



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

20th January 2025

To all Members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend the Full Council Meeting of Ashington Town Council, at **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 65 STATION ROAD, NE63 8RX, on Tuesday 28th January, 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, as set out in agenda item 5. Public Participation.

The meeting is open to the press and public.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Eden".

Sarah Eden
Executive Officer

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

Welcome by the Chair.

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.

Tel: (01670) 624521

E-mail: sarah.eden@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

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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 27th January 2025.

6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

To receive and sign as a true record, the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 26th November 2024 (enc)ⁱ *Draft minutes were shared online according to regulations.*

7. REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

To receive a report from Inspector Wayne Daniels (to follow)ⁱⁱ

8. REPORT FROM THE CIVIC HEAD OF ASHINGTON (CLLR CAROLINE BALL)

To receive a verbal report from the Civic Head of Ashington.

9. RESIGNATION OF CLLR ELEANOR ARMSTRONG (Central Ward)

a) Casual Vacancy following resignation

To formally receive the resignation of Cllr Eleanor Armstrong, received on 15th January 2025. To note that as of 4th November 2024 (being within 6 months of the May 2025 elections), under Section 89(3) of the Local Government Act 1972, any casual vacancies arising in the council:

- Must still be declared
- Will not trigger the right for electors to call an election
- Can be filled through co-option at the council's discretion

b) Co-option

To agree if the Council wishes to commence the Co-option procedure, noting that this is at the Council's discretion.

10. FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT RISK ASSESSMENT

To receive the updated document and to note new/altered risks included by the Executive Officer (enc)ⁱⁱⁱ

11. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

To consider the make-up of the Partnership Committee and agree those members for the remainder of the Council term.

12. PENSION AND FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT POLICY

To agree to adopt the Pension and Flexible Retirement Policy, as recommended by the Personnel Committee (enc)^{iv}

13. PENSION DISCRETIONS POLICY

To agree to adopt the Pensions Discretions Policy, as recommended by the Personnel Committee (enc)^v

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14. ASHINGTON COMMUNITY WOODS PROJECT

To approve the allocation of previously reserved funds (£3,000) towards the Project Development Phase of the Ashington Community Woods Project, including associated consultation, steering group management, and funding application preparation costs. To also consider the use of Ward Cllr Environmental Enhancement funding if required (to follow)^{vi}

15. MINING WHEEL AT QEII COUNTRY PARK

To receive a proposal from Ward Cllrs to contribute £980 towards the costs of essential maintenance and paintwork to the Mining Wheel at QEII Country Park from their Environmental Enhancement budget heading, sharing the costs across wards, and to agree to confirm the contribution with Northumberland County Council, as the landowner.

16. BUDGET AND ANNUAL PRECEPT 2025/26

a) Budget 2025/26

To receive the proposed budget, consider the Council's expenditure, commitments and plans for 2025/26 and formally approve the budget for 2025/26 (enc)^{vii}

b) General Reserves and Contingency

To receive and agree the anticipated provision towards 'General Reserves and Contingency' for 2025/26, noting that this could change depending on projected balances at the year-end (as enc vii)

c) Earmarked Reserves

To receive the Asset Management Budget, and agree the provision to earmarked reserves in 2025/26 to accumulate funds towards longer term asset management and replacement (enc)^{viii}

d) 2025/26 Precept Demand

To agree the 2025/26 Precept Demand to be submitted to Northumberland County Council, based on the current financial position, and to note the resulting Band A and Band D (equivalent) Precept payment (as enc vii)

17. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members are invited to consider passing the following resolution:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items, permitted under Section 1 (2) LGA 1960, due to the confidential nature of the business being transacted.

18. FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT REQUEST

To agree to approve employee request for flexible retirement, as considered and approved in principle by the Personnel Committee (to follow)^{ix}

19. STAFFING MATTERS

To consider confidential reports and agree action (to follow)^x

20. DATE, TIME, AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 25th March 2025, 6:00pm at Town Hall

Tel: (01670) 624521

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ENCLOSURES

- i Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26th November 2024
- ii Report from Northumbria Police, Inspector Wayne Daniels
- iii Financial and Management Risk Assessment, January 2025
- iv Draft Pension & Flexible Retirement Policy
- v Draft Pension Discretions Policy
- vi Outline project plan and fee proposal
- vii Draft Budget 2025/26
- viii Asset Management Budget 2025/26 onwards
- ix Confidential Report
- x Confidential Report

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