

Ashington Town Forum Terms of Reference 29.5.25

Purpose

- Bring together strategic partners in Ashington to ensure a cohesive approach to the development, prosperity and community of the town.
- Strive for a thriving retail, business, living, tourist and evening economy.
- Respect and uphold the town's history and heritage.

Methods

- Provide a forum for discussion, input, advice and information sharing on major projects and programmes including the Regenerating Ashington Programme.
- Look for opportunities to engage with other stakeholders in the town and where relevant to seek views and opinion.
- Support a positive and constructive relationship with property owners and potential developers in the town.
- Identify and seek to resolve potential challenges or conflicts.
- Support partners in securing external funding from a broad range of sources to improve the town.
- Enable and amplify effective communications and engagement with wider stakeholders and the public.
- The Forum is an informal advisory partnership and will not be formally constituted, nor will it have decision making powers.
- It will normally meet on a quarterly basis although additional meetings can be diarised where needed.

Confidentiality

Ashington Town Forum will subscribe to the principles of openness and transparency and will aim to share information within the group for the wider benefit of the town. All participants are expected to respect the commercially sensitive nature of the developments discussed and to maintain the confidentiality of any information disclosed within the meeting. Public announcements and disclosure will be by agreement of the group or by the stakeholder leading the project involved.

Membership

It is intended that the Town Forum will be an informal advisory partnership bringing the public, private and community sectors together to improve the town. This includes Northumberland County Council, Ashington Town Council, Advance Northumberland, and key strategic business leaders and community representatives linking in with other networks and partnerships in the town.

All members will be encouraged to act as ambassadors for the town.

Members

NCC Elected Members –

Cllr. Caroline Ball, Ashington Central
Cllr. Scott Amery, Bothal
Cllr. Steven Roberts, College and North Seaton
Cllr. Sonia Simm, Haydon
Cllr. John Allen, Hirst
Cllr. Karl Green, Seaton with Spital
Cllr Richard Wearmouth – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Business, Growth and egeneration

NCC Officers – David Warburton, Head of Regeneration, Rob Strettle, Regeneration Manager, Karen Donaldson, Programme Manager, Claire Anderson, Project Officer, Gill Robertson - Senior Surveyor, Neil Quinn – Hirst Masterplan, Public Health Rep TBC, Other NCC Officers e.g. from planning, tourism & comms can be invited as required

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Ashington Town Council – Sarah Eden Town Clerk and x4 Town Councillor reps TBC by Town Council, other Town Council officers can be invited as required.
Constituency MP representative – Ian Lavery MP or representative from Constituency Office
Advance – Andrew Mowbray, Director of Projects and Gary Hudson, Head of Investments – other officers can be invited as required
Strategic Business - Bernicia – John Johnston (Chair)
Strategic Business – Akzo Nobel - Jeff Hope
Strategic Business – Culpitt/Sugarfayre – Simon Keogh
Strategic Business – Boyd Technologies Ashington UK Ltd – Mark Robinson
Strategic Business – Raytec CCTV – David Lambert
Education, Employability and Skills – Education Partnership North East (Northumberland College) – Ellen Thiessen
Education, Employability and Skills – DWP – Julia Smith
Culture – North East Museums – Jo Raw
Community – Northumberland Community and Voluntary Action – Caroline Rogan
Community – Children North East – Leigh Elliott
Crime and Safety - Northumbria Police – Wayne Daniels