

AGENDA 12, Enc vii) NOTICE: COMPLETION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT - Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) - Year Ending 31 March 2025

Ashington Town Council

We are pleased to announce that the external audit of our Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ending 31 March 2025 has been completed by Mazars LLP on 17th September 2025.

Audit Conclusion

The limited assurance review has been completed and the certified Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) has been received. The External Auditor's Certificate and Report is contained in Section 3 of the AGAR.

While no significant matters arose from the review, the external auditor has provided minor recommendations for improvement relating to bank reconciliation formatting and variance reporting procedures, which the Council will address in the coming year.

Statement from the RFO

The successful completion of this external audit demonstrates Ashington Town Council's commitment to transparency, accountability and sound financial management. The audit process confirms that our financial controls and governance arrangements continue to meet the required standards, with only minor administrative improvements identified.

I would like to commend:

- **Town Councillors** for their diligent oversight and commitment to proper financial governance throughout the year
- **Our Internal Auditor** for their thorough and professional work in reviewing our systems and procedures, providing valuable guidance that strengthens our controls
- **Councillors involved in payment scrutiny** for their careful attention to detail in reviewing and authorizing expenditure

The Council will implement the minor improvements suggested by the external auditor regarding bank reconciliation formatting and variance reporting to further enhance our financial reporting procedures for 2025/2026.

Public Rights

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the completed AGAR and external auditor's report are available for public inspection. Members of the public may:

- Inspect the accounting records
- Make copies of the accounting records
- Purchase copies of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return upon payment of a reasonable sum

AGENDA 12, Enc vii) NOTICE: COMPLETION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT - Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) - Year Ending 31 March 2025

Local government electors have rights of inspection under section 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. This can be arranged 'by appointment' at Ashington Town Council, Town Hall, 65 Station Road, Ashington, Northumberland NE63 8RX.

Access to Documents

The completed AGAR, external auditor's report, and this notice are available:

- At Ashington Town Council offices (Town Hall, 65 Station Road, Ashington, Northumberland NE63 8RX)
- On our website: <https://www.ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk/annual-governance-and-accountability-returns-202425.php>
- By request to the Executive Officer/RFO

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return will remain available for public access for a period of not less than five years from the date of first publication.

Contact Information

For any queries regarding the audit or to arrange inspection of documents:

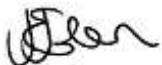
Sarah Eden (Executive Officer/RFO)

Ashington Town Council
Town Hall, 65 Station Road
Ashington, Northumberland NE63 8RX
Email: sarah.eden@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
Telephone: (01670) 624521

This notice is published in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015

Date of Publication: 23rd September 2025

Signed:



Sarah Eden (Executive Officer/RFO)