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

3rd November 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 11th November 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 10th November 2025.

Sarah Eden
Executive Office/RFO

AGENDA

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR
To include welcome to recently elected Hirst Ward Cllr, Cllr Sonia Simm.

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.

Please email/telephone the office with questions on items on the agenda no later than 5.00pm on Monday 10th November 2025.

6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

To receive and sign as a true record, the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th October 2025 (enc)[i]

7. CLERK AND OFFICER UPDATES

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

8. CASUAL VACANCY - HIRST WARD

To formally note a further casual vacancy in the office of Councillor, following the resignation of Councillor John Allen. Members will note that the formal Notice of Vacancy was published on 14th October 2025, and as legal timescales allow there will be an election for two vacant seats in December.

9. 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 31st October 2025 (enc)[v]

10. HIGHWAY GULLIES MAPPING INITIATIVE (placed on the agenda by Cllr David Coyle)

To consider a proposal for a coordinated initiative involving ATC Ward Councillors in identifying and mapping problem highway gullies within their wards, to be submitted collectively to Northumberland County Council (NCC) Highways for action. To recommend that Ashington Town Council approves and supports the implementation of the Ashington Highway Gullies Mapping Initiative as a proactive and collaborative approach to improving highway drainage and community satisfaction (enc)[vi] To agree that the Council:

- Approves the Ward Councillors' Gully Mapping Initiative.
- Adopts the standard recording method (what3words or another, street name, condition notes, optional photos).
- Sets a timeframe of 4–6 weeks for completion of ward surveys.
- Supports coordination and collation of findings and submission to NCC Highways, by the office, requesting acknowledgement, assessment, and feedback on remedial actions.
- Monitors progress and reports outcomes to a future meeting.
- Considers repeating the exercise annually if successful.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS WARD BUDGET

Seaton & Spital Ward (placed on the agenda by Ward Cllrs)

To agree that the £3,000 to support the 'heat loss scheme' for North Seaton Community Centre, be redirected to fund North Seaton Colliery Community Centre heating system (enc)[vii]

College & North Seaton Ward (placed on the agenda by Ward Cllrs)
To agree that the remaining £3,500 in the College & North Seaton Ward Environmental Enhancements budget is committed to the new heating system at North Seaton Colliery Community Centre.

12. REPLACEMENT OF PUBLIC SEATING IN HAYDON WARD *(placed on the agenda by Ward Cllrs)*
To agree the replacement of five public seats on North Seaton Road (3) and Newbiggin Road (2), with funding via County Cllr Sonia Simm's Members Local Improvement Scheme (MLIS) or Haydon Ward Environmental Enhancements budget (enc)[viii]

13. NORTH SEATON COLLIERY PLAY AREA
To receive and note the project update report on North Seaton Colliery Play Area development, including consultation outcomes, approved equipment, complementary works, financial summary, and anticipated completion timeline (enc)[ix]

14. PARTNERSHIP BOARD UPDATE REPORT
To receive the report of the Ashington Partnership Board meeting held on Tuesday 22nd October 2025, and provide an opportunity for members to raise questions (enc)[x]

15. MONTHLY SATURDAY MARKET
To agree to provide the impetus and direction for the introduction of a monthly Saturday market on Station Road, to be operated by Wavelengths NE under a trial arrangement similar to that currently in place in Blyth, and that the Executive Officer writes to NCC Markets Manager to seek support (enc)[xi]

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 17 is a legal matter.

17. COUNCIL UNIT FOR OPERATIONAL WORKS
To receive confidential report and agree action (enc)[xii]

18. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT FGS MEETING
FGS on Tuesday 9th December 2025

ENCLOSURES

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[i] Draft Minutes of the Finance and General Services Committee, 9th September 2025
[ii] Clerk and Officer Update (November) (to follow)
[iii] Updated Budget and Expenditure Report, November 2025
[iv] Schedule of Accounts paid (November)
[v] Bank Reconciliation (31st October 2025)
[vi] Highway Gullies Proposal
[vii] Note on transfer of committed ward Cllr Environmental Improvements spending
[viii] Haydon Ward Public Seats
[ix] North Seaton Colliery Play Area Development - Project Update
[x] Partnership Board Report and Update
[xi] Monthly Saturday Market
[xii] Council Unit for Operational Works

Tel: (01670) 624521
E-mail: sarah.eden@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
https://www.facebook.com/ashingtontowncouncil
https://www.instagram.com/ashingtontc/