

AGENDA 10a, Enc viii) Additional Information (Governance Statements)

The additional information required for the Accounting Statements 2025/26 is included below.

Assertion 10 — Explanatory Note: Digital and Data Compliance

The Council is unable to answer Yes to Assertion 10 in respect of the year ending 31 March 2026 as full compliance with all elements of the assertion was not in place for the entirety of the financial year. However, the Council wishes to place on record the substantial progress made during 2025/26 and the firm foundations now in place for full compliance to be asserted in the 2026/27 return.

IT Policy

The Council adopted its IT Policy in March 2026, based on the NALC model template and adapted to reflect the specific needs and working practices of Ashington Town Council. Whilst adoption fell within the 2025/26 financial year, the policy had not been in place for the full year and the Council considers it appropriate to reflect this honestly in its return.

Website Accessibility

The Council has undertaken a substantial accessibility remediation programme during 2025/26, working towards compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2 AA standard as required under Assertion 10 and the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018. This programme included the review and remediation of 225 PDF and Office documents held within the website and document library.

Remaining accessibility issues identified through accessibility testing relate primarily to historic archived content that falls outside the scope of the regulations by virtue of publication date exemptions. Notwithstanding this, where reasonably practicable the Council has undertaken improvements to legacy content as part of its wider accessibility improvement programme, going beyond the minimum requirements of the regulations.

Position Going Forward

The Council is committed to achieving full compliance with all elements of Assertion 10 and anticipates being in a position to answer Yes with confidence in the 2026/27