

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

At the **Meeting** of the **Charter Trust for the City of Durham** held in the Main Hall - Town Hall, Durham, on Wednesday 18 January 2012 at 4.00 pm

**Present:** The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham, Councillor Les Thomson (in the Chair) and Councillors G Holland, K Holroyd, A Hopgood, N Martin, M Simmons, D J Southwell, J Turnbull, M Wilkes, J Wilkinson and C Woods

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Blakey, Chaplow, Cordon, Crooks, Freeman, Mavin, Morgan, Myers, Plews, Stoker, Taylor, Williams and Wood.

### **2 Recording of Proceedings**

**Resolved:** That the Charter Trustees consent to the taking of photographs during the Meeting.

### **3 Minutes of the Meetings held on 19 July 2011 and 16 November 2011**

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 19 July 2011 and 16 November 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

### **4 To swear in Mr Colin Lidster as a Member of the Mayor's Bodyguard**

Mr. C. Lidster, was duly sworn in as a Member of the Mayor's Bodyguard.

Trustees and Officers warmly applauded.

**The Meeting adjourned at 4.10 pm and reconvened at 4.30 pm.**

**Councillor Southwell entered the Meeting.**

### **5 Minutes**

The Mayor advised Trustees that David Marrs had accepted the position of Pant Master.

### **6 Revenue Outturn for the Quarter ended 31 December 2011 and Projected Outturn to 31 March 2012**

The Treasurer submitted a comprehensive report to provide information on the actual expenditure compared to the profiled budget for the period ending 31 December 2011 and the forecast of expenditure to 31 March 2012 in comparison to the 2011/12 original budget.

The Treasurer advised Trustees that the forecast underspend was in the region of £7160.00 which would contribute to the reserve figure but this figure could be subject to change as there was still 3 months remaining.

Trustees sought clarification if there was any further functions planned which would reduce this underspend.

Trustees were advised that there were some functions coming up which would use some of the underspend.

**Resolved:** (i) That the outturn position for the quarter ended 31 December 2011 be noted.

(ii) That the forecast outturn to 31 March 2012 be noted.

## **7 Revenue Budget 2012/13**

The Treasurer submitted a comprehensive report to provide information to enable Charter Trustees to approve the appropriate budget requirements for 2012/13 and approve the basic level of council tax required.

The Treasurer circulated at the meeting a schedule with further options of Council Tax for consideration, a copy of which is attached. He advised Trustees that the current Council Tax level was currently set at £4.29 and that Trustees needed to consider having monies for 2013/14 as they could partially move into this period if a Town Council was established.

Trustees discussed training for current staff in preparation for the Town Council. It was felt that this should be left to the Town Council if established.

Trustees considered all the Council Tax options and discussed the possibility of any monies that would be left if a Town Council was established been split pro rata between the Town Council and the Parish Council's in the former City of Durham District. It was noted that there was a possibility that not all areas of the former district would be parished. The Clerk advised Trustees that she had contacted the Boundary Commission on this matter and would advise Trustees of the outcome.

Councillor Southwell moved and Councillor Hopgood seconded Option 2 which would set a Council Tax level of £3.80.

Councillor Woods moved Option 4 which would set a Council Tax level of £3.60 and Councillor Wilkes moved Option 3 which would set a Council Tax level of £3.70. In the absence of a Seconder Trustees voted on Option 2 which was agreed.

**Resolved:** (i) That the budget requirement for 2012/13 be approved.

(ii) That the basic level of council tax at £3.80 be approved (Option 2).

## **8 Any Other Business**

Trustees considered how they could protect the position of the Mayor for the City of Durham if a Town Council was established and discussed the possibility of holding a public meeting to consider the position of Mayor for the City of Durham.

Trustees agreed that they needed to look into the legal position regarding the protection of the Mayor before the arrangements were made to hold a public meeting.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk investigate the legal position and report back to Trustees.

Meeting Terminated at 5.15 pm