

## **County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service**

At a meeting of the **Finance Committee** held remotely on **29 October 2020 at 10.00am hours**.

**Present:** Cllr A Batey in the Chair (AB)  
**Durham County Council:** Cllrs R Bell, J Shuttleworth, D Freeman, C Potts,  
**Darlington Borough Council:** Cllr H Crumbie  
**Officers:** T Hope (TH)  
**Secretariat:** A Baxter

### **Part A**

#### **1 Apologies**

No apologies were received

#### **2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 Jan 2020 were agreed.

#### **3 Revenue and Capital Out-turn or the year ended 31 March 2020**

Members were presented with details of the revenue and financial out-turn position following the approval of the accounts by the Audit and Risk Committee on 28 October 2020.

Members expressed their thanks for the report which was produced under adverse circumstances.

Members asked about the overspend in paragraph 8 of the report. TH explained that it was due to various reasons such as expenditure on clothing and other external hired services which was off set by recharges to Vital Fire Solutions and drawings from earmarked reserves.

The report was **noted**.

#### **4 Short term investments Quarter 4 2019/20**

TH presented the report to Members. Members noted that interest received during 2019/20 exceeded the budget by £38,000.

The report was **noted**.

#### **5 Short term investments Quarter 2 2020/21**

The report was presented by TH. TH explained that Interest rates are significantly below what we originally forecast and consequently the interest received for the period is below budget.

The report was **noted**.

## **6 Forecast of Out-turn Quarter 2 2020/21 End of Sept**

The report was presented by TH.

Members were given information regarding the forecasting of an underspend of just under 1% and the detailed reasons for the variances which were largely due to Covid spending.

Currently there is no indication of further government funding to assist with Covid, however the Home Office have some remaining funds which the Service will bid into.

Members noted the forecast out-turn position.

## **7 2021/22 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan**

Members were presented with information regarding the preparation of the 2021/22 budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which highlighted the ongoing uncertainty in relation to national and local funding and the impact of this on the Service.

Members were advised they would be asked to approve the 2021/22 budget and MTFP at the Finance Committee meeting set for 28 January 2021 and in readiness for the Combined Fire Authority meeting set for 19 February 202. At this point recommendations should be in place and further savings will have been identified should they become necessary.

TH agreed to inform Members on the settlement as soon as we get the information from the Government.

The report was **noted** and the recommendations were **agreed**.

### **AOB**

There were no items raised

**There were no part B items**

The next meeting will take place on 28 January 2021.