



Borough Council

30 July 2026

Borough Council (Annual Meeting) Minutes

19 May 2026

Present: The Mayor (S Wildhirt)

Councillors: Barr, Bell, Blair, Brown, Cain, Clarke, Clifton, Curry, Diamond, Elsander, Fenwick, Ford, Fox, Herbert, Heywood, Jones, Kilgour, Leather, Mackings, McKeown, Medcalf, Mouat, Muquith, Murray, Newman, Oliver, Oughton, Owens-Palmer, Perry, Pittuck, Rahman, Rice, Richardson, Ross, Royal, A. Smith, M. Smith, S. Smith, Stead, Stonehouse, Sybenga, Taylor, Thomas, Tooley, Turnbull, Uddin, Wears, H. Wildhirt **49**

Apologies: Barclay, Fascione, Humphrey, Ling, Maddison **5**

The Mayor reminded the public that the meeting was being recorded.

1. Declarations of Interest (The Mayor, Mr Jay Potts in the Chair)

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Election and Investiture of Mayor

The Council proceeded to the election of the Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor Turnbull, seconded by Councillor Mackings, nominated Councillor S. Wildhirt.

There were no other nominations.

The motion to appoint Councillor S. Wildhirt as Mayor was carried.

The Mayor (Mr Potts) declared Councillor S. Wildhirt duly elected Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing Municipal Year.

(Mr Potts vacated the Chair)

Councillor S. Wildhirt made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was invested with the chain and robes of office.

The Mayor (Councillor S. Wildhirt) in the Chair

The Mayor thanked the outgoing Mayor, Mr Potts, for a successful year and congratulated him and the outgoing Mayoress on the monies raised for their chosen charities.

3. Appointment and Investiture of Deputy Mayor

The Council proceeded to appoint the Deputy Mayor for the Borough for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor Oughton, seconded by Councillor Wears, nominated Councillor Rice.

There were no other nominations.

The Mayor declared Councillor Rice duly elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor Rice made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was invested with the chain of office by the Mayor.

The Mayor announced Dawn Wildhirt was to serve as Mayoress for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

The Mayor announced Margaret Rice to serve as the Deputy Mayoress for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

4. Minutes of the 26 February 2026

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 February 2026 were agreed as a correct.

5. Mayor's Communications

The Mayor wished all exiting Councillors the best for the future and congratulated newly elected Members, stating he looked forward to working with them.

6. Election of Leader of the Council

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Leader of the Council.

Councillor Brown moved that Councillor Mackings be appointed Leader of the Council.

Councillor Elsander seconded the motion.

The motion was carried and Councillor Mackings was duly appointed Leader of the Council.

7. Annual Review of the Constitution

Submitted: Report of the Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Councillor McKeown, a Member who served on the Constitution Committee over the municipal year 2025/26, presented the report which outlined the Annual Review and proposed updates to the Constitution for 2026/2027.

The Constitution Working Group, which consists of the Members of the Constitution Committee, a politically balanced Committee, had met between December 2025 and March 2026 to carry out the Annual Review of the Constitution and an assessment of its practical operation.

Councillor Sybenga seconded the report.

Councillor Kilgour acknowledged the work of the outgoing Constitution Committee who had served over the municipal year 2025/26. Councillor Kilgour welcomed the proposed amendment to the Constitution which ensured that only the cheapest travel would be funded and that Elected Members must pay the difference if they wished to travel first class.

Councillor Kilgour highlighted that on page 51 of the draft Constitution, the reference to May 2024 should be updated.

In relation to the CAF spend available to the community set out on page 118, receipts were currently sought for spend over £500. Councillor Kilgour did not agree with the amount of £500 as it was felt that this is a significant amount of money and suggested that receipts be collected for any spend over £25.

Councillor Kilgour also suggested that the timeframes in relation to Standards hearings should be set out more clearly in the Constitution, she felt that this process should be clear in order to hold this to account.

Clarification was sought on the role of Political Assistants in terms of supporting 'main' groups and how that was defined, she requested clarity on the entitlement of other groups in relation to this role.

Councillor Kilgour requested further clarity on the role of Elected Members in the appointment of officers, she wished to know at what level of staff appointments did Councillors become involved in the recruitment process.

Councillor Owens-Palmer raised concern that during the period immediately following the 'all-out' election, the previous Leader of the Council had not retained their seat, nor had any Cabinet Members, which meant that there was no political leadership of the Council for a period of approximately 2 weeks until the new Leader was appointed. It was suggested that this area could be further explored to ensure there was process for the interim period.

Councillor Ford welcomed a number of changes proposed to the Constitution contained within the report, including the reform of some of the Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) and the new approach to the cost of travel for Councillors.

Resolved: That (a) the recommended changes and associated arrangements proposed to the Constitution as per Appendix 2 of the report be noted;

Council was asked if they approved Part A of the Constitution – Summary and Explanation.

Councillor Kilgour referred to the CAF spend point which she had previously raised. She moved an amendment to the Constitution that on page 118 of the draft Constitution, the threshold for CAF spending which required receipts should be reduced from £500 to £25.

Councillor Owens-Palmer seconded the amendment.

Councillor Ford noted that as a Chair of a CAF, she had not realised receipts were not already required for such amounts and indicated support for the proposal.

A show of hands vote was taken on the amendment as proposed by Councillor Kilgour. The votes were cast as follows:

For: 22

Against: 23

Abstentions: 3

Therefore, the amendment was not carried.

(b) the following Parts of the Constitution as attached at Appendix 2 be approved and adopted for the municipal year 2026/27:

- i. Part A – Summary and Explanation;
 - ii. Part B – Articles of the Constitution;
 - iii. Part C – Responsibility of Functions;
 - iv. Part D – Rules of Procedure;
 - v. Part E – Codes and Protocols;
 - vi. Part F – Member's Allowances Scheme;
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and (c) that the Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to finalise and progress the arrangements as approved, including the making of any further consequential changes or alterations as referenced in this report.

8. Appointment of Independent Chair of Standards Committee

Submitted: Report of the Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Councillor Herbert, a Member who served on the Standards Committee over the municipal year 2025/26, presented the report which asked Council to consider and agree to extend the current appointment of Professor Grahame Wright as the Independent Chair of the Standards Committee to allow for stability and consistency in the role for a further two years, to expire on the date of the Annual meeting in May 2028. In addition, it was proposed that the Chair of Standards Committee work with the Constitution Committee to explore recruiting an Independent Vice-Chair to work alongside Professor Wright in the future as part of a succession plan.

It was noted that Professor Wright was appointed as the Independent Chair of Standards Committee by Council on 22 February 2018 for a 4-year period following a strong recommendation from an Interview Panel with a possible extension of up to a further 4 years. An extension of the role of Independent Chair, Professor Wright was agreed at Council on 30 June 2022 for a further 4-year term to offer stability and consistency in the role.

It is important that the Chair has the capability, motivation and time to lead the Standards Committee and be prepared to invest in gaining a deep understanding of the business and the role of the Chair itself. This could take up to 24 months or more, due to the complexity of the business of the Standards Committee, which was likely why the Interview Panel at the initial appointment had the foresight to build in such an extension.

It was further noted that if agreed the Independent Chair would continue to receive the allowance payable to the Independent Chair of the Standards Committee under the Special Responsibility Allowances in the 26/27 Member's Allowances Scheme (£5,112 per annum). The continued appointment would not result in any additional financial cost as an Independent Chair would always be required.

Councillor S. Smith seconded the report.

Councillor Kilgour expressed disagreement with the proposal to extend the term of office of the Independent Chair of Standards, noting that a previous extension had already been granted. It was suggested that a new Chair could be sought and appointed by June 2026. Councillor Kilgour also expressed uncertainty regarding the proposal for the Constitution Committee to explore the recruitment of an Independent Vice-Chair of Standards Committee.

Councillor Kilgour moved that the report presented not be accepted. There was no seconder to this proposal.

Councillor Ford expressed disagreement regarding Councillor Kilgour's proposals, highlighting the fact that there were many newly elected Councillors and that continuity through an experienced Chair would be a benefit for the Committee and would support succession planning. It was noted that given the circumstances this would be appropriate.

Councillor Richardson moved an amendment that the Independent Chair of Standards term be extended for one year only, to May 2027, which would allow for succession planning to take place.

Councillor Leather seconded the amendment.

Councillor Kilgour welcomed the proposed amendment but queried if it was constitutional. It was confirmed that the Independent Chair of Standards had served an initial 4-year term from 2018-2022, with an extension granted to serve a further 4-year term from 2022-2026 which was allowed for as per the Constitution.

Councillor Herbert noted that there had been a large turnover of Councillors and there would be lots of work and time required to ensure all Members were fully inducted. Therefore, it was suggested that given these circumstances, a further 2-year extension to fully support succession planning would be reasonable. Councillor Herbert confirmed that the extension would be lawful, given that Council had the ability to make the appointment and that the decision would be being taken by Borough Council.

Councillor Owens-Palmer queried if as part of the exploration of appointing an Independent Vice Chair of Standards Committee if there would be a financial payment attached to the position.

A show of hands vote was taken on the proposal by Councillor Richardson to extend Professor Grahame Wright's appointment as Independent Chair of the Standards Committee for a further 1-year term expiring May 2027. A majority of 33 were in favour, the vote was carried and took the place of the substantive recommendation.

Members considered the report as amended, and in relation to the recommendation that Professor Grahame Wright's appointment be extended for a further 1-year term expiring May 2027 to offer stability and consistency in the role, there was a dissenting voice and therefore a vote was taken by show of hands, a majority of 41 were in favour and therefore the recommendation was agreed.

Members considered the recommendation that the Chair of Standards Committee works with the Constitution Committee to explore recruiting an Independent Vice Chair to work alongside Professor Wright in the future as part of his succession plan. There was a dissenting voice and therefore a vote

was taken by show of hands, a majority of 43 were in favour and therefore the recommendation was agreed.

Resolved: That (a) Professor Grahame Wright's appointment as Independent Chair of Standards Committee be extended for a further 1-year term expiring on the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2027 to offer stability and consistency in the role; and (b) that the Chair of Standards Committee work with the Constitution Committee to explore recruiting an Independent Vice Chair to work alongside Professor Wright in the future as part of his succession plan.

9. Appointment of Co-opted Members to the Audit Committee

Submitted: Report of the Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Councillor Mackings, Leader of the Council, presented the report which sought to appoint two Co-opted (Independent) Members to the Audit Committee. The guidance provided in the Audit Committees - Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police (2018 Edition) endorses the recruitment of lay, independent members to Audit Committee as they allow for external views which often bring a new approach to committee discussions providing additional knowledge and expertise and reinforcing political neutrality and independence of the Committee.

Councillor Sybenga seconded the report.

Resolved: That Jessica Shin and Sophie Swanson-Newbrook both be appointed Co-opted Independent Members to the Audit Committee with effect from the Annual Meeting of Borough Council in May 2026 for a fixed term of 2 years ending at the Annual Meeting of Borough Council in May 2028, with the option of extending for a maximum of a further 2 years.

10. Appointment of Deputy Leader and the Cabinet

Councillor Mackings confirmed the membership of Cabinet and allocation of portfolios as follows:

Deputy Leader, Finance and Resources	Councillor Sybenga
Economic Growth, Regeneration and Investment	Councillor Royal
Housing	Councillor S. Smith
Culture, Leisure, Tourism and Voluntary Sector	Councillor Curry

Highways, Neighbourhoods and Community Safety Councillor Pittuck

Children and Families, Education and Skills Councillor Fascione

Adults, Health and Independence Councillor Heywood

11. Appointments to Committees of the Council for 2026/2027

Councillor Fenwick moved the appointments to Committees of the Council as per the orange papers circulated at the meeting.

Councillor Pittuck, Lead Member for Highways, Neighbourhoods and Community Safety seconded the report.

Resolved: That the following members be appointed to serve on the Committees indicated:

General Purposes Committee (16 Members)

Councillors Diamond, Elsender, Fascione, Ford, Humphrey, Jones, Mackings, Mouat, Oughton, Owens-Palmer, Rahman, Ross, S. Smith, Sybenga, Uddin, Wears

Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating and Call-In Committee (12 Members)

Councillors Barclay, Cain, Diamond, Ford, Oliver, Oughton, Perry, Rice, Ross, Taylor, Tooley, Turnbull

Adult Safeguarding, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (12 Members)

Councillors Elsender, Fox, Kilgour, Medcalf, Murray, Ross, Stonehouse, Taylor, Thomas, Tooley, Turnbull, H. Wildhirt

Children Safeguarding and Young People Scrutiny Committee (12 Members)

Councillors Barclay, Cain, Jones, McKeown, Muquith, Owens-Palmer, Ross, A. Smith, Stead, Tooley, Turnbull, H. Wildhirt

Our Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee (12 Members)

Councillors Bell, Clifton, Elsender, Fox, Herbert, Kilgour, Mouat, Muquith, Perry, Rice, Turnbull, Wears

Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee (12 Members)

Councillors Barclay, Cain, Clifton, Elsender, Kilgour, Medcalf, Richardson, Ross, Stead, Taylor, Tooley, Uddin

Contracts and Commissioning Scrutiny Committee (12 Members)

Councillors Cain, Clarke, Mouat, Muquith, Oughton, Perry, Rice, Richardson, M. Smith, Stonehouse, Uddin, Wears

Housing Scrutiny Committee (12 Members)

Councillors Barclay, Barr, Bell, Blair, Brown, Clarke, Mouat, Oliver, Oughton, Stonehouse, Turnbull, Wears

Constitution Committee (9 Members)

Councillors Cain, Ford, Mackings, M. Smith, S. Smith, Sybenga, Uddin, Wears, S. Wildhirt

Substitutes: Councillors Muquith and Royal

Licensing/Regulatory Committee (15 Members)

Councillors Brown, Clarke, Diamond, Elsender, Fox, Herbert, Medcalf, Murray, Perry, Pittuck, Rahman, Rice, Richardson, S. Smith and Stonehouse

Planning Committee (16 Members)

Councillors Blair, Brown, Clarke, Clifton, Fascione, Ford, Medcalf, Mouat, Oughton, Owens-Palmer, Pittuck, Rahman, Rice, Stead, Turnbull, H. Wildhirt

Pensions Committee (8 South Tyneside Members)

5 Other Local Authorities' Members

3 Trades Union Advisors

3 Employer Advisers

Councillors Herbert, Heywood, Mackings, Maddison, Owens-Palmer, Rice, Royal, M. Smith

Employer Representatives: Gareth Hall, Tessa Assadian and Eleanor Goodman

Trade Union Representatives: Janet Green, John Kelly and Janice Liepins-Hall.

Investment Panel: Chair of Pensions Committee Councillor M. Smith, Vice-Chair of Pensions Committee Councillor Maddison and Councillor Rice

Standards Committee (7 Members)

Professor G. Wright

Councillors Brown, Diamond, Elsander, Herbert, Mouat, Owens-Palmer, S. Smith*(nominated to answer questions)

Substitutes Cain and Leather

People and Organisational Development Committee (11 Members)

Councillors Elsander, Fox, Leather, Oughton, Perry, Rice, M. Smith, S. Smith, Stonehouse, Tooley, H. Wildhirt

Senior Officer Appointment Sub Committee (5 Members)

Leader, Councillor Mackings, Deputy Leader, Councillor Sybenga, Councillor Elsander (Chair of People and OD Committee), Councillor Oughton (Vice Chair of People and OD Committee) and 1 opposition Member from the People and OD Committee. If any of the 5 'prescribed Members' are unavailable, then an appropriate replacement from the People and OD Cttee can be approached to attend in their place. If this is not possible then the meeting/interview being conducted by the People and OD Sub Committee can proceed with a quorum of three.

Audit Committee (5 Members)

Councillors Leather, Maddison, Medcalf, Rice, M. Smith

Co-optees Ms J. Shin and Ms S. Swanson-Newbrook

Substitutes Blair and Perry

Health and Wellbeing Board

Councillors Mackings, Curry, Fascione and Heywood
Officers – Tom Hall, Vicki Pattinson, Stuart Easingwood, Stuart Wright, Darren Adams, Ken Bremner, Grahame Cassidy, Liz Dawson, James Duncan, Charlotte Harrison, John Lowther, Louise Lydon, Victoria Malone, Dr Matthew Walmsley and Lynn Wilson

Common Land, Town and Village Greens Committee (13 Members)

Councillors Brown, Cain, Clifton, Mackings, McKeown, Mouat, Murray, S. Smith, Sybenga, Taylor, Turnbull, Uddin and Wears

Appeals Panel

The Membership of the Appeals Panel will be taken from the Membership of the Licensing/Regulatory Committee.

The Panel will be Chaired by the Lead Member Finance and Resources.

12. Appointment of Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons for 2026/2027

Councillor Fenwick moved the appointments of Chairs and Vice Chairs as per the green paper circulated at the meeting.

Councillor Royal, Lead Member for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Investment seconded the report.

Resolved: That the following Members be appointed as Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Committees indicated:

Committee	Chairperson	Vice-Chairperson
Council	Councillor S. Wildhirt (Mayor)	Councillor Rice (Deputy Mayor)
Cabinet	Councillor Mackings	Councillor Sybenga
Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating and Call-In	Councillor Ford	Councillor Diamond
Adult Safeguarding, Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Ross	Councillor Elsander
Our Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Rice	Councillor Turnbull
Contracts & Commissioning Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Perry	Councillor Oughton
Housing Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Oughton	Councillor Turnbull
Children Safeguarding & Young People Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Tooley	Councillor Ross

Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Barclay	Councillor Medcalf
Appeals	Councillor Sybenga	
Audit	Councillor Leather	Councillor M. Smith
Common Land, Town & Village Greens	Councillor Mackings	Councillor Sybenga
Constitution	Councillor Mackings	Councillor Sybenga
General Purposes	Councillor Mackings	Councillor Sybenga
People & Organisational Development Committee	Councillor Elsender	Councillor Oughton
People & Organisational Development Sub Committee	Councillor Mackings	Councillor Sybenga
Pensions	Councillor M. Smith	Councillor Maddison
Licensing/Regulatory	Councillor Perry	Councillor Fox
Health & Wellbeing Board	Councillor Mackings	Dr Matthew Walmsley
Planning	Councillor Brown	Councillor Mouat
Standards	Professor Wright	Councillor S. Smith

Community Area Forums

East Shields and Whitburn	Councillor Barclay	Councillor Humphrey
Hebburn	Councillor Elsender	Councillor Jones
Jarrow and Boldon	Councillor Oughton	Councillor Murray
Riverside	Councillor Stonehouse	Councillor Perry
West Shields and Cleadon & East Boldon	Councillor Turnbull	Councillor Ford

13. Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies for 2026/2027

Councillor Fenwick moved the appointments of representatives to Outside Bodies as per the yellow papers circulated at the meeting.

Councillor Curry, Lead Member for Culture, Leisure, Tourism and Voluntary Sector, seconded the report.

Councillor Oliver proposed an alternative nomination to the Boldon Community Association Management Committee; that Ms K. Groom be removed and replaced with Councillor Oliver.

Councillor Owens-Palmer seconded the alternative nomination.

A vote by show of hands was taken, and the alternative appointment was not carried. Therefore, the appointment to Boldon Community Association Management Committee was agreed as follows: Councillor Diamond, Councillor Fox, Ms K. Groom and Ms J. Taylor.

Resolved: That (a) the following Members and other persons be appointed to serve on the Bodies indicated:-

Outside Body	Council Representative(s)
Arab Muslim Association	Councillor Rahman
Arts Council England, North East Local Authority Forum	Councillor Curry (appointed by position)
Association of North East Councils ANEC - Leaders and Elected Mayors Group	Councillor Mackings Councillor Sybenga (Substitute) (All appointed by position)
Association of North East Councils Ltd- Collaborative Procurement Sub-Committee	Councillor Sybenga (appointed by position)
Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE)	Councillor Mackings Councillor Royal Councillor S. Smith Councillor Sybenga
Barnes Institute (Whitburn) – Management	Councillor Royal

Committee

Boldon Community Association – Management Committee	Councillor Diamond Councillor Fox Ms K. Groom Ms J. Taylor
Centaurea Homes Limited Board of Directors	Councillor S. Smith (appointed by position) Director Place and Communities Assistant Director of Finance
Community Safety Partnership Board	Councillor Pittuck (appointed by position) Head of Public Protection
Cumbria, Northumbria, and Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust – Trust Governor	Councillor Heywood (appointed by position)
Customs House Trust Board – Board of Directors	Councillor Royal Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure
Edward Taylor Kelsey Trust	Councillor S. Wildhirt (Mayor) Director of Children Services Director of Adult Social Services and Commissioning
Environmental Protection UK	Councillor Pittuck (appointed by position) Councillor S. Smith Councillor Fenwick Service Lead – Environmental Health
Groundwork South Tyneside and Newcastle Board of Directors	Councillor Pittuck Assistant Director of Operations
Hebburn Sea Cadet Corps	Councillor Richardson
Hebburn Sports & Social Club – Management Committee	Councillor Curry Councillor Richardson Councillor Sybenga

	Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure
Keep Britain Tidy	Councillor Pittuck (appointed by position) Councillor S. Smith Assistant Director of Operations
Local Government Association – Coastal Special Interest Group	Councillor Royal
Local Government Association – General Assembly	Councillor Fenwick Councillor Mackings Councillor Royal Councillor Sybenga
Local Pension Board	Councillor Medcalf (1 year appointment to 2027/28)
Merchant Navy Welfare Board	Councillor Richardson
National Association of Councillors	Councillor Mackings Councillor Sybenga (All appointed by position)
National Association of Councillors Northern Branch	Councillor Mackings (appointed by position) Councillor Royal Councillor Sybenga (appointed by position)
Newcastle International Airport Local Authority Holding Co – Board of Directors	Councillor Mackings (Director) Councillor Sybenga (Alternate Director) (All appointed by position)
Newcastle International Airport Consultative Forum	Councillor Royal
North East Mayoral Strategic Authority - Cabinet	Councillor Mackings Councillor Sybenga (Substitute) Councillor Royal (Substitute)

	(All appointed by position)
North East Mayoral Strategic Authority – Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Brown Councillor M. Smith Councillor Perry (Substitute) Councillor H. Wildhirt (Substitute)
North East Mayoral Strategic Authority – Audit and Standards Committee	Councillor Elsander Councillor Maddison Councillor Fenwick (Substitute) Councillor M. Smith (Substitute)
North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System (ICS) Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Fenwick Councillor Ross Councillor H. Wildhirt
North East Migration Partnership	Councillor Curry (appointed by position)
North East Regional Employers' Organisation	Councillor Sybenga (appointed by position) Councillor Rice Councillor M. Smith
North East Regional Employers' Organisation - Executive Committee	Councillor Sybenga
North East Region Joint Health Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Ross
North Eastern Inshore Sea Fisheries and Conservation Authority	Councillor Royal (appointed by position)
Northumbria Resilience Forum	Councillor Pittuck (appointed by position) Councillor S. Smith (Substitute) Director of Place and Communities
Northumbria Police and Crime Panel	Councillor Pittuck (appointed by position) Councillor S. Smith
Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal	Councillor Blair

Committee	Operations Manager – Environmental Protection
Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London Adjudication Joint Committee (PATROLAJC)	Councillor Pittuck (appointed by position)
Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Councillor Fascione (appointed by position)
Safeguarding Adults Board	Councillor Heywood (appointed by position)
Sense Ability Matters (SAM) <i>(previously known as Vision and Hearing Support Gateshead & South Tyneside – Board of Trustees)</i>	Councillor Rice (appointed by position)
SIGOMA Group (Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities)	Councillor Mackings (appointed by position)
South Tyneside Blind Welfare Association	Councillor Heywood (appointed by position) Councillor Ross
South Tyneside Citizens' Advice Bureau – Committee	Councillor Elsander Councillor Oughton Councillor Pittuck Councillor Tooley
South Tyneside (Community Land CIC)	Councillor S. Smith (appointed by position) Councillor Brown Director of Place and Communities
South Tyneside District Scout Council	Councillor Richardson
South Tyneside Fostering Panel	Councillor Owens- Palmer
South Tyneside Foundation Trust – Council Governors	Councillor Diamond
South Tyneside Homes Board <i>(Board of Directors)</i>	Councillor Brown Councillor Mackings Councillor S. Smith

	Councillor Sybenga
South Tyneside Gymnastics and Wellbeing Centre Community Interest Company	Councillor Heywood
South Tyneside Partnership Steering Group	Councillor Curry Councillor Mackings Councillor Sybenga (all appointed by position)
South Tyneside Regional Equality Forum	Councillor Diamond Councillor Elsander Councillor Mackings Councillor Pittuck Councillor Royal
South Tyneside Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	Councillor Fascione Councillor S. Smith
The Industrial Communities Alliance	Councillor Royal
Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Authority	Councillor S. Smith (nominated to answer questions) Councillor Fascione
Tyne and Wear Local Access Forum	Councillor Mackings
Tyne Port Health Authority	Councillor Richardson Councillor Ross Councillor H. Wildhirt
Women's Health in South Tyneside Management Committee	Councillor Ross

11. Council Meeting Dates 2026/2027

Councillor Fenwick moved the Council Diary for 2026/2027 as per the blue papers circulated at the meeting, with the following amendment:

- i. That the meeting of Borough Council scheduled 23 July 2026 at 6.00pm instead be held on 30 July 2026 at 6.00pm;
 - ii. That an additional meeting of Borough Council be scheduled for 3 December 2026 at 6.00pm; and
 - iii. That an additional meeting of Borough Council be scheduled for 18 March 2027 at 6.00pm.
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Councillor Heywood, Lead Member for Adults, Health and Independence seconded the proposed Council Diary for 2026/2027 as amended.

Councillor Kilgour and Councillor Taylor welcomed the additional meetings of Borough Council which had been proposed for inclusion in the Council Diary.

Resolved: That the proposed Council meeting dates as circulated for 2026/2027 be approved, subject to the meeting of Borough Council scheduled 23 July 2026 instead being held 30 July 2026 at 6.00pm and the inclusion of additional meetings of Borough Council scheduled for 3 December 2026 at 6.00pm and 18 March 2027 at 6.00pm.

ANNEX 1 Does not form part of the Minutes of the Meeting.**QUESTIONS ARISING WITHIN THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL 19 MAY 2026****Item 7 - Annual Review of the Constitution**

Councillor Kilgour sought clarification on the role of Political Assistants in terms of supporting 'main' groups and how that was defined, she requested clarity on the entitlement of other groups in relation to this role.

Answer:

The Local Authority Political Assistants guide provides the following:
[Local authority political assistants guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Political Assistants are local government employees who undertake research and provide administrative support for the main political groups within an authority. The existence of these posts allows a separation of professional officer and political roles and can enable the provision of advice to councillors that local authority officers are prevented from providing. [Part I of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989](#) sets out the framework regulating the appointment and conduct of political assistants.

Under [section 9 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989](#), a local authority may appoint up to 3 assistants for political groups subject to stringent conditions and safeguards. The 3 largest political groups in each authority qualify for a political assistant if the membership of the group consists of at least 10% of the membership of the authority. The exception is where only one political group accounts for at least 10% of the membership, in which case the next biggest group also qualifies.

In addition, she requested further clarity on the role of Elected Members in the appointment of officers, she wished to know at what level of staff appointments did Councillors become involved in the recruitment process.

Answer:

As detailed in the Constitution, the People and Organisational Development Sub Committee are the responsible Committee of the Council that oversees the recruitment and selection to the following posts:
Chief Executive, Director, Assistant Director.

Item 8 – Appointment of Independent Chair of Standards Committee

Councillor Owens-Palmer queried if as part of the exploration of appointing an Independent Vice Chair of Standards Committee if there would be a financial payment attached to the position.

Answer:

The possibility of attaching a special responsibility allowance to the role of an Independent Vice Chair of Standards Committee could be explored. However, Members should note that this would be inconsistent with the Council's recently adopted position to remove Vice Chair allowances generally across its Scheme of Members Allowances. Should the Council wish to consider remuneration for any newly created Independent Vice Chair position, this would need to be referred to the Independent Remuneration Panel for consideration and recommendation. Any amendment to the Members' Allowances Scheme arising from such a recommendation would then require formal approval by Borough Council.
