

Safest People, Safest Places

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

21 MARCH 2017

NOTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 30 JANUARY 2017

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Members Present: Cllr J Robinson (Chair)
Cllrs C Potts, J Lethbridge, G Richardson, M Hodgson and
S Richmond

Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr M Simmons

PART A

1. The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update of the discussions and recommendations of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on the 30 January 2017.

Forecast Outturn 2016/17 Quarter 3

2. Members were presented with the Service's revenue and capital financial outturn position based upon expenditure and income to 31 December 2016. Details of underspends and overspends and the reasons for significant variations from budget were provided and discussed.

The committee **noted** the forecast and revenue and capital outturn position.

Short Term Investments – Quarter 3

3. Members were provided with an update on the performance of the Authority's Short Term Investments for the period ended 31 December 2016. Members noted the transactions made with the UK Government Debt Management Office, Money Marketing Funds, UK Clearing banks and major building societies.

The committee **noted** the report

Revenue and Capital Budget 2017/18 and Medium Term Financial Plan

4. Members were presented with the report to consider the revenue and capital budgets for 2017/18 and medium term financial plan. Members were requested to agree a firm recommendation on the budget and level of council tax to the meeting of the Combined Fire Authority on 9 February.

Members noted and commented on the settlement funding assessment, the medium term financial plan, and the risks that had been identified as part of the budget setting process

Members **agreed** that the level of council tax be increased by 1.9% for the 2017/18 financial year, **agreed** that the level of council tax increased by 1.9% in 2018/19 and 2019/20 provided that this is within the limits outlined by the Government.

Sickness Absence Performance Quarter 3

5. Members were provided with details on sickness absence performance for quarter 3. A breakdown of the sickness statistics and behind the increases and decreases were considered and discussed.
6. A sickness data analysis report detailing the Service's long term and short term sickness absence was circulated to the committee.

The committee **noted** both reports.

PART B

Application for reinstatement of Survivors Pension

7. Members were presented with an application for the reinstatement of a survivors pension for consideration and approval. The pension scheme administrator had confirmed that there were no financial implications to the Authority, as payments for survivors pension were paid from the national pension fund.

The committee **agreed to recommend to the Combined Fire Authority** that the request to have the survivors pension reinstated indefinitely from the date of the application be approved.