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

31st January 2026

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 10th February 2026 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 9th February 2026.

Sarah Eden, Executive Office/RFO

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.

The Council must approve any requested dispensations where declarations of interest have been made and members wish to stay in the meeting/speak on the item.

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.

Please email/telephone the office with questions on items on the agenda no later than 5.00pm on Monday 9th February 2026.

6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

To receive and sign as a true record, the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th January 2026 (enc)[i]

7. CLERK AND OFFICER UPDATES

To receive an update on items actioned since the previous meeting (to be tabled)[ii]

8. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE 2025/26

a) Updated Budget Report

To receive updated budget and expenditure report (to follow/to be tabled)[iii]

b) Accounts Paid and to be Paid

To receive a schedule of accounts paid; to endorse those accounts paid since the last meeting (to follow/to be tabled)[iv]

c) Bank Reconciliation

To receive the bank reconciliation dated 31st January 2026 (to follow/to be tabled)[v]

9. UK TOWN OF CULTURE 2028 – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (placed on the agenda by Cllr Caroline Ball)

To consider whether the Town Council wishes to support the submission of an Expression of Interest to the UK Town of Culture 2028 competition and to agree any associated actions (enc)[vi]

10. PARTNERSHIP BOARD UPDATE REPORT

To receive the report of the Ashington Partnership Board meeting held on Wednesday 21st January 2026, and provide an opportunity for members to raise questions (enc)[vii]

11. ASHINGTON COMMUNITY WOODS

To receive the report of the meeting held on Wednesday 21st January 2026, for information and to agree any comments (enc)[viii]

12. SMALL AND ANNUAL GRANTS 2026/27

To confirm membership of the Grant Funding Working Group and approve its reconvening to review the 2025/26 process and prepare recommendations for the 2026/27 funding rounds (enc)[ix]

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

Tuesday 10th March 2026

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ENCLOSURES

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[i] Draft Minutes of the Finance and General Services Committee, 13th January 2026
[ii] Officers Update
[iii] Updated Budget and Expenditure Report, February 2026
[iv] Account Schedule (February)
[v] Bank Reconciliation (31st January 2026)
[vi] Cllr Info on Town of Culture, and Clerk's Note
[vii] Partnership Board Report and Update
[viii] Ashington Community Woods - Report of Meeting held on 21st January 2026
[ix] Small and Annual Grants Review

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