

CHARTER TRUSTEES FOR THE CITY OF DURHAM

At the **Meeting** of the **Charter Trustees for the City of Durham** held in the Main Hall - Spennymoor Leisure Centre, on Wednesday 8 December 2021 at 12.30 pm

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham, Councillor A Simpson (in the Chair) and Councillors D Freeman, J Blakey, L Brown, J Elmer, C Fletcher, A Hopgood, L Hovvells, B Kellett, M McKeon, D Nicholls, R Ormerod, E Scott, M Simmons, D Stoker, P Taylor, M Wilkes and M Wilson

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Chaplow, D Hall and G Hutchinson.

2 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 2022/23 Budget

Charter Trustees considered a report of the Treasurer that provided information to enable Charter Trustees to determine the appropriate budget requirement for the Charter Trust for 2022/23; basic level of council tax required for 2022/23 and consider the council tax levels for the period up to 2026/27 (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Treasurer was in attendance to present the report and advised Trustees of the budget options and the deadline for the 2022/23 precept was 26 January 2022.

In response to a question, the Treasurer indicated that he would recommend a minimum of around £20,000 for reserves. The Trust currently had £73,000 in reserves which was significantly healthy.

Trustees discussed postponing the decision on the council tax base until the next meeting of the Trust.

It was indicated that in previous years a working group had been set up to look at the council tax base, but this would be difficult before the January 2022 meeting.

It was suggested that the council tax precept remain at £1.90 for 2022/23 and a working group be established to look at the precept for future years and report back to the Charter Trustees for the City of Durham.

Resolved: (i) That the forecast of outturn position for 2021/22 be noted.

(ii) That the Band D equivalent Council Tax at £1.90 for 2022/23 continue and a working group be established to look at the precept for future years and report back to the Charter Trustees for the City of Durham.

5 Any Other Business

The Clerk to the Charter Trustees advised Trustees that correspondence had been received from Durham Constabulary confirming the new Billet Master as Superintendent Catherine Clarke. A letter of thanks would be sent to Chief Superintendent Chris Curtis for his service to the Charter Trustees for the City of Durham.

The Clerk to the Charter Trustees for the City of Durham then advised Trustees that he had raised the vacancy of Honorary Recorder for the Trust with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and consideration of his replacement due to his imminent retirement. He advised Trustees that the appointments would be considered as part of the restructure of Legal Services and in the interim Kamila Coulson-Patel would be Clerk until a formal appointment was made.

The Mayor and Councillor Hopgood on behalf of Trustees thanked the Clerk for his service to the Charter Trustees for the City of Durham and wished him well in his retirement, Trustees applauded.

The Mayor then personally thanked Councillors J Blakey and L Brown for their assistance at his Mayoral function held on Saturday.