

**Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012  
in the Committee Room, Clayport Street, Alnwick at 7.15pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs Castle (Chairman), S Allcroft, K Gray, R Roberts, J Thompson, A Symmonds and R Waddell.

**In attendance:** W Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk.

**FP 12/1. Apologies:** Cllrs B Grisdale and S Patience.

**FP 12/2. Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared.

**FP 12/3. Budget update and expenditure proposals**

The clerk circulated the budget for 2012/13 together with the final outturns for the Finance and Policy Committee. This showed that £1,600 was uncommitted and in addition a reduction in insurance premium would result in a further £1,000 saving. The final committee outturn in 2011/12 was some £4,850 under budget. The Committee felt that some issues would develop during the year, which may require expenditure; these could include contributions to emerging projects.

**RESOLVED: That the budget update be received.**

**FP12/4. Insurance and Fidelity Guarantee**

The clerk outlined details of the insurance cover now provided by Zurich Municipal. The new premium was considerably cheaper than the quote from the previous insurer. The new policy had benefits such as increased public liability insurance (£10 million), increased legal expenses and increased officials indemnity. In addition, the Fidelity Guarantee was for up to £250,000 as a standard policy item, rather than for a specific amount as under the previous policy. This level of Fidelity Guarantee cover would be more than sufficient for the Council. In addition to secure a reduction in premium (10%) and for this to be fixed, the council had agreed to enter into a three year commitment with Zurich.

**RESOLVED: To note the current insurance arrangements.**

**FP12/5. Any other Urgent Business**

- a) Councillor Allcroft expressed dissatisfaction with the Northumberland County Council standards of planting and the maintenance of the Column Field, this year. It was agreed that this should be taken up with NCC and if necessary a meeting arranged to discuss.
- b) Councillor Castle asked that a representative of the Fenkle Street retailers should be invited to the next Council meeting to discuss their suggestions for Fenkle Street.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm