



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

2nd April 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 14th April 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 13th April 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 13th April 2026.

6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

9. CCTV MEETING, HELD 22ND FEBRUARY 2026

To receive the report of the meeting held (enc)^{vi}, and to endorse the actions:

- To relocate the CCTV camera from Hirst East End Allotments to Woodhorn Road, maintaining surveillance of the allotments and gaining additional surveillance on Woodhorn Road.
- To install additional CCTV capacity in two hotspot areas subject to NCC's continued goodwill of installing commando sockets. Cameras are available for this purpose.
- To write to businesses at North Seaton to seek interest in supporting investment in an additional CCTV camera in this area.

To address any questions or comments to committee members.

10. PARTNERSHIP MEETING, HELD 24TH MARCH 2026

To receive the report of the meeting held (enc)^{vii}, and to endorse the action:

- Proposed calendar of ward priorities with 10 day period of working, estimating a further 4 phases to the end of the financial year, next phase starting 20th April
- Ward representatives identified to share priorities by deadlines
- Litter bin reduction to be deferred until after summer period to allow thorough review of need
- Essential bin repairs to be progressed
- CCTV Camera hot spots requested and shared
- Dog Fouling stickers and stencils in hotspot areas to be actioned
- NCC budget for Neighbourhood Services in Ashington to be shared

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11. 2026/27 ANNUAL AND SMALL GRANTS

To receive the report and recommendations of the Grants Working Group following its review of the Annual and Small Grants Scheme, and to consider and approve the recommendations of the Group in advance of the launch of the 2026/27 funding round (to follow)^{viii}

12. SATURDAY MARKET

To receive the Executive Officer's report (enc)^{ix} on the progress of the proposed monthly Saturday market, and to consider:

(a) whether to support John Street car park as an alternative venue to Station Road, subject to necessary permissions from Northumberland County Council; and

(b) whether, in principle, the Council would be willing to make a contribution towards the cost of a formal closure from the events and engagement budget for the duration of a trial period, with a costed proposal to be brought back to Members before any commitment is made.

13. SUMMER 2026 COMMUNITY EVENT — YOUTH-LED DELIVERY

To agree to invite Youth Advisory Committee member groups to plan and deliver the town's 2026 summer event in place of the traditional Fair Day, within the existing events budget of £13,000. Should insufficient interest be received, an alternative proposal or one-year pause in Fair Day is proposed with the budget redirected accordingly (*Youth Advisory Committee scheduled 20th April 2026*)(enc)^x

14. MEMORIAL TREE FOR GEORGE DOBSON

To consider that the Council supports the planting of a tree in the Paddock Wood area in memory of George Dobson, following a request from the Community Litter Picking Group, who have independently raised funds for this purpose, with the Council to assist with permission, the planting works and ongoing maintenance.

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

Tuesday 12th May 2026

ENCLOSURES

i Draft Minutes of the Finance and General Services Committee, 10th March 2026

ii Officers Update (to be tabled)

iii Updated Budget and Expenditure Report, March 2026 (to be tabled)

iv Account Schedule (April) (to be tabled)

v Bank Reconciliation (31st March 2026) (to be tabled)

vi Report of CCTV Meeting, 22nd February 2026

vii Report of Partnership Meeting, 24th March 2026

viii Report and Recommendations of the Grants Working Group (to follow)

ix Saturday Market Update Report

x Fair Day Report – Youth Led

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