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

12th November 2026

To all Members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend the **FULL COUNCIL MEETING**, in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 65 STATION ROAD, NE63 8RX**, **on Tuesday 24th November 2026, commencing at 6:00pm.**

The agenda for the meeting is set out below, along with supporting documents. 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.

Regards

Sarah Eden
Executive Officer/RFO

AGENDA FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETING

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR
Welcome by Chair, Cllr Mark Purvis

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 Executive Officer with questions on items on the agenda no later than 5.00pm on Monday 23rd November 2026.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS FULL COUNCIL MEETING

To receive and sign as a true record, the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29th September 2026 (enc)[i]

7. PRESENTATION – BLACK BRIDGE 100: NORTH SEATON VIADUCT CENTENARY (SEPTEMBER 2027)

To receive a presentation from Professor Chris Smith on the centenary of the Black Bridge (North Seaton Viaduct), which is 100 years old in September 2027. Chris is organising an exhibition at Woodhorn Museum about the bridge's construction and why it was built (enc)[ii]. He has also asked Northumberland County Council to consider supporting a wider celebration (enc)[iii]

He believes the centenary deserves to be marked more widely across the town and would like to discuss how the Town Council could be involved (enc)[iv]

Members are asked to:

- Receive the presentation and ask any questions.
- Consider whether the Council wishes to support or take part in marking the centenary. If it does, officers will bring a further report setting out options.

8. REPORT OF CIVIC HEAD – CLLR CAROLINE BALL

To receive a round-up of civic engagements attended (to be tabled)[v]

9. RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS – PROPOSAL FROM CLLR KERRY DAVISON

To consider Cllr Davison's proposal, which fell when it was last considered (in August 2025), to record Full Council and Finance and General Services Committee meetings and publish the recordings online afterwards. If the proposal is agreed in principle, to instruct the Executive Officer to investigate options and costs, seek legal advice, draft a protocol and report back to Council (enc)[vi]

10. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT – RELIGION OR BELIEF: CONSULTATION

To consider Northumberland County Council's consultation on a proposal to stop providing discretionary free transport to faith schools on the grounds of religion or belief. The change would be phased in for new joiners from September 2028. To determine whether the Council wishes to submit a response before the consultation closes on Monday 30th November 2026 (enc)[vii]

11. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN – TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT ON HOUSING AND ECONOMIC LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT (HELAA)

To consider the Council's draft response to Northumberland County Council's engagement with town and parish councils on housing sites for the new Local Plan. This covers the HELAA sites identified in Ashington, preferred types and tenure of homes, infrastructure needs and design priorities. The draft has been developed with Ward Cllrs and circulated to all Members in advance. To agree any additional comments and approve the final response for submission before the consultation closes on Wednesday 9th December 2026 (enc)[viii]

12. ALLOTMENT REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT POLICY

To consider the draft Allotment Reasonable Adjustments Policy and agree whether to adopt it. The policy sets out how the Council will support plot holders whose ability to cultivate their plot is temporarily affected, for example by short-term ill health, so that they can keep their tenancy rather than face termination (shared with FGS Committee Papers)[ix]

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ENCLOSURES

[i] Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 29th September 2026
[ii] Black Bridge Proposal to Woodhorn Museum
[iii] Black Bridge Proposal to NCC
[iv] Email received from Prof Chris Smith (in attendance)
[v] Civic Head report
[vi] Proposal Cllr Kerry Davison – Recording Meetings
[vii] NCC Consultation School Transport
[viii] Housing Draft Response
[ix] Draft Allotment Reasonable Adjustment Policy

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