

## Report No.2

### Report to Policy and Resources Committee 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015

#### Funding for installation of flag pole

##### 1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To request the committee to consider the funding for the installation of a new flag pole from reserves rather than the Town Hall Maintenance budget in view of the higher than anticipated demands upon that budget code in the current financial year.

##### 2. Background

- 2.1 Last year the Town Hall and Facilities Committee received a report that the mechanism on the old flag pole was no longer operative and did not meet the current safety requirements.
- 2.2 The committee agreed to replace the flag pole and quotations were sought from local contractors.
- 2.3 A quotation was accepted and instruction given for the replacement to proceed but it proved to be several months before the work could be undertaken with the result that the invoice was only paid in the current financial year.
- 2.4 The cost of the flagpole was allocated to the Town Hall maintenance account.

##### 3. Proposal

- 3.1 Although the Council agreed to fund the cost of the repairs to the external stonework of the Town Hall by using the depreciation fund and the balance from reserves the accounting system shows the expenditure being set against the Town Hall maintenance budget.
- 3.2 The Town Hall was refurbished nearly eight years ago and the level of required maintenance is increasing year on year.
- 3.3 In the event that the stonework and flagpole are removed from this heading and taken from reserves the current level of expenditure on maintenance reduces to approximately £5,500.
- 3.4 The revised figure allows for the required maintenance of the heating system to be implemented within the budget together with enhancements to the hearing loop..

##### 4. Financial implications and risks

- 4.1 The budget allocated for the maintenance of the Town Hall was never intended to accommodate expenditure on what may be regarded as capital items and it would be more appropriate to fund the flagpole from reserves.

##### 5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Members are recommended to approve that the expenditure on the replacement flag pole be taken from reserves.

Jeff Penfold  
Town Clerk  
24<sup>th</sup> November 2015