

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

At a meeting of the **Finance Committee** held remotely on **3 February 2021** at **10.00am** hours.

Present: Cllr A Batey in the Chair
Durham County Council: Cllrs R Bell, J Shuttleworth, D Freeman, C Potts
Darlington Borough Council: Cllr H Crumby
Officers: T Hope

Part A

1 Apologies

There were no apologies.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 October 2020 were agreed as a true record.

3 Forecast of Outturn 2020/21 Quarter 3

T Hope introduced the report which provided an indication of the Service's revenue and capital financial outturn position based upon expenditure and income to 31 December 2020.

Members queried Covid grants off setting costs and pension contributions. Discussion took place on vehicle procurement and delays in build time.

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

4 Short term investments 2020/21 Quarter 3

T Hope introduced the report which provided an update on the performance of the authority's short-term investments for the period ended 31 December 2020.

Action: Members noted the current position regarding the Authority's short-term investments.

5 Revenue and Capital Budgets 2021/22 and Medium-Term Financial Plan

T Hope introduced the report which set out the details of the provisional local government finance settlement for 2021/22 and asked members to consider 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 19 February 2021.

Members discussed the council tax increase and noted the reason for 1.96% increase rather than 1.99% as this figure keeps all council tax bands below 2%

Pay awards were discussed and it was noted that funding for any pay awards would have to be met by the service.

A Batey asked T Hope to pass on thanks to all those involved in producing the budgets and MTFP from the committee.

Action:

- i) Members considered the information in the report
- ii) Members considered the level of council tax for the 2021/22 financial year
- iii) Members noted the risks that have been identified as part of the budget setting process
- iv) Members agreed to a 1.96% increase in council tax for 2021/22 and agreed to a firm recommendation to the Combined Fire Authority meeting on 19 February 2021

Part B

No reports submitted

ACTIONS FROM MEETING

| | Who | Action | |
|---|-----|---|------|
| 1 | TH | To pass thanks to all those who worked on budget and MTFP | ASAP |