

COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 28TH OCTOBER 2026 at 7.00PM.

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are summoned to a Meeting of the Council which will be held on **Wednesday, 28th October 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 – FRIENDS OF THE STOCKTON AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY

Representatives from the Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway will be in attendance to give a presentation and discussion with members.

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 16th September 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 – 14th October 2026
- (b) Environment Committee – 14th October 2026
- (c) Policy and Resources Committee – 21st October 2026

10. CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT – DECISION NOTICE

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

11. OUTCOME OF THE ANNUAL EXTERNAL AUDIT OF THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN

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

12. NOTICE OF MOTION – REVIEW OF TOWN COUNCIL NUMBERS

To consider the following motion from Councillor Michael Stead:

“This Council resolves to request that Durham County Council initiate the appropriate Community Governance Review to consider reducing the number of Great Aycliffe Town Councillors from 30 to 23.

The Town Clerk is requested to liaise with Durham County Council to establish the process and timescale for progressing this proposal”.

The reasons for bringing this motion forward include the recent pattern of uncontested town council elections, the number of vacancies that have arisen and the use of co-options to fill vacant seats. I believe it is appropriate for the Council to review whether its current membership remains proportionate and provides an effective structure for local representation.

I am not proposing specific changes to individual wards at this stage. My intention is to establish the appropriate formal process for reviewing the overall number of councillors, with any detailed consideration of ward representation to follow through the proper procedures”.

13. WEST WARD VACANCY

To receive notification from the Electoral Services concerning the above vacancy and agree to co-opt in the event that a by election has not been called.

14. NOMINATIONS FOR DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL NETWORK – TOWN COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE

- . . . To consider the attached correspondence from Durham County Council received via County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC).

Members are requested to nominate a councilor representative for the Newton Aycliffe and Sedgfield Local Network Stakeholder Panel.

The Council may only nominate one representative and there will be no power of substitution. The position will be for two years to begin in early 2027.

Please note that there is one other Town Council within the Newton Aycliffe and Sedgfield Local Network (Sedgfield Town Council) and if they choose to nominate a representative, there will need to be an election for the position, which CDALC will facilitate.

The nominated representative will be required to provide a 200-word statement which will be used if an election is necessary.

The attached correspondence from CDALC provides more detailed background and guidance in relation to this issue.

15. OUTSIDE BODIES

To receive reports from representatives on the following Outside Bodies:

- (a) **County Durham Association of Local Councils**
Councillors Arun Chandran and Sharon Hutchinson
- (b) **County Durham Association of Local Councils Executive Committee**
Councillor Arun Chandran
- (c) **Aycliffe Village Community Association**
Councillor Carl Robinson
- (d) **County Durham Association of Local Councils Larger Council Forum**
Councillors: Sharon Hutchinson and Michael Stead with the Town Clerk.
- (e) **Newton Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society**
Councillor Chris Clement
- (f) **Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway**
Councillors: Luke Ellis and Sharon Hutchinson
- (g) **Western Area Partnership**
Councillors: Arun Chandran and Kyle Robinson
- (h) **Cornforth Partnership**
Councillors: Tony Armstrong.
- (i) **Community Hub Development Group**
Councillor Tracey Williams and the Town Clerk
- (j) **Oak Leaf Golf Club**
Councillor Luke Ellis, Kyle Robinson and the Town Clerk

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.