council recover the loss of income. The Treasurer explained that prior to 2013/14 there was a process where local authorities would be reimbursed, however that link was broken with the introduction of the business rate retention scheme. He added that as part of the fair funding review, the authority was taking every possible step to ensure funding be built back into funding arrangements for local authorities in the future.

Councillor Wilkes then asked whether government specifically specified that money was now internalised within the grant or were they specifically removing any money for student properties. The Treasurer advised that the amount was never removed, however it was no longer identified as a specified line. Technically the funding was still received but the revenue support grant had been reduced.

Responding to a further query from Councillor Wilkes regarding funding allocated to Town and Parish Councils and the Charter Trust, the Treasurer would investigate and report back to Councillor Wilkes.

Resolved:

- (i) That the outturn position for the period ended 31 December 2018 be noted;
- (ii) That the forecast outturn to 31 March 2019 be noted.

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

5 Honours Board

The Clerk advised Charter Trustees that the honours name board had been purchased and informed Trustees that there was an additional cost of £495.00 for the sign writer. Charter Trustees agreed to progress and approved the additional cost.

Resolved:

That the additional costs for the sign writer be approved.

6 Date for Mayor Making

The Clerk asked Charter Trustees to note that the Town Hall had been provisional booked for Mayor Making to take place on the 5 June 2019. He reminded Trustees that he would be asking for nominations for Deputy Mayor for the ensuing municipal year 2019/20 at the meeting on the 27 March 2019.