

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 17 June 2015 at 1.00 pm

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham, Councillor J Blakey (in the Chair) and Councillors J Armstrong, D Bell, P Conway, K Corrigan, D Freeman, O Gunn, G Holland, B Kellett, N Martin, J Robinson, M Simmons, P Taylor, J Turnbull, M Wilkes and M Williams.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Bonner, J Chaplow, A Hopgood, B Moir, M Nicholls and R Ormerod.

2 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on the 27 May 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

Councillor J Robinson referred to item 16 of the minutes of the meeting held on the 27 May 2015 regarding the Appointment of the Mayors Chaplain, he advised that he had been asked that a letter be sent to the Cathedral formally appointing the Dean of Durham as the Mayor's Chaplain in order for the horary position to be incorporated into the job description.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Revenue Outturn for the year ended 31 March 2015

Charter Trustees considered a report of the Treasurer that provided information on the 2014/15 revenue outturn compared to the original budget (for copy see file of minutes).

The Assistant Finance Manager reported that the total net revenue expenditure for 2014/15 was £55,829, an underspend of £3,588 against the original budget of £59,417.

Resolved:-

That the outturn position for the financial year ended 31 March 2015 be noted.

5 Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2015

Charter Trustees considered a report of the Treasurer seeking approval of the Accounting Statements and Annual Governance Statement for the financial year ended 31 March 2015, which were included in the Annual Return (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:-

That the Annual Return (Sections 1 and 2) for the financial year ended 31 March 2015 be approved.

6 Role of Past Mayors

Councillor G Holland asked Trustees to consider the position of former Mayors of the City of Durham being involved in Mayoral Services as the present level of support received by the Mayor at events have diminished.

Councillor G Holland felt that former Mayors and Durham County Council Alderman that have served as Charter Trustees should be offered, as of right, procession at appropriate civic events as they have served the community for their year in office and have earned recognition. He suggested that gowns previously used by officers of the former Durham City Council be used at such events.

Members agreed that former Mayors should be involved in Mayoral Services and discussed the order of procession, the number of Durham County Council Aldermen that have served as Charter Trustees and resources that would be required.

Resolved:-

- That in principal, former Mayors of the City Durham and Aldermen of Durham County Council that had served as Charter Trustees be involved in Mayoral Services be accepted, with the Mayor to decide the order of procession;
- That the quantity of officer robes from the former Durham City Council be obtained;
- That numbers of Durham County Council Aldermen that had served as Charter Trustees be obtained.

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

7 Agreement Update

The Clerk updated Charter Trustees on the progress in negotiating an agreement with the County Council in relation to the contents of the Town Hall in Durham. He advised that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services required appropriate authority which was to be considered at Cabinet on 15 July 2015. Following final approval, the agreement would be signed by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

8 Mayoral Robes

The Mayor informed Charter Trustees that the Mayoral robes require cleaning and suggested that, with agreement from Trustees, to look into costs for purchasing new robes that would not require specialist cleaning and could be cleaned closer to home for less cost. The original robes could then be put on display in the Town Hall.

Resolved:-

That estimated costs be obtained to purchase new Mayoral robes and the information be reported back to Charter Trustees.