

Charter Trustees for the City of Durham

25 July 2019

Update on CDALC Abolition of Charter Trustees



City of Durham

Report of Bryan Smith, Clerk to the Charter Trustees

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Charter Trustees on correspondence of the CDALC regarding the abolition of the Charter Trustees.

Background

2. On 19 June 2019 at the meeting of the Charter Trustees a question was raised regarding recent correspondence which had been circulated with Clerks for Town and Parishes regarding the abolition of Charter Trustees. It was agreed that the correspondence would be reviewed at the matter reported to the Charter Trustees at the next meeting.

Current Position

3. An extract of the item which was raised at the Charter Trustees meeting is shown at Appendix 2. The extract is taken from item 13 of the CDALC meeting held on 5 June 2019 which sets out the calls by NALC to abolish Charter Trustees.
4. Appendix 2 relates to NALC urging the government to abolish the Charter Trustee bodies which have not become local (parish and town) councils by the end of next parliament. This document is essentially a position statement of NALC and does not alter the legal status of the Charter Trustees.
5. For Members information, the Charter Trust was established in 2009 when the Durham City Council was abolished as part of the local government re-organisation and creation of the unitary authority.
6. Durham retained the city charter status through the appointment of Charter Trustees which ensures the continuation of the civic traditions for the city of Durham and is responsible for choosing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor from the appointed Trustees.

7. The legislation relating to the status of Charter Trustees was enacted through section 14 and 240(10) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 with the secondary legislation of Charter Trustees Regulations 2009. This legislation remains in force.

Recommendation

8. The Members are asked to note the report.

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

None.

Staffing

None.

Risk

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Accommodation

None.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Human Rights

None.

Consultation

None.

Procurement

None.

Disability Issues

None.

Legal Implications

There have been no changes to existing legislation which governs Charter Trustees and there are no changes marked as pending.