



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

1<sup>st</sup> September 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 9<sup>th</sup> September 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 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

**Sarah Eden**  
**Executive Office/RFO**

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**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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<https://www.instagram.com/ashingtontc/>

Please email/telephone the office with questions on items on the agenda no later than 5.00pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

## **6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

To receive and sign as a true record, the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025 (enc)<sup>i</sup>

## **7. CLERK AND OFFICER UPDATES**

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

## **8. CASUAL VACANCY - HIRST WARD**

To formally declare a casual vacancy in the office of Councillor, following the death of Councillor Victor Bridges. Members will note that the formal Notice of Vacancy was published on 3rd September 2025. In accordance with statutory requirements, electors of the ward have until 23rd September 2025 to request an election. If no such request is made, the vacancy may be filled by co-option (enc)<sup>iii</sup>

## **9. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE 2025/26**

### ***a) Updated Budget Report***

To receive updated budget and expenditure report (enc)<sup>iv</sup>

### ***b) Accounts Paid and to be Paid***

To receive a schedule of accounts paid; to endorse those accounts paid since the last meeting (enc)<sup>v</sup>

### ***c) Bank Reconciliation***

To receive the bank reconciliation dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025 (enc)<sup>vi</sup>

## **10. CCTV MEETING, 9th JULY 2025**

To receive and note the report, and address any questions to Board Members (to follow)<sup>vii</sup>

## **11. YOUTH COORDINATION GROUP MEETING, 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025**

To receive note of meeting, and to endorse the action on future meetings (enc)<sup>viii</sup>

## **12. ALLOTMENT FIRES – HIGH MARKET AND WANSBECK ROAD ALLOTMENT SITES**

To receive and agree the report of officers on the management of allotment fires at High Market and Wansbeck Road Allotment Sites, and to endorse the actions taken to introduce a ban on allotment fires except during the months of March and November (enc)<sup>ix</sup>

## **13. GRANT FUNDING 2025/26 – ANNUAL GRANTS**

The Assessment Panel, supported by the Executive Officer, and comprising Cllrs Caroline Ball, Marjorie Chambers, Kerry Davison, Karl Green, and Lynne Grimshaw reviewed 24 grant aid applications totalling £96,341 against the published Grant Funding Guidelines and Criteria. To receive the recommendations for funding allocation across two budget headings, including a strategic proposal to use the Youth Initiatives & Support budget to maximise community benefit while maintaining financial responsibility. To receive and approve recommendation.

## **14. CENTRAL ARCADE (known as Co-op Building) Placed on the agenda by Cllr Caroline Ball**

To receive and note the response from Northumberland County Council regarding Ashington Town Council's motion on the former Co-op (Central Arcade) building (enc)<sup>x</sup>

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## **15. NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL PLAN 'CALL FOR SITES' CONSULTATION**

To receive formal consultation from NCC inviting landowners, developers, agents, local residents and other interested parties to submit potential development sites for consideration, in particular sites for housing, economic development, town centre uses, mineral extraction, and for environmental enhancement (enc)<sup>xi</sup>

## **16. 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 is a legal matter.

## **17. UNIT AT GREEN LANE**

To receive a response from Northumberland Estates regarding their sale of units at Green Lane (enc)<sup>xii</sup>

To consider new rent for the unit at Green Lane following 'without prejudice' discussions with the new Landlord, Northmount Property, and agree any further action (enc)<sup>xiii</sup>

## **18. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT FGS MEETING**

FGS on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025, but note there is a Full Council Meeting on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## **ENCLOSURES**

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- <sup>i</sup> Draft Minutes of the Finance and General Services Committee, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025
  - <sup>ii</sup> Clerk and Officer Update (September) (to follow)
  - <sup>iii</sup> Clerks Report – Casual Vacancy
  - <sup>iv</sup> Updated Budget and Expenditure Report, September 2025
  - <sup>v</sup> Schedule of Accounts paid (September)
  - <sup>vi</sup> Bank Reconciliation (31<sup>st</sup> August 2025)
  - <sup>vii</sup> Draft Report of the Enhanced Services meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025
  - <sup>viii</sup> Note of Youth Coordination Meeting, 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025
  - <sup>ix</sup> Report on Allotment Fires – High Market and Wansbeck Road Allotment Sites
  - <sup>x</sup> Response on Central Arcade
  - <sup>xi</sup> NCC Letter – Call for Sites
  - <sup>xii</sup> P&C Response from Advance Northumberland, Green Lane
  - <sup>xiii</sup> P&C Rent Negotiations on Green Lane

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