



24th February 2026

Dear Councillor,

I hereby summon you to attend a meeting of **Peterlee Town Council** on
Monday 2nd March 2026 In the **Council Chamber, Shotton Hall,**
Peterlee, SR8 2PH, at 6.30pm

Mr I Hall
Town Clerk

Members of the public are very welcome to attend our meetings. We have a limited number of designated public seating in our Council Chamber and so any members of the public wishing to attend to observe the meeting are advised to contact the Council in advance so that we can reserve a seat for you: council@peterlee.gov.uk or (0191) 5862491.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. To receive declarations of interest

Members are reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. Please seek advice from the Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk **prior to the meeting** if in doubt. Members are reminded that they can check their published declaration of interests here: <https://bit.ly/2wVyeLA>

3. Public Participation

Members of the public will have an opportunity to put questions to the Council. This item of business to last no more than 15 minutes, as per Council Standing Orders.

4. Monthly Updates for Durham County Councillors

To receive an update from Durham County Councillors on relevant issues affecting Peterlee

5. Minutes

To approve the Minutes of the following meeting:-

- a. Council Meeting held on 16th February 2026 (Copy attached)

- 6. Hill Rigg House Outcome of Meeting with Durham Community Action**
Report of the Town Clerk (Attached)
- 7. Pavilion Office Conversion**
Report of the Town Clerk (Attached)
- 8. Thorntree Gill Leisure Gardens**
Report of the Neighbourhood Services Manager (Attached)
- 9. Strategic Place Plan (SPP) and Pride in Place Peterlee**
Report of the Town Clerk (Attached)

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Town Council** meeting held on **Monday 16th February 2026** at **6.30pm** in the Council Chamber, Shotton Hall, Peterlee.

Present: Councillor R. Moore (Mayor) and
Councillors J Black, P. Brown, D Burrell, M A Cartwright, P Cartwright, D.
Hawley, A. Laing, I. Pygall, S. Simpson, and D. Wright.

Also Ian Hall (Chief Officer and Town Clerk), Deborah Woodhall (Resources
Manager) and Louise Hudson (Democratic Services Assistant).

C.177/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors, M-L. Franklin, S.
Franklin, K. Hawley, D. Howarth, D. Meadows, H. Pygall, M Sanderson and M.
Tough

RESOLVED: That the apologies be noted.

C.178/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared

C.179/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of public were present.

C.180/26 MINUTES

a. Council Meeting held on 2nd February 2026

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be approved.

C.181/26 Q3 BUDGET

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had previously
been circulated, to provide the Council with a budget summary report to the end
of the third quarter of the 2025/26 financial year, in line the Council's Financial
Regulations¹.

RESOLVED: That the content of this report be noted and Appendices 1
and 2, which set out the quarter 3 variances by budget
head and summary explanations for each variance over
15%.

¹ Council's financial regulations are available from the Town Clerk on request or [here](#):

C.182/26 REPLACEMENT AND SALE OF EXISTING 4X4 VEHICLE

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had previously been circulated, to seek Council approval to replace the Council's existing 4x4 vehicle currently in service and to approve the sale of the existing vehicle, with the replacement to be provided through a leasing arrangement.

RESOLVED:

1. That approval be given for the replacement of the existing 4x4 vehicle through a leasing arrangement; and
2. That the sale of the existing 4x4 vehicle, be approved.

C.183/26 PROPOSAL FOR THE SITING OF A NEW CHRISTMAS TREE

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had previously been circulated, to seek Council approval for the planting of a new Christmas tree at the Pavilion site to replace the current Christmas tree located within the grounds of Shotton Hall, which is to be sold.

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposal to plant a new Christmas tree at the Pavilion site for use from Christmas 2026 onwards, be approved.
2. That Officers are authorised to obtain quotations and professional advice regarding tree selection and planting.
3. That the allocation of funding be taken from existing budget for this purpose.

C.184/26 FUTURE USE OF REFURBISHED BUILDING – LOWHILLS ROAD ALLOTMENT SITE

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had previously been circulated, to seek Members' views and approval on the future use, management arrangements, and potential charging structure for the recently refurbished building located at the Lowhills Road Allotment Site.

RESOLVED:

1. That the completion of the refurbishment works be noted; and
2. That authority be given to Officers to utilise and manage the building in accordance with Member direction.

C.185/26 CT PUMP REPLACEMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had previously been circulated, to present Members with the quotations received for the replacement of the CT / twinset pump system at The Pavilion and to seek approval to appoint a contractor.

RESOLVED:

1. That Company C, Commercial Boiler Solutions (CBS) be appointed to undertake the CT pump replacement works at The Pavilion, at a total cost of £5,037.60, including VAT, and;
2. That the expenditure to be met from Council reserves.

C.186/26 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That in view of the confidential nature of the items to be discussed, the Council passed a formal resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 & the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, Part 1, due to the commercial and personal information contained in the report.

C.187/26 PADEL AND COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB EXPANSION – MULTI-SITE OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had previously been circulated, to present Members with an overview of a proposed Padel and Community Sports Hub expansion, promoted by a not-for-profit Community Interest Company, and to seek Members' views on the principle of the project and the preferred site option for further development.

Members discussed the proposal in detail, including the potential benefits to the community, the implications for the proposed site, and the longer-term operational and financial considerations.

RESOLVED:

That the Council does not support the project in principle at this time.

C.188/26 UPDATE – LOWHILLS ROAD PITCHES 1 & 2 PROPOSAL

The report previously circulated within the agenda pack was received. Members noted the update. Members noted the update.

RESOLVED:

No formal resolution was made.

C.189/26 PERMISSION TO INSTALL SOCIAL CABIN

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had previously been circulated, to seek Members' approval, in the Council's capacity as landowner, to grant consent for Peterlee Cricket Club to install a new single-storey social cabin within the cricket ground at Helford Road, in accordance with the submitted drawings and approved planning permission.

RESOLVED:

1. That landowner consent be granted for the installation of the social cabin, subject to the completion and signing of the Club's lease agreement.
2. That the Council support the Club for the 2026 cricket season by permitting the use of the changing room facilities at the Pavilion, allowing them additional time to create their own changing room facilities.

- Report to:** Peterlee Town Council
- Date of Meeting:** 2nd March 2026
- Subject:** **Hill Rigg House – Outcome of Meeting with Durham Community Action and Governance Options**
- Report of:** Ian Hall Chief Officer & Town Clerk
- Report Purpose:** To update Members on the outcome of the meeting held with Durham Community Action (DCA) regarding the potential establishment of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to operate Hill Rigg House as a community building, and to seek direction from Council on the preferred governance model moving forward.
This report follows the resolution of Council on 2nd February 2026 (Minute C.168/25 Mins), which authorised engagement with Durham Community Action to explore the most appropriate way to establish a CIO.
- Background:** At its meeting held on 2nd February 2026, Council resolved to explore the use of Hill Rigg House as a community building and to seek advice from Durham Community Action on establishing a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) structure’
- A meeting was subsequently held on 17th February 2026 with DCA representatives. The purpose of the session was to outline possible governance models and to provide Members with an understanding of the practical, legal and governance implications of each option. DCA confirmed that, in their professional view, a CIO structure would be the most appropriate charitable vehicle should Members wish to proceed with a community-led model.
- Details:** Governance Models Considered
Durham Community Action outlined four potential models:
- Option 1 – All Councillors as Trustees (Sole Trustee Model)
Under this model, all 22 elected Members would act as charity trustees.
DCA advised that whilst this provides maximum democratic accountability and strategic alignment, it presents significant governance challenges. The dual role of Councillor and Charity Trustee must remain strictly separate in law, and the risk of conflicts of interest would require robust management.
In addition, a trustee board of 22 members may prove operationally unwieldy, with slower decision-making and increased administrative

burden. Trustees would carry personal legal responsibilities under charity law.

Option 2 – Mixed Trustee Board (Councillors and Independent Members)

This model would establish a smaller trustee board (typically 5–7 individuals), combining a number of Councillors with independent community trustees.

DCA advised this is generally the preferred governance model in similar circumstances. It retains democratic linkage whilst introducing independence, skills-based recruitment and improved credibility with funders.

Whilst conflicts of interest for Councillor trustees would still require management, a smaller board would be more agile and operationally effective. This model is often viewed more favourably by external funders due to its community-led approach.

Option 3 – Independent Charity with Lease from Council

Under this arrangement, the Town Council would retain ownership of Hill Rigg House but grant a lease to an entirely independent charity, which would assume day-to-day operational responsibility.

This model provides a clear separation of roles, with the Council acting solely as landlord and the charity as tenant. It reduces Councillor workload and transfers operational risk (subject to lease terms).

However, Council control would be limited to lease provisions and landlord oversight. Lease negotiations would require careful drafting to protect the asset, including repair obligations, permitted use, compliance and termination provisions.

Option 4 – Disposal of the Asset

For completeness, DCA confirmed that disposal of the property remains an option, generating capital receipt for reinvestment.

However, this would result in the permanent loss of a community asset. Based on discussions, this does not appear to be the favoured route.

Durham Community Action indicated that, in their experience:

- Option 2 (mixed trustee board) offers the most balanced governance approach where the Council wishes to retain strategic influence but benefit from independent skills and community leadership; or
- Option 3 (independent charity with lease) is appropriate where Council wishes to retain ownership but not be directly involved in day-to-day strategic management.

DCA further advised that if Option 1 were to be pursued, it would effectively be an “all or nothing” model, requiring all Councillors to accept trustee responsibilities and associated legal duties. Under Options 1 and 2, it was clearly stated that all paid employees of Peterlee Town Council are entirely separate from the charitable entity and could not be used to deliver services, undertake operational duties, or provide administrative support on behalf of the charity. Any

staffing required to operate the building would need to be appointed and managed directly by the CIO in its own legal capacity.

Legal and Governance Considerations

Members are reminded that charity trustees must act solely in the best interests of the charity and its beneficiaries. This is distinct from a Councillor's role under the Local Government Act 1972.

Any overlap between Council decision-making and charity governance must be carefully structured to avoid:

- Conflicts of interest
- Perceived or actual loss of independence
- Reputational risk
- Breach of charity law duties

Robust governance documentation, including a constitution, trustee code of conduct, conflicts of interest register and delegation framework, would be required under any CIO model.

Recommendation: Members are requested to:

1. Note the outcome of the meeting with Durham Community Action.
2. Determine which governance model should be explored further:
 - Option 1 – All Councillors as Trustees
 - Option 2 – Mixed Trustee Board
 - Option 3 – Independent Charity with Lease
 - Option 4 – Disposal
3. Authorise the Chief Officer & Town Clerk to bring forward a detailed implementation report for the preferred option, including financial, legal and governance steps required.

Appendix 1: Implications

<u>Area</u>	<u>Implication</u>
Finance:	No financial commitment is sought at this stage.
Staffing:	No direct implications.
Risk:	<p>Governance risk is most significant under Option 1 due to the dual role of Councillor and Trustee and the scale of a 22-member trustee board. Clear separation of decision-making roles would be essential.</p> <p>Options 2 and 3 reduce governance risk through clearer structural separation and/or smaller boards. There is reputational risk should conflicts of interest not be properly managed under any trustee model. There is asset risk under a leasing model if repairing obligations and compliance responsibilities are not clearly defined.</p> <p>Disposal carries strategic risk through permanent loss of a community asset.</p>
Equality and Diversity, Cohesion and Integration:	No direct implications.
Crime and Disorder:	No direct implications.
Consultation & Communication:	<p>Further engagement will be required with Members to determine appetite for trustee roles.</p> <p>Should a mixed or independent trustee model be preferred, a transparent recruitment process and wider community communication strategy will be required.</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement will be important to maintain public confidence in the chosen governance route.</p>
Procurement:	No direct implications.
Legal:	<p>Any CIO structure must comply with charity law and Charity Commission requirements.</p> <p>Councillors acting as trustees must understand the legal distinction between their statutory role under the Local Government Act 1972 and their duties as charity trustees.</p> <p>Any lease or disposal must comply with local government legislation relating to land transactions and best consideration requirements.</p>

Item No. 6

Appropriate data protection arrangements would need to be established for any new charitable entity.

- Report to:** Peterlee Town Council
- Date of Meeting:** 2nd March 2026
- Subject:** **Pavilion Office Conversion – Budget Approval and Procurement Appointment**
- Report of:** Ian Hall Chief Officer/Town Clerk
- Report Purpose:** To update Members following the resolution of Council on 19th January 2026 and to seek approval of a capital budget of £150,000 to convert four existing changing rooms at The Pavilion into office accommodation, and to agree the appointment and associated fee from Durham County Council Procurement Services to manage the compliant tender process, and to formally note the position in relation to existing Sport England grant funding.
- Background:** At its meeting held on 19th January 2026, Council considered a report regarding the relocation of staff following the sale of Shotton Hall and resolved, in principle, that The Pavilion would become the Council's civic headquarters
- Members agreed:
- That office-based staff (with the exception of the Neighbourhood Services Team) relocate to The Pavilion.
 - That the proposed layout approach be approved.
 - That authority be given to engage with Durham County Council Procurement to initiate a compliant tender process.
- This report now brings forward the required budget provision and formal procurement arrangements to enable the project to progress.
- It is estimated that the sale of Shotton Hall and consolidation into one civic building will generate an indicative annual saving of approximately £90,000 in running costs, including utilities, maintenance, compliance, security, and general building overheads. This represents a significant recurring revenue saving which strengthens the Council's long-term financial position and can be reinvested into the Council.
- Details:** The proposal is to convert four existing changing rooms at the rear of the Pavilion reception area into office accommodation and meeting space, alongside the previously agreed reception reconfiguration works.
- The works will include:
- Removal of internal partitions and associated plumbing fixtures
 - Reconfiguration of space to create open-plan office, welfare area and meeting rooms

- Installation of heating, data cabling, large windows and electrical infrastructure
- Compliance works under Building Regulations
- Internal finishes and fit-out suitable for civic office use

This approach continues to make best use of the existing building footprint and aligns with the strategic decision to consolidate services within a single civic hub.

Estimated Project Budget

Officers have undertaken initial scoping and benchmarking of comparable projects.

It is proposed that Members approve a capital budget of: £150,000 (excluding VAT where recoverable)

This budget envelope includes:

- Construction and fit-out works
- Professional fees (design and contract documentation)
- Building Control and compliance costs
- IT and infrastructure installation
- Contingency allowance

Final contract values will be subject to a compliant competitive tender exercise.

Procurement – Durham County Council

In accordance with Council's Financial Regulations and the requirements of the Procurement Act 2023 (PA23), a compliant tender process must be undertaken.

Durham County Council Procurement Services have provided a quotation to undertake a full bespoke procurement exercise on the Council's behalf.

The service will include:

- Dedicated Procurement Officer
- Development of design-and-build contract documentation (with DCC Legal Services)
- Strategy for route to market
- Full advertisement and statutory notice publication under PA23
- Management of the restricted tender process
- Evaluation moderation and award management
- Standstill period management (if required)
- Formal handover to the Council as client

The fee for this service is:

£5,237.00 (plus VAT)

Members are asked to formally agree acceptance of this quotation to allow the procurement process to commence without delay.

Officers advise that utilising Durham County Council's procurement expertise reduces legal and compliance risk and ensures full transparency and best value in line with statutory obligations.

The Pavilion remains subject to two live Sport England grant agreements:

- £100,000 grant
- £28,000 grant

Both grant agreements remain live until October 2028.

Initial discussions have taken place with Sport England regarding the proposed internal reconfiguration of space. Sport England have indicated that they are willing to send an architect to visit the building, review the proposed changes and provide professional input to ensure that any alterations remain consistent with the original sporting objectives of the grant funding.

While this is a positive step, formal written agreement will still be required before works commence.

Members are advised that if Sport England does not approve the proposed changes and works were to proceed in breach of funding conditions, there is a risk of grant clawback, potentially up to the value of the remaining grant liabilities.

Early engagement and transparency are therefore critical to mitigate financial and reputational risk.

Strategic Context

This project directly supports:

- The previously agreed relocation strategy
- The creation of a single civic headquarters
- Improved operational efficiency and visibility
- Long-term investment in The Pavilion as a strategic asset

It also aligns with the Council's broader modernisation programme following the sale of Shotton Hall.

Recommendation: That Members:

1. Note the update following the 19th January 2026 resolution.
2. Note the estimated annual saving of approximately £90,000 arising from the sale of Shotton Hall and consolidation into a single civic building.
3. Note the position regarding the two live Sport England grants (£100,000 and £28,000) running until October 2028.
4. Note that Sport England have indicated their willingness to send an architect to review the proposed internal changes.
5. Acknowledge the potential clawback risk should formal approval not be secured.
6. Approve a capital budget of £150,000 for the conversion works.
7. Approve additional expenditure of £5,237.00 plus VAT for Durham County Council Procurement Services.

Item No. 7

8. Authorise the Chief Officer & Town Clerk to submit the Bespoke Procurement Request Form and commence the procurement process.
9. Receive a further report following tender evaluation and written confirmation from Sport England.

Appendix 1: Implications

<u>Area</u>	<u>Implication</u>
Finance:	<p>A capital allocation of £150,000 is sought for construction and fit-out works. In addition, a procurement fee of £5,237.00 plus VAT is payable to Durham County Council Procurement Services to undertake the compliant tender exercise.</p> <p>The total approved financial commitment for this phase would therefore be £155,237.00 plus VAT (where applicable and recoverable).</p> <p>The sale of Shotton Hall and consolidation into one civic headquarters is expected to generate an indicative annual revenue saving of approximately £90,000 in running costs.</p> <p>The Pavilion remains subject to two Sport England grants totalling £128,000 which are live until October 2028. If the proposed works are not approved by Sport England and were to proceed in breach of funding conditions, there is a potential financial risk of clawback of grant funding. Early engagement is underway and Sport England have offered architectural input to mitigate this risk.</p>
Staffing:	Supports the previously agreed relocation of staff and consolidation of services within The Pavilion.
Risk:	Risks include potential grant clawback, procurement challenge, construction cost inflation, and delivery delays. These are being mitigated through early Sport England engagement and use of DCC Procurement Services.
Equality and Diversity, Cohesion and Integration:	The redesigned office space will improve accessibility and ensure compliance with equality legislation, supporting inclusive service delivery.
Crime and Disorder:	No direct implications.
Consultation & Communication:	Internal consultation with staff will continue. Engagement with Sport England remains ongoing in line with funding conditions.
Procurement:	The value of works requires a formal competitive tender exercise under the Procurement Act 2023. Durham County Council Procurement will manage this process to ensure compliance and best value.
Legal:	

Item No. 7

All works will comply with funding agreements, Building Regulations, CDM Regulations 2015, and procurement legislation.

Report to: Peterlee Town Council

Date of Meeting: 2nd March 2026

Subject: **Thorntree Gill Leisure Gardens – Solar Power System Remedial Works**

Report of: Wayne Harriman Neighbourhood Services Manager

Report Purpose: For Members' to consider to submit a Section 106 funding application to undertake remedial and compliance works to the solar photovoltaic (PV) power supply system at the Thorntree Gill Amenity Building.

Background: Members will recall that at the Council meeting held on 1st September 2025, Council resolved to take no further action in respect of the power supply at the Thorntree Gill Amenity Building. Although to look for grant to help with the cost. The building was originally designed as a sustainable, off-grid facility powered by a solar photovoltaic system with battery storage. Due to system failure and insufficient winter generation, the building has remained without a viable electricity supply and has not operated as originally intended.

Further technical assessment has now identified specific remedial and compliance works required to reinstate safe and effective operation of the system. These works are necessary to protect the Council's capital investment, ensure electrical compliance, and enable the building to be brought back into meaningful use.

Details: The solar PV system is currently non-operational. Without remedial works, the building remains without lighting, heating or electrical functionality, limiting its use by allotment holders or any wider community group.

The proposed works would involve full diagnostic testing of the existing system, identification of defective components, repair and replacement of inverters and battery units where necessary, inspection and upgrading of cabling and junction points, and the issuing of updated electrical compliance certification.

The works would be undertaken by a suitably qualified and MCS-accredited contractor with experience in commercial solar installations.

A review of the current Durham County Council Section 106 schedule confirms that Pot 78 and Pot 79 relate specifically to Peterlee East Historic and are categorised for open space and leisure infrastructure within the town.

The current available balances are as follows:

Pot 78 – £18,024.15

Pot 79 – £5,522.75

These contributions are intended to support improvements to public open space, leisure and recreational infrastructure within Peterlee. Thorntree Gill Leisure Gardens is a public open space facility, and the Amenity Building forms part of the wider recreational and community infrastructure on site. Reinstating a compliant and operational power supply would enhance the usability and sustainability of this asset and align with the purpose of the contributions.

The application would therefore seek funding against Pots 78 and 79, subject to Durham County Council's confirmation of eligibility and approval through the formal Section 106 monitoring process.

Recommendation: Members are requested to consider the submission of a Section 106 funding application in respect of Peterlee Pots 78 (£18,024.15) and 79 (£5,522.75) to enable remedial and compliance works to the Thorntree Gill Amenity Building solar power system.

Appendix 1: Implications

<u>Area</u>	<u>Implication</u>
Finance:	Section 106 funding is proposed from Peterlee East Historic Pot 78 (£18,024.15) and Pot 79 (£5,522.75), giving a total available balance of £23,546.90. The works will be funded from these external contributions, subject to approval by Durham County Council. There is no direct impact on the precept at this stage. Should the application not be approved or costs exceed available balances, further financial consideration will be required.
Staffing:	No direct implications.
Risk:	Failure to reinstate a compliant and operational power supply presents continued asset management and reputational risk. The building remains underutilised despite the original capital investment. Undertaking the works will mitigate electrical compliance risk and protect the Council's asset.
Equality and Diversity, Cohesion and Integration:	Restoring power to the Amenity Building will improve accessibility and enable wider community use, supporting inclusive participation and community cohesion.
Crime and Disorder:	No direct implications.
Consultation & Communication:	Engagement will be required with Durham County Council in respect of the Section 106 application. Further communication with allotment holders and potential user groups will be undertaken should the building return to operational use.
Procurement:	Any works will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations and Procurement Procedures, including the obtaining of appropriate quotations or tenders depending on contract value.
Legal:	Works will be required to comply with current electrical safety standards and any relevant regulatory requirements. Section 106 expenditure will be subject to Durham County Council approval and monitoring conditions.

Report to: Peterlee Town Council

Date of Meeting: 2nd March 2026

Subject: **Strategic Place Plan (SPP) and Pride in Place Peterlee**

Report of: Ian Hall Chief Officer & Town Clerk

Report Purpose: To inform Members of formal engagement requests from Durham County Council in relation to the development of the Peterlee Strategic Place Plan (SPP) and the Government's Pride in Place programme for East Peterlee, and to seek agreement on the Council's structured approach to participation.

Background: Durham County Council is currently undertaking engagement activity to help shape a long-term vision for Peterlee through the Strategic Place Plan (SPP). The purpose of the SPP is to identify local challenges, regeneration priorities and economic opportunities, and to create a shared vision that supports a thriving economy and meets the needs of residents, businesses and stakeholders. Engagement activity includes public drop-in sessions, on-street engagement in the town centre, work with schools, and an online survey. In addition, key stakeholders, including Peterlee Town Council, are being invited to take part in focused discussions to inform the development of the plan. Alongside the SPP, Durham County Council is progressing the Government's Pride in Place programme for East Peterlee. Members should note that Pride in Place represents a £20 million investment programme specifically allocated to East Peterlee. The funding is intended to support regeneration, improve the public realm, enhance community facilities and address long-standing place-based challenges within that area of the town. A meeting was held between Durham County Council representatives and Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Peterlee Town Council to discuss both the Strategic Place Plan and the £20 million Pride in Place programme. Urban Foresight, consultants appointed by Durham County Council, will also be arranging structured engagement sessions with the Town Clerk and Members.

Details: Members will recall that at the Town Council meeting held on 2nd February 2026 (Minute C.165/25 refers), it was reported that Durham County Council would be contacting Peterlee Town Council to request the nomination of a Town Councillor to represent the Council on a committee overseeing the Pride in Place funding.

Following that update, Councillor Rob Moore put his name forward to represent Peterlee Town Council on the Pride in Place Committee.

The Pride in Place programme represents a significant £20 million investment in East Peterlee and will influence regeneration priorities, capital projects, public realm improvements and community initiatives within that locality. The Strategic Place Plan will also shape future regeneration frameworks, partnership arrangements and funding bids across Peterlee more broadly.

A consultant with Urban Foresight working on behalf of Durham County Council, has formally requested engagement with Peterlee Town Council.

The request outlines that, in addition to wider public engagement activity, Urban Foresight are inviting key stakeholders, including the Town Clerk and Members of the Town Council, to participate in structured discussions.

The purpose of this engagement is to gather views on:

The town's strengths.

Opportunities for regeneration and growth.

Current challenges.

Future aspirations for Peterlee.

Urban Foresight have proposed the following potential formats for engagement:

Online or telephone one-to-one interviews with the Town Clerk and/or Members.

A focus group involving several Members of the Town Council.

Attendance at the Council meeting scheduled for 16th March 2026 to facilitate a short focus group session prior to the formal meeting.

They have also indicated that they are willing to adapt the format to suit the Council's preferred approach and availability.

Recommendation: Members are recommended to:

1. Note the engagement request from Urban Foresight in relation to the Strategic Place Plan.
2. Agree the Council's preferred format for participation (interviews, focus group or facilitated session on 16 March).
3. Confirm Councillor Rob Moore as Peterlee Town Council's nominated representative on the Pride in Place Committee, noting that he put his name forward following the Council update of 2nd February 2026 (Minute C.165/25 refers).
4. Delegate authority to the Chief Officer & Town Clerk to coordinate engagement arrangements.

Appendix 1: Implications

<u>Area</u>	<u>Implication</u>
Finance:	No direct implications. However, the £20 million Pride in Place investment and the wider Strategic Place Plan may influence future funding opportunities, regeneration priorities and partnership arrangements within Peterlee. Early engagement may assist in positioning the Council for future collaborative projects or external funding opportunities.
Staffing:	No direct implications.
Risk:	There is a strategic and reputational risk if the Council does not engage meaningfully in shaping the Strategic Place Plan and Pride in Place programme, particularly given the scale of investment proposed for East Peterlee. Proactive engagement will mitigate this risk and support effective partnership working.
Equality and Diversity, Cohesion and Integration:	No direct implications.
Crime and Disorder:	No direct implications.
Consultation & Communication:	This report relates to ongoing consultation being undertaken by Durham County Council and Urban Foresight. Engagement by the Town Council will form part of the wider stakeholder consultation process.
Procurement:	No direct implications.
Legal:	No direct implications.