

COUNTY DURHAM AND DARLINGTON FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

At a **MEETING** of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held at Service Headquarters, on **Tuesday, 29 January at 10.00am**

PRESENT: **Cllr Alison Batey in the Chair**
DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL: Cllrs P Howell, J Shuttleworth, W Stelling and C Potts
DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL: -
OFFICERS: T Hope

PART A

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr H Crumbie.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2018 were agreed as a true record.

3 Forecast of Outturn 2018/19 Quarter 3

TH introduced the report which provided an indication of the Service's revenue and capital financial outturn position based upon expenditure and income to the 31 December 2018. The forecast revenue outturn position to the 31st March 2019 is an underspend of £0.441M.

Cllr Howell queried whether the Service would fill the corporate staff vacancies outlined in the salaries and wages forecast outturn. TH confirmed that the Service did intend to fill the vacancies.

Members discussed the additional expenditure on vehicle repairs. It was agreed that TH would gain further details of areas where inconsiderate parking was an issue and share with Cllr Batey.

ACTION: Members noted the forecast revenue and capital outturn position.

4 Short Term Investments 2018/19 Quarter 3

TH introduced the report which provided an update on the performance of the Authority's Short-Term Investments for the period ended 31 December 2018.

Members discussed borrower details and TH confirmed that borrowers were selected based on interest rates.

ACTION: Members noted the current position regarding the Authority's Short-Term Investments.

5 Revenue and Capital Budgets 2019/20 and Medium-Term Financial Plan

TH introduced the report which set out details of the local government finance settlement for 2019/20 and requested consideration of the revenue and capital budgets and medium-term financial plan (MTFP) to agree a firm recommendation on the budget and council tax to the meeting of the Fire Authority on 22 February 2019.

Cllr Howell queried the national position regarding MTFP assumptions. TH confirmed that other Services were working to similar assumptions.

Members discussed possible effects of a council tax increase and noted concern for individuals who are already under financial pressure as a result of increases in the cost of living.

ACTION:

- (i) Members **considered** the information in the report.
- (ii) Members **considered** the level of council tax for the 2019/20 financial year.
- (iii) Members **noted** the risks that have been identified as part of the budget setting process
- (iv) Members **agreed** to a 2.95% increase in council tax for 2019/20 and **agreed** to a firm recommendation on this basis be made to the Combined Fire Authority meeting on 22 February 2019.

PART B

6 Application for flexible retirement – reduction of working hours

TH introduced the report which sought consideration of an application for flexible retirement.

ACTION: Members **considered** and **agreed** the flexible retirement application based on the information outlined within the report.

Time and Date of Next Meeting: TBC