

COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 11TH MARCH 2026 at 7.00PM.

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are summoned to a Meeting of the Council which will be held on **Wednesday, 11th March 2026 at 7.00pm** in attendance at the Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6QF.

Yours faithfully,

Dan Austin
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. NOTICE OF MEETING

Public Notice of the Meeting has been given in accordance with Schedule 12, paragraph 10(2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence.

3. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

To consider written requests for dispensations from members who have declared interests under Disclosable or Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – Section 33 of the 2011 Localism Act.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To notify of any items that appear in the agenda in which you may have an interest, including those that have previously been recorded in the Members Register of Interests.

5. GUEST SPEAKER

Durham County Council Councillors will be in attendance to provide an update on their work at Durham County Council and answer questions from Councillors.

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To take questions from the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with the appropriate Standing Order. Members of the public are also permitted to make representations, ask questions, and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. Questions will not be received by the Council which are in furtherance of a person's individual circumstances, or which are about a matter where there is a right of appeal to the courts, a tribunal or government minister. A question will not be received by the Council where the issue it concerns has been the subject of a decision of the Council in the last six months.

7. MINUTES

... To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on the 28th January 2026.

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS

... To receive any announcements from the Mayor and the Town Clerk.

9. COMMITTEE MINUTES

... To confirm for approval and adoption the reports and recommendations of the undermentioned Committees:-

- (a) Recreation Committee – 25th February 2026
- (b) Environment Committee – 25th February 2026
- (c) Policy and Resources Committee – 4th March 2026

10. NOTICE OF MOTION – COUNCILLOR DBS CHECKS

To consider the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Michael Stead and seconded by Councillor Lindsey Aston:

The Council recognises that Town Councillors regularly engage with residents, community groups, schools, young people and vulnerable adults as part of their civic responsibilities.

The Council further recognises the importance of safeguarding, transparency and maintaining public confidence in elected representatives.

While Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are not currently a statutory requirement for Town Councillors, the Council believes that adopting such checks would demonstrate a proactive commitment to high standards of conduct, strengthen public trust, and ensure that safeguarding expectations are applied consistently and fairly across the authority.

It is therefore proposed that the Council resolves to:

- 1. Use the 2026/27 Revenue Budget Contingency Sum to undertake DBS checks for all serving Town Councillors as soon as practicable in the new financial year.*
- 2. Request that officers investigate the appropriate level of DBS check required and report back with implementation arrangements.*
- 3. Undertake DBS checks on all councillors after every Town Council Election and on all new councillors elected via by-election or co-option.*
- 4. Make appropriate budget provision to undertake councillor DBS checks as set out above.*
- 5. Encourage all councillors to participate fully in the process in the interests of safeguarding and transparency.*

11. INTERNAL AUDIT PROVISION

... To consider the attached report from the Finance Manager.

12. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COUNCIL'S SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL

... To consider the attached report from the Finance Manager.

13. ANNUAL REVIEW OF RISKS FOR 2025/26

... To consider the attached report from the Corporate and Policy Officer.

14. CODE OF CONDUCT DECISION NOTICE

... To consider the attached report from the Town Clerk.

15. TOWN CLERK'S APPRAISAL ARRANGEMENTS

... To consider the attached report from the Corporate and Policy Officer.

16. NORTH EAST WAR MEMORIALS PROJECT

... To consider the attached correspondence from the North East War Memorials Project and request for support by becoming a Friend of NEWMP. *If agreed, it is suggested that the cost is met from the Grants and Donations Budget.*

17. OUTSIDE BODIES

To receive reports from representatives on the following Outside Bodies:

- (a) **County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) and Executive Committee Meetings**
Councillors Martin Ashcroft and Carl Robinson and the Town Clerk
- (b) **Aycliffe Village Hall Association**
Councillor Carl Robinson
- (c) **Woodham Village Community Association**
Councillors Lisa Conners and Jackie Mcfadden-Lewis
- (d) **CDALC Larger Local Councils' Forum**
Councillors Martin Ashcroft and Carl Robinson and the Town Clerk
- (e) **Newton Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society**
Councillor Dorothy Bowman
- (f) **Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway**
Councillor Brian Haigh
- (g) **Western Area Partnership**
Councillors Dorothy Bowman and Tracey Williams
- (h) **Cornforth Partnership**
Councillors Jackie Beddard and John Woodward
- (i) **Community Hub Development Group**
Councillor Jackie McFadden Lewis
- (j) **Oak Leaf Golf Club**
Councillors John Moore and Tony Beddard and the Town Clerk

18. NOTICE OF MOTION – CO-OPTION TO COUNCIL VACANCIES

To consider the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Ken Robson and seconded by Councillor Martin Ashcroft:

"That the Council reconsiders the decision taken at the July 2025 Full Council Meeting that Council not to co-opt two councillors to the two vacancies left unfilled at the 2025 Election (in the West Ward and Byerley Park, Horndale and Cobblers Hall Ward), for the duration of the four-year term of this Council.

It is requested that the Council instead agrees to co-opt two councillors to the vacancies, following the procedure set out in the Council's approved Co-Option Policy".

Any questions or queries on agenda items or reports should be raised with officers before meetings by telephone or email.

Please note that this does not preclude members from asking the question at the meeting if this is important to the debate or decision.

Members are requested, during Council Meetings, to observe the Council's Standing Orders relating to the Business and Proceedings of the Council, with particular reference to the Rules of Debate, as well as the Members' Code of Conduct and the principles of Civility and Respect Pledge.