



## BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

**TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**You are hereby requested to attend a Special Meeting of the Governance Committee to be held at 5.30 pm on Thursday 12 May 2022 in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House, Quay Road, Blyth. NE24 2AS**

The Agenda for this meeting is set out below. Please remember to sign in.

Joseph Hughes  
Town Clerk

Date: 26 April 2022

***Electronic devices can be used to access Committee papers. Please ensure that mobile phones are switched to silent mode during the meeting. Members are reminded to observe the Blyth Town Council Code of Conduct***

**Information reports that have been circulated with this agenda will not form any part of the meeting. The contents are intended for information only. Should any member have questions or want further information about the items please contact the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk in the first instance.**

### AGENDA

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Disclosures of Interests and Grant of Dispensations</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of the Governance Committee held Tuesday 11 January 2022</b>  To note the minutes as a true record.

<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Decision Report</b></p> <p>Committee to confirm the financial situation following the completion of accounts 2021/2022 – Review of Out-turn against Probable 2021/22.</p> <p>Committee to approve the documents listed in connection with Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/2022 prior to approval to Full Council and before submission to the External Auditor:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council’s Internal Auditor’s Report</li> <li>2. Annual Internal Audit Report 2021/2022</li> <li>3. Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022</li> <li>4. Accounting Statements for 2021/2022</li> </ol> <p>Appointment of Internal Auditor 2022/2023</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Information Report</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Investments</li> <li>2. Freedom of Information Requests</li> <li>3. Remembrance Day 2022</li> </ol>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>This item is only for items of information to be given to Town Councillors and for items which either the Committee Chair or Town Clerk to be genuinely urgent.</p>
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Date &amp; Time of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting of the Governance Committee on Thursday 30 July 2022 at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House.</p>
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>Part II</b></p> <p>Pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960; that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw.</p>

## **Members of the Governance Committee**

J R Potts (Chair)

W Taylor (Vice Chair)

D Carr

A Cartie G Davey

S Davey

B Erskine

C Jones

K Nisbet

J Reid

M Richardson

S Stanger

A Watson

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Town Council aims to achieve a more positive and vibrant atmosphere that will benefit all.

### **ROLE OF THE COUNCIL**

- To promote the environmental, social and economic wellbeing of the town and its community.
- To provide high quality core services in the most effective and efficient manner which will deliver the Council's agreed priorities and objectives.
- Provide leadership and be a voice for the community in all matters which impact on the town and the community.
- To work in partnership locally and regionally to meet common goals and outcomes.

### **Terms of Reference – Governance Committee**

The Committee will be responsible for the management, research and development of the following areas:-

To co-ordinate the recommendations of the other Committees on strategic priorities, budget proposals (revenue and capital), and proposals on policies and procedures to enable the Committee to recommend a holistic approach in agreeing strategic priorities and objectives, and recommend to the Council an annual budget and the annual precept to be levied by the Council together with action plans, which will deliver those priorities and objectives.

To carry out an annual review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and make recommendations to the Council on any necessary changes.

To receive reports from the other Committees on performance reviews in relation to Committee action plans as well as budget reports comparing expenditure and income against overall budgets and recommending any necessary action to the Council.

To ensure the preparation of annual accounts and arrange for their external audit.

To review the Council's governance arrangements in compliance with good practice and make recommendations to the Council on any changes.

To arrange for the annual review of the Council's insurances and to oversee the procedure for risk assessment.

To ensure that there are robust and adequate Health and Safety arrangements in place within the Council in respect of all of its activities and to ensure that these are understood and adhered to in all cases.

To consider any matters of policy which do not fall clearly within the responsibilities of any other Committee and to make recommendations to the Council.

To oversee all employment and staffing matters including disciplinary procedures.

To manage the Council's complaints procedure and to consider any complaints made against the Council in accordance with that procedure.

To consider any complaints made against any member of the Council and take appropriate action in consultation with Northumberland County Council's Monitoring Officer where appropriate.

To consider an overall communications strategy including Community engagement for recommendation for adoption by the Council.

The Committee may delegate any of its functions to a Sub-Committee or the Clerk of the Council.

#### Complaints & Grievance Sub-Committee

The above Sub-Committee is delegated with the power to manage the complaints procedure and resolve to take any action necessary to expedite the issues **without** recourse to the Standing Committee unless the Chair deems it necessary

##### a) Staff Sub-Committee

The above Sub-Committee is delegated by the Standing Committee to oversee all employment and staffing matters including disciplinary and to make suitable recommendations to the standing Committee for approval **unless** given specific powers to resolve the matter is delegated to the sub-committee by the Standing committee.

## **Powers Delegated to the Town Clerk within the responsibilities of the Governance Committee**

See powers delegated to the Town Clerk on financial and staffing matters included within Section 7 of this Report. (Powers delegated to Officers).

### Delegation to Officers

The Clerk to the Council is both the Proper Officer and shall carry out the functions of the "Proper Officer" as provided by the Local Government Act 1972 and as set out in the "job description" for the post, as well as the Responsible Financial Officer to the Council and is responsible for the Town Council's accounting procedures, financial records and is accountable for the proper administration of its finances in line with the current Account and Audit Regulations and the Council's adopted Financial Regulations.

In the absence of the Clerk, the full authority of the Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer passes to the Deputy Clerk. Additionally, the Clerk may delegate to the Deputy Clerk or any other staff member if appropriate, to undertake functions delegated to the Proper Officer.

Delegated actions to the Clerk or other Officer shall be in accordance with Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, and this Scheme of Delegation.

### **The Clerk is specifically empowered as follows:**

#### Financial and Audit Powers and Authority

Power to make day to day purchases on behalf of the Council in order to exercise its functions duties, and responsibilities in accordance with Financial Regulations.

Power to authorise use of all Council facilities and equipment in accordance with any Council charging policies.

Power to deal with all aspects of the Council's insurances and to negotiate and accept terms for renewal as and when required.

To negotiate and recommend to the Council terms for acceptance relating to the Council's banking arrangements.

To make proper arrangements for the payment of all sums owing to the Council and for the receipt of all sums due to the Council and to take appropriate recovery action where necessary.

Power to seek and obtain any grants and donations for which the Council may be entitled to apply.

Power to authorise any remedial or maintenance work on Council property or assets.

Power to invest surplus funds in accordance with Council's agreed policy.

Authority to vire budget amounts within a committee's budget in consultation with the appropriate committee Chair in accordance with Financial Regulations. Any virement made under this power should be reported to the appropriate Committee(s) at their next meeting for information.

#### Staffing - delegated power

Authorised to apply the Council's staffing, employment and disciplinary procedures in accordance with agreed policies.

Power to appoint staff (full time, part time and temporary) in accordance with the current Council policy.

Power to engage professional and consultancy advice in consultation with the Chairman of the Council up to a single amount per engagement of £5,000.

Power to authorise staff to use private cars and pay casual user mileage allowance for essential duties.

Power to implement nationally agreed salary/pay awards subject to details being reported for information to the next meeting of the Governance Committee.

Power to sanction and authorise payment of overtime within budget provisions.