



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

6th 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 13th January 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 12th January 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.

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 12th January 2026.

6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

To receive and sign as a true record, the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th December 2025 (enc)ⁱ

7. PRE-BUDGET REPORT 2026/27

To formally receive the report sent out in December, and address any questions to the RFO (enc)ⁱⁱ

8. 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 December 2025 (enc)^v

9. WANSBECK VALLEY FOODBANK AND CITIZENS ADVICE NORTHUMBERLAND (*placed on the agenda by Cllr John Tully*)

To utilise the £20,000 underspend of the Climate Change Projects and Initiatives to provide greatly needed support to the Wansbeck Valley Food Bank £10,000, and Citizens Advice Northumberland £10,000 (enc)^{vi}

10. YOUTH SERVICES COLLABORATION MEETING

To receive the report of the meeting held on 1st December 2025. 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)^{vii}

11. 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 two items, permitted under Section 1 (2) LGA 1960, due to the confidential nature of the business being transacted.

12. COUNCIL UNIT FOR OPERATIONAL WORKS

To receive a confidential feasibility report and consider recommendations regarding long-term depot provision and associated budget implications for 2026/27 (enc)^{viii}

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13. PERSONNEL – WORKFORCE MATTERS

To receive the recommendations of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 16th December 2025 regarding proposed workforce structural changes and to recommend budget allocation for 2026/27 (enc)^{ix}

END OF EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

14. DRAFT BUDGET 2026/27

To consider and discuss the Budget and Precept requirement of Ashington Town Council for 2026/27, and to agree to recommend a level of Budget and Precept to Full Council at the meeting scheduled for Tuesday 27th January 2026, noting that this is an indication as some details are not yet available (enc)^x (enc)^{xi}

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

Tuesday 10th February 2026

ENCLOSURES

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- ⁱ Draft Minutes of the Finance and General Services Committee, 9th December 2025
 - ⁱⁱ Pre-Budget Report
 - ⁱⁱⁱ Updated Budget and Expenditure Report, January 2026
 - ^{iv} Schedule of Accounts paid (January)
 - ^v Bank Reconciliation (31st December 2025)
 - ^{vi} Proposal and RFO Advice
 - ^{vii} Youth Collaboration, Report of Meeting
 - ^{viii} Council Unit for Operational Works
 - ^{ix} Personnel Committee Recommendations Report
 - ^x Draft Budget 2025/26
 - ^{xi} Draft Budget report 2026/27

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