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

2nd March 2026

To All members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **FINANCE & GENERAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING,** at **NORTH SEATON COMMUNITY CENTRE, MANLEY VIEW, OAKVILLE, ASHINGTON, NE63 9TE**, **on Tuesday 10th March 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 March 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 March 2026.

6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

To receive and sign as a true record, the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th February 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 28th February 2026 (to follow/to be tabled)[v]

9. SMALL GRANTS – FEBRUARY ROUND

To receive a report of those Small Grant applications received and awarded in the final round of small grant funding in 2025/26 (enc)[vi]

10. YOUTH COLLABORATION MEETING

To receive a report of the meeting held on 16th February 2026, and address any questions to the Cllrs present (enc)[vii]

11. PROJECT SHIELD - ACTIVITY REPORT AND FUNDING RELEASE

To receive a report detailing Project Shield activity and outcomes specific to Ashington since April 2025, and to approve the release of the £20,000 previously allocated within the 2025/26 budget for this purpose (enc)[viii]

To consider whether to make any proposal for additional funding for 2026/27; noting that no provision currently exists within the 2026/27 budget. Any such proposal would be referred to the Full Council meeting on 31st March for formal consideration.

12. HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS (placed on the agenda by Cllr Coyle)

To consider that Ashington Town Council writes to Northumberland County Council requesting that Ashington receives meaningful consideration in the allocation of highways maintenance funding, and highlighting the longstanding condition of roads across the town as justification for prioritisation (enc)[ix]

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

Tuesday 14th April 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, March 2026
[iv] Account Schedule (March)
[v] Bank Reconciliation (28th February 2026)
[vi] Small Grant Report – February 2026
[vii] Youth Collaboration Meeting, 16th February 2026
[viii] Project Shield Performance Report
[ix] Highways Funding Proposal (Cllr Coyle)

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