



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

1<sup>st</sup> December 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> December 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> December 2025.

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

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**AGENDA**

**1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR**

Cllr Lynne Grimshaw to open the meeting.

**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. WANSBECK VALLEY FOODBANK** (*Finance and Funding Officer, Karina Henery in attendance*)

To receive an update from Wansbeck Valley Foodbank, including how the current financial climate is continuing to affect the local area.

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<https://www.facebook.com/ashingtontowncouncil>

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

## **6. 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.

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

## **7. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

To receive and sign as a true record, the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 (enc)<sup>i</sup>

## **8. CLERK AND OFFICER UPDATES**

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

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

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

To receive updated budget and expenditure report (to follow)<sup>iii</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>iv</sup>

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

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

## **10. PUBLIC TOILETS** *(placed on the agenda following proposal at last meeting)*

To receive and note the report on Public Toilet Provision - Station Road Facilities, and discuss the Council's motivation and appetite for taking on public toilet provision and to indicate whether the Council wishes to express interest in principle in exploring the potential transfer of Station Road public toilets, on the basis that any agreement would be subject to satisfactory terms including full capital refurbishment by NCC prior to transfer (enc)<sup>vi</sup>

*Note: No formal commitment is being sought and no approach has been made to NCC. The purpose is to establish Cllrs' views and motivation on this matter before any enquiries are made to NCC.*

## **11. CCTV MEETING**

To receive and note the report of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025, and to identify any matters arising from the report that require further consideration or information (enc)<sup>vii</sup>

## **12. YOUTH SERVICES COLLABORATION MEETING**

To receive the report of the meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Members are asked to note the content of the report and the discussion arising with updates on current youth provision, emerging opportunities, community safety matters and areas where further coordination may be beneficial. Members are invited to identify any matters they wish to take forward through future Council or Committee agendas, or any issues they would like officers to raise for further discussion with the Youth Collaboration Meeting (enc)<sup>viii</sup>

## **13. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**

To receive report on Remembrance Sunday and agree to arrange a meeting of Ashington RBL, Churches Together and Town Council in the New Year (enc)<sup>ix</sup>

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#### **14. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON EVENT, 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**

To receive and note the report (enc)<sup>x</sup>

#### **15. NCC DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER - NOTICE OF CONSULTATION**

To consider the consultation notice and determine whether to make representations to Northumberland County Council regarding the proposed Dog Control PSPO, particularly in relation to the potential inclusion of sports pitches within the exclusion provisions (enc)<sup>xi</sup>

#### **16. NORTHUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCIL MEETING REPORT**

To receive the reports for information, to note any matters of relevance to the Council and to instruct the Council's NALC Representative on any issues to raise at a future NALC meeting.

*a) County Committee Meeting - 11th October 2025 (enc)<sup>xii</sup>*

*b) Annual General Meeting - 15th November 2025 (enc)<sup>xiii</sup>*

#### **17. BUDGET 2026/27**

To note that draft budget figures for the 2026/27 financial year will be presented to the Finance and General Services Committee on 13th January 2026 for consideration and discussion.

Councillors are invited to meet with the Executive Officer/RFO at any time before the FGS meeting, either individually or in groups, to review year-end figures, provisional budget proposals, and discuss any budget ideas or queries they may have.

The final budget and precept for Ashington Town Council will be set at the Full Council meeting on 27th January 2026.

#### **18. 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 17 is a legal matter.

#### **19. COUNCIL UNIT FOR OPERATIONAL WORKS**

To receive confidential report and agree action (to follow)<sup>xiv</sup>

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

FGS on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026

#### **ENCLOSURES**

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<sup>i</sup> Draft Minutes of the Finance and General Services Committee, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025

<sup>ii</sup> Clerk and Officer Update (December) (to follow)

<sup>iii</sup> Updated Budget and Expenditure Report, December 2025

<sup>iv</sup> Schedule of Accounts paid (December)

<sup>v</sup> Bank Reconciliation (31<sup>st</sup> December 2025)

<sup>vi</sup> Public Toilet Provision - Station Road Facilities

<sup>vii</sup> CCTV Meeting Report, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025

<sup>viii</sup> Youth Collaboration, Report of Meeting

<sup>ix</sup> Remembrance Sunday, Report of event

<sup>x</sup> Christmas Lights Switch-On, Report of event

<sup>xi</sup> NCC Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order Report

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- xii NALC County Committee, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2025
  - xiii NALC AGM, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025
  - xiv Council Unit for Operational Works