

Charter Trust for the City of Durham

21 January 2013

Revenue Budget 2013/14



City of Durham

Report of Jeff Garfoot, Treasurer

INTRODUCTION

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide an outline of the detailed budget report which is tabled for the day of the meeting.

BACKGROUND

- 2 Five budget options were presented to Trustees at the last meeting held on 5 December 2012:
 - Option A provided for a standstill budget;
 - Option B was a budget option to retain council tax at the same level as 2012/13;
 - Option C provided for a budget as per Option B but without drawing from reserves;
 - Option D was a budget option reducing variable costs by 25%;
 - Option E provided for a budget as per Option D with a transfer of £10,000 from reserves.
- 3 At that meeting, Charter Trustees decided to set up a budget working group with responsibility for considering alternative budgets for 2013/14 and recommending their preferred option which would be presented to Charter Trustees for approval.
- 4 This working group met initially on 12 December 2012 and will be meeting again on 17 January 2013 to further consider budget options. At this stage the working group are considering the following:
 - i. challenging costs incurred, including council recharges;
 - ii. the level of 2013/14 and future years' annual tax increases;
 - iii. the utilisation of reserves to smooth the impact of council tax increases.
- 5 A revised budget proposal from the working group will be circulated to the Charter Trustees after the group's meeting on 17 January 2013.

CHANGES IN BUDGET CALCULATIONS SINCE 5 DECEMBER 2012

- 6 Since reporting on 5 December 2012, the council tax base has been increased slightly by 71.4 (from 23,782.6 to 23,854), therefore the council tax receivable has increased by £271.32 (at a council tax band D equivalent of £3.80).
- 7 It has been determined that the Charter Trust is eligible to receive a share of the Council Tax Support Grant which amounts to £10,398 for 2013/14.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8 It is **RECOMMENDED** that the City of Durham Charter Trustees:
 - note the progress in developing the 2013/14 budget;
 - approve the budget requirement for 2013/14 (this will be detailed in a report to follow); and
 - approve the basic level of council tax required (this will be detailed in a report to follow).

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Risks and Implications

Finance

The report provides information to enable Charter Trustees to consider the level of council tax and revenue budget requirement for 2013/14

Staffing

None

Equality and Diversity

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Human Rights

None

Consultation

None

Procurement

None

Disability Discrimination Act

None

Legal Implications

None