



Ashington Town Council
Town Hall, 65 Station Road
Ashington, Northumberland
NE63 8RU

1st July 2025

To All members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **FINANCE & GENERAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING**, in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 65 STATION ROAD, NE63 8RU**, on **Tuesday 8th July 2025 at 6:00pm**.

The agenda for the meeting is set out below, along with associated papers. If you have any questions about any of the items on the agenda, please contact the office.

The meeting is open to the press and public. As per the agenda and our standing orders, any resident wishing to speak should contact us prior to the meeting, before 5pm on Monday 7th July 2025.

Sarah Eden
Executive Office/RFO

AGENDA

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

Members are also reminded that they need to regularly review their declarations of interest forms and ensure they remain up to date.

4. DISPENSATIONS

To receive and consider any dispensations.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair to receive any items put forward by members of the public and to put questions to or draw relevant matters to the attention of the Council. This is for a period of 15 minutes overall and is limited to 3 minutes per person.

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Please email/telephone the office with questions on items on the agenda no later than 5.00pm on Monday 7th June 2025.

6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

To receive and sign as a true record, the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th June 2025 (enc)ⁱ

7. CLERK AND OFFICER UPDATES

To receive an update on items actioned since the previous meeting (to follow)ⁱⁱ

8. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE 2025/26

a) Updated Budget Report

To receive updated budget and expenditure report (enc)ⁱⁱⁱ

b) Accounts Paid and to be Paid

To receive a schedule of accounts paid; to endorse those accounts paid since the last meeting (enc)^{iv}

c) Bank Reconciliation

To receive the bank reconciliation dated 30th June 2025 (enc)^v

9. CENTRAL ARCADE (known as Co-op Building) Placed on the agenda by Cllr Caroline Ball (enc)^{vi}

To resolve that Ashington Town Council recognises the historical and cultural significance of Central Arcade known as Co-op building, and the urgent need to secure its long-term preservation and integration into the town's future development plans and agrees to:

- Formally identify Central Arcade known as Co-op building as a priority for heritage conservation and economic regeneration.
- Write to Northumberland County Council and Advance Northumberland to request the Regeneration and Economic Development department explore all available funding mechanisms, partnerships, and strategic frameworks to support the acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of the asset.
- Request Northumberland County Council officers prepare a report outlining options for regeneration-led heritage and tourism investment in Ashington.
- Write to Northumberland County Council enforcement to ensure the owner is meeting all current requirements of grade II status.

10. NCC NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES PARTNERSHIP MEETING, 3rd June 2025

To receive and note the report, and address any questions to Board Members (enc)^{vii}

11. YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING, 17TH June 2025

To receive a note of the meeting held, to endorse the actions, and consider the recommendations in respect of the committee going forward (enc)^{viii}

- a) Free Swim Sessions – to endorse that funding be allocated towards 2 free swims sessions in each week of school holidays, to include Wednesday and Saturdays.
- b) Free Gym Sessions – to endorse that we explore similar free gym sessions at Ashington Leisure Centre and Hirst Welfare Centre.
- c) Pride Picnic at Hirst Park – agree that £3,000 funding allocated to this event from 'Events Budget' be made available to Pride Action North, or another to lead on delivery.
- d) Riverside Open Day 12th July 2025 – endorse that £300 is allocated towards food and refreshments on the day, and the Council supports with publicity for the event.
- e) Youth Advisory Committee – consider recommendation in respect of Youth Advisory Committee (enc)^{ix}

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12. GRANT FUNDING 2025/26 – ANNUAL AND SMALL GRANTS

To consider the recommendations (enc)^x of the task and finish group in regards:

- a) Annual Grants Funding Guidance (enc)^{xi}
- b) Annual Grants Application Form (enc)^{xii}
- c) Annual Grants Monitoring Requirements (enc)^{xiii}, (enc)^{xiv}
- d) Small Grants Funding Guidance (enc)^{xv}
- e) Small Grants Application Form (enc)^{xvi}
- f) Schedule (enc)^{xvii}

Following agreed protocols, to agree to publicise availability of grants according to schedule.

13. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members are invited to consider passing the following resolution:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, permitted under Section 1 (2) LGA 1960, due to the confidential nature of the business being transacted. Item 14 is commercially sensitive, Item 15 relates to an individual, Item 16 is a legal matter.

14. NORTH SEATON COLLIERY PLAY AREA REDEVELOPMENT

To consider the recommendation in respect of North Seaton Colliery Play Area re-development and agree to award the contract. To agree 'in principle' to seek funding via Scottish Power Renewables Windfarm Funding, following community consultation and fully costed plans (to follow)^{xviii}

15. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING

To consider recommendations from the recent Personnel Committee meeting, and agree appropriate action (to follow)^{xix}

16. UNIT AT GREEN LANE

To receive a verbal update following the recent meeting with new Landlord, Northmount Property, and agree any further action.

17. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT FGS MEETING

Tuesday 9th September 2025, but note there is a Full Council Meeting on Tuesday 29th July 2025

ENCLOSURES

- i Draft Minutes of the Finance and General Services Committee, 10th June 2025
- ii Clerk and Officer Update (July) (to follow)
- iii Updated Budget and Expenditure Report, June 2025
- iv Schedule of Accounts paid (July)
- v Bank Reconciliation (30th June 2025)
- vi Motion to Ashington Town Council to Save Central Arcade (Cllr Caroline Ball)
- vii Draft Report of the Enhanced Services meeting, 3rd June 2025
- viii Youth Advisory Committee, 17th June 2025
- ix Strengthening Youth Advisory Committee Proposal
- x Summary of Grant Funding Recommendations
- xi Annual Grants Funding Guidance
- xii Annual Grants Application Form
- xiii Annual Grants Monitoring Requirements
- xiv Annual Grants Additional Monitoring Requirements
- xv Small Grants Funding Guidance
- xvi Small Grants Application Form
- xvii Grants Schedule
- xviii North Seaton Colliery Play Area (to follow)
- xix Personnel Committee Recommendations (to follow)

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