

AGENDA ITEM 9, Enc vi) Motion to Ashington Town Council to Save Central Arcade

Proposed by: Caroline Ball

Date: 27/06/2025

That Ashington Town Council recognises the historical and cultural significance of Central Arcade known as CO OP building, and the urgent need to secure its long-term preservation and integration into the town's future development plans.

The Council resolves to:

1. Formally identify Central Arcade known as CO OP building as a priority for heritage conservation and economic regeneration.
2. Write to Northumberland County Council and Advance Northumberland to request the Regeneration and Economic Development department to explore all available funding mechanisms, partnerships, and strategic frameworks to support the acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of the asset.
3. Request Northumberland County Council officers prepare a report outlining options for regeneration-led heritage and Tourism investment in Ashington.
4. For Northumberland County Council enforcement to ensure the owner is meeting all current requirements of grade II status.

Rationale:

Ashington Central Arcade was officially opened in May 1926 and stands as a reminder of iconic architecture and a proud grade 2 listed building.

Left neglected with trees growing out the side of the building and the imposing staircase hid from the public view.

As we see the regeneration in the town where we say "proud past, bright future" This building could be the beacon of regeneration and be the physical sign of change and linking our heritage with regeneration and hope for a bright future.