



ASHBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL
Town Hall, ASHBOURNE, Derbyshire.DE6 1ES
Tel: 01335 342291
E-mail:- enquiries@ashbournetowncouncil.gov.uk
www.ashbournetowncouncil.gov.uk

15 January 2025

To: The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Members of Ashbourne Town Council

Dear Councillor,

You are summoned to attend the meeting of Ashbourne Town Council to be held at **7.00pm** on **Tuesday 21 January 2025** in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ashbourne.
Members are asked to sign the attendance sheet for the meeting and to complete the Declarations Sheet (if appropriate). These will be available in the Council Chamber.

Yours sincerely

Carole Dean
Town Clerk

AGENDA

*****Non-Confidential items of this meeting may be Audio Recorded*****

- 1) **Apologies for absence**
- 2) **Variation of Order of Business**
- 3) **Declaration of Members Interests**
This is to enable Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest they have in subsequent agenda items, in accordance with the Town Council's Code of Conduct. Interests that become apparent at a later stage in the proceedings should be declared at that time.
- 4) **To receive and approve requests for dispensations from members on matters in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest**
- 5) **Public Questions and Comments – (3 Minutes per speaker a maximum 15 Minutes in total)**
 - a) A period of not more than fifteen minutes will be made available for members of the public and Members of the Council to comment on any matters.
 - b) If the Police Liaison Officer, a County Council or District Council Member is in attendance they will be given the opportunity to raise any matters.
- 6) **Members invited Nicola Ndiweni (Police & Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire) to attend the meeting to meet with her in person and for her to advise what she is doing for Ashbourne**
- 7) **Members invited Mr John Whitby MP to attend the meeting to meet with him in person and for him to advise what he is doing for Ashbourne (no response at the time of the agenda being sent)**

- 8) **Notification of resignation of Cllr A Bates**
- 9) **To Approve the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 December 2024**
(emailed out with Agenda)
- 10) **To Approve the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 January 2025**
(emailed out with Agenda)
- 11) **To Approve the Minutes of the Finance, Town Hall & HR Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 January 2025**
- 12) **To Approve the Minutes of the C&E Committee Meetings held on Tuesday 14 January 2025** (emailed out with Agenda)
- 13) **Finance**
 - a) Members to authorise the accounts for payment, all invoices listed have been examined, verified and certified by the Town Clerk/RFO. Chair and Deputy to sign the payment schedule (attached Appendix 1)
 - b) Members to agree the precept of £352,190.00 for 2025/26 (appendix 2) and agree the variations of change from 2024/25 to 2025/26. Information to be submitted to DDDC
 - c) Members to note the draft summary of accounts ending 21/12/2024 (report attached Appendix 3)

14) Planning Applications

Reference	Name	Location	Details
24/01093/LBALT	Mr Galsworthy - DDDC	Wigleys Shoes, 18 - 20 St John Street, Ashbourne	Proposed removal of existing exterior floodlights on the eastern elevation and installation of 3 LED floodlights

15) Project Updates

- a) Update on the Millennium Square project
- b) Members to consider the planting and maintenance for Millenium Square
- c) Update on the Town Hall
- d) Update on the SIDS
- e) Ashbourne Reborn Highways & Public Realm – Programme Board

16) Event Enquiry's

- a) From Ashbourne Royal Shrovetide Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 March 14:00 – 22:00
Members to advise any objections or comments
- b) From Makers Street Market – second Saturday of the month from 08/02/2025 – 12/12/2025
10:00 – 16:00. Members to advise any objections or comments

- 17) **Report from Cllr Currie – To resolve to create the decision-making process required to manage the future of the Town Hall and to give effect to decisions made as a matter of urgency** (report attached Appendix 4)

18) Mayor's Announcements


Ashbourne Town Council PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
356	13/12/2024	Routine Repairs & Renewals	Current Account - Ne		Work to damp in the Anteroom	J M Burton Plumbing and F	S	550.41	110.08	660.49
355	13/12/2024	IT Hosting and Programs	Current Account - Ne		IT Support	Dove Computer Solutions	S	22.50	4.50	27.00
362	17/12/2024	Uniform	Current Account - Ne		Hi Viz Vests	Summit Workwear Ltd	S	74.17	14.83	89.00
359	17/12/2024	Printing & Stationery	Current Account - Ne		Corporate Christmas Cards	Vistaprint BV	S	54.57	10.92	65.49
360	17/12/2024	Subscriptions & Licences	Current Account - Ne		Adobe License	Adobe	S	25.28	5.06	30.34
361	17/12/2024	Subscriptions & Licences	Current Account - Ne		Zoom Licence	Zoom Video Communicatio	S	12.99	2.60	15.59
348	23/12/2024	Routine Repairs & Renewals	Current Account - Ne		Electrical Testing Hard Wire (S	Alan Benfield	S	1,061.00	212.20	1,273.20
349	23/12/2024	Christmas Spectacular	Current Account - Ne		First Aid	St John Ambulance	S	200.20	40.04	240.24
347	23/12/2024	Christmas Spectacular	Current Account - Ne		Lantern Spectacular Brochure	Tableau Reproduction Limit	X	2,120.00		2,120.00
346	23/12/2024	Christmas Lights	Current Account - Ne		Christmas Lights Repairs	Protech Electrical Ltd	S	160.00	32.00	192.00
351	27/12/2024	Net Pay	Current Account - Ne		Salaries	Ashbourne Town Council	E	7,769.75		7,769.75
363	27/12/2024	Telephone & Broadband	Current Account - Ne		Telephone	Focus Group	S	138.78	27.76	166.54
364	31/12/2024	Waste Collection	Current Account - Ne		Waste Collection	B&M Waste Services	S	144.68	28.94	173.62
375	01/01/2025	Heat & Light	Current Account - Ne		Business Electricity Bill	British Gas	S	469.02	93.80	562.82
353	06/01/2025	Christmas Spectacular	Current Account - Ne		Lantern Spectacular	The Snow Globe Ltd	S	1,700.00	340.00	2,040.00
378	07/01/2025	Printing & Stationery	Current Account - Ne		Franking Credit	Francotyp Postalia Ltd	E	50.00		50.00
352	07/01/2025	Christmas Lights Switch On	Current Account - Ne		Christmas Lights Switch On Per	Showstoppers	S	3,530.00	706.00	4,236.00
381	14/01/2025	Victoria Square Lighting	Current Account - Ne		Lighting Victoria Square	N Power Business Solution: L	L	86.38	4.32	90.70
377	15/01/2025	IT Hosting and Programs	Current Account - Ne		Sage Payroll	Sage	S	72.00	14.40	86.40
382	16/01/2025	Telephone & Broadband	Current Account - Ne		EE - Mobile	EE Limited	S	37.00	7.40	44.40
350	17/01/2025	Pension	Current Account - Ne		Pension	Derbyshire County Council	E	2,370.41		2,370.41
392	17/01/2025	Computer Hardware	Current Account - Ne		Computer Monitor	Amazon	S	74.16	14.83	88.99
393	17/01/2025	Subscriptions & Licences	Current Account - Ne		Adobe License	Adobe	S	25.28	5.06	30.34
390	17/01/2025	Subscriptions & Licences	Current Account - Ne		Purple Guide Subscription	The Events Industry Foru	S	25.00	5.00	30.00
391	17/01/2025	Subscriptions & Licences	Current Account - Ne		Zoom Licence	Zoom Video Communicatio	S	12.99	2.60	15.59
354	17/01/2025	Christmas Spectacular	Current Account - Ne		Security Lantern Spectacular	BHPSS Limited	S	803.00	160.60	963.60
388	17/01/2025	Community Events	Current Account - Ne		VE Day 80 - Stage Hire Deposit	IG Stage Hire Ltd	S	547.40	109.48	656.88
376	20/01/2025	Heat & Light	Current Account - Ne		Business Electricity Bill	British Gas	L	40.77	2.04	42.81
380	20/01/2025	Water & Sewerage	Current Account - Ne		Water and Sewerage	Waterplus	E	74.01		74.01
386	20/01/2025	Christmas Spectacular	Current Account - Ne		Lantern Spectacular	Can Samba	X	1,500.00		1,500.00
387	20/01/2025	Christmas Spectacular	Current Account - Ne		Lantern Spectacular	Can Samba	X	300.00		300.00
374	21/01/2025	Heat & Light	Current Account - Ne		Business Gas Bill	EDFenergy.com	S	1,093.72	218.74	1,312.46
389	21/01/2025	Subscriptions & Licences	Current Account - Ne		SLCC Subscription	SLCC	X	315.00		315.00

Appendix

Ashbourne Town Council
PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
366	22/01/2025		Current Account - Ne		PAYE	HMRC	E	2,504.31		2,504.31
367	22/01/2025		Current Account - Ne		PAYE	HMRC	E	1,783.16		1,783.16
372	24/01/2025		Current Account - Ne		Civic Service- Town Band	Ashbourne Town Band	X	275.00		275.00
369	24/01/2025		Current Account - Ne		Cleaning Materials	Lyreco UK Limited	S	67.29	13.46	80.75
385	24/01/2025		Current Account - Ne		Lantern Spectacular	Ashbourne Arts	X	2,500.00		2,500.00
368	24/01/2025		Current Account - Ne		Christmas Carol Service	Runway Cafe Ashbourne Lt	X	90.00		90.00
373	24/01/2025		Current Account - Ne		Christmas Carol Service	Ashbourne Town Band	X	275.00		275.00
370	24/01/2025		Current Account - Ne		Grit Bin Signs - Additional	Acres Signs & Graphics	S	216.00	43.20	259.20
371	24/01/2025		Current Account - Ne		Grit Refill	Walter Tipper Ltd	S	84.57	16.91	101.48
383	30/01/2025		Current Account - Ne		Waste Collection	B&M Waste Services	S	144.68	28.94	173.62
384	12/02/2025		Current Account - Ne		Photocopying	Ricoh UK Ltd	S	17.39	3.48	20.87
379	08/03/2025		Current Account - Ne		Photocopying	Ricoh UK Ltd	S	107.46	21.49	128.95
Total								33,525.33	2,300.68	35,826.01

Prepared by:  Date: 15/1/25
 Approved by: _____ Date: _____
 Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Appendix 1

9 January 2025 (2024-2025)

Ashbourne Town Council**Summary of Receipts and Payments**

All Cost Centres and Codes (Between 01/04/2024 and 31/12/2024)

Receipts and Income

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position	
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/-	Under/over spend
4000	Precept	325,060.00	325,060.00						(0%)
4001	Hanging Baskets	5,000.00	1,920.00	-3,080.00				-3,080.00	(-61%)
4002	Christmas Events	1,750.00	175.00	-1,575.00				-1,575.00	(-90%)
4003	Fireworks								(N/A)
4004	Bank Interest Received	3,000.00	8,278.60	5,278.60				5,278.60	(175%)
4005	Insurance Claims								(N/A)
4006	Town Hall Rents Received								(N/A)
4007	Town Hall Room Hire	11,000.00	9,836.94	-1,163.06		22.00	-22.00	-1,185.06	(-10%)
4008	Community Event								(N/A)
4009	Historical Centre Donations	600.00	751.00	151.00				151.00	(25%)
4010	Miscellaneous Income		42.50	42.50				42.50	(N/A)
4011	VAT Refund								(N/A)
	SUB TOTAL	346,410.00	346,064.04	-345.96		22.00	-22.00	-367.96	(-0%)

Employee Costs

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position	
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/-	Under/over spend
7001	Net Pay				90,091.00	70,978.67	19,112.33	19,112.33	(21%)
7002	PAYE				14,977.00	8,853.92	6,123.08	6,123.08	(40%)
7003	Pension				21,583.00	19,121.45	2,461.55	2,461.55	(11%)
	SUB TOTAL				126,651.00	98,954.04	27,696.96	27,696.96	(21%)

Mayoral Costs

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position	
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/-	Under/over spend
7050	Mayors Allowance				1,750.00	717.42	1,032.58	1,032.58	(59%)
7051	Civic Service				1,200.00	770.00	430.00	430.00	(35%)
7052	Regalia Repairs				250.00		250.00	250.00	(100%)
	SUB TOTAL				3,200.00	1,487.42	1,712.58	1,712.58	(53%)

Town Hall Costs

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position	
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/-	Under/over spend
7101	Non Domestic Rates				18,214.00	16,392.50	1,821.50	1,821.50	(10%)
7102	Heat & Light				15,000.00	7,448.75	7,551.25	7,551.25	(50%)
7103	Water & Sewerage				1,210.00	716.03	493.97	493.97	(40%)
7104	Waste Collection				2,200.00	1,161.95	1,038.05	1,038.05	(47%)
7105	Cleaning Materials				715.00	506.62	208.38	208.38	(29%)
7106	Routine Repairs & Renewals				16,000.00	9,483.03	6,516.97	6,516.97	(40%)
7108	Uniform				300.00	74.17	225.83	225.83	(75%)
7109	Clocks Town Hall and				500.00	621.00	-121.00	-121.00	(-24%)
9010	Election Costs								(N/A)

Ashbourne Town Council

9 January 2025 (2024-2025)

Summary of Receipts and Payments

All Cost Centres and Codes (Between 01/04/2024 and 31/12/2024)

SUB TOTAL	54,139.00	36,404.05	17,734.95	17,734.95 (32%)
-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------------

Administration Costs

Code Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
7201 Printing & Stationery				2,400.00	1,080.52	1,319.48	1,319.48 (54%)
7202 Postage				650.00	677.80	-27.80	-27.80 (-4%)
7203 Telephone & Broadband				3,000.00	1,515.11	1,484.89	1,484.89 (49%)
7204 IT Hosting and Programs				7,460.00	2,194.92	5,265.08	5,265.08 (70%)
7205 Computer Hardware				2,000.00	116.63	1,883.37	1,883.37 (94%)
7206 Publications				90.00		90.00	90.00 (100%)
7207 Subscriptions & Licences				3,450.00	2,566.67	883.33	883.33 (25%)
7211 Insurance				4,000.00		4,000.00	4,000.00 (100%)
7212 Office Furniture				2,000.00	963.32	1,036.68	1,036.68 (51%)
7213 Historical Centre stationery &				1,000.00	324.37	675.63	675.63 (67%)
SUB TOTAL				26,050.00	9,439.34	16,610.66	16,610.66 (63%)

Publicity Costs

Code Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
7301 Website				500.00	550.00	-50.00	-50.00 (-10%)
7302 Newsletter				500.00		500.00	500.00 (100%)
7303 Advertising				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00 (100%)
SUB TOTAL				2,000.00	550.00	1,450.00	1,450.00 (72%)

Regular Events and

Code Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
7601 Fireworks Event				6,000.00	4,612.86	1,387.14	1,387.14 (23%)
7602 Christmas Spectacular		50.00	50.00	10,000.00	3,726.70	6,273.30	6,323.30 (63%)
7603 Christmas Lights Switch On				7,000.00	2,358.42	4,641.58	4,641.58 (66%)
7604 Christmas Lights				45,000.00	34,773.00	10,227.00	10,227.00 (22%)
7605 Christmas Trees				3,000.00	2,770.00	230.00	230.00 (7%)
7606 Floral Scheme		90.00	90.00	14,000.00	10,884.91	3,115.09	3,205.09 (22%)
7607 Community Events					415.16	-415.16	-415.16 (N/A)
7608 Millennium Square				3,000.00		3,000.00	3,000.00 (100%)
7609 Regeneration Funding		10,000.00	10,000.00	5,000.00		5,000.00	15,000.00 (300%)
7610 Misc Hospitality				600.00	47.03	552.97	552.97 (92%)
SUB TOTAL		10,140.00	10,140.00	93,600.00	59,588.08	34,011.92	44,151.92 (47%)

Bank Interest and Charges

Code Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
7501 Bank Interest							(N/A)

Ashbourne Town Council

9 January 2025 (2024-2025)

Summary of Receipts and Payments

All Cost Centres and Codes (Between 01/04/2024 and 31/12/2024)

7502 Bank Charges	500.00	431.19	68.81	68.81 (13%)
SUB TOTAL	500.00	431.19	68.81	68.81 (13%)

Training and Development

Code Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
7401 Staff Training				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00 (100%)
7402 Staff Training Expenses				100.00	10.75	89.25	89.25 (89%)
7403 Cllr Training				500.00	60.00	440.00	440.00 (88%)
7404 Cllr Training Expenses				50.00	14.40	35.60	35.60 (71%)
SUB TOTAL				1,650.00	85.15	1,564.85	1,564.85 (94%)

Amenities

Code Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
7701 Grit Refills				750.00	209.95	540.05	540.05 (72%)
7703 Bus Shelters				500.00	206.40	293.60	293.60 (58%)
7704 Victoria Square Lighting				270.00	576.54	-306.54	-306.54 (-113%)
7705 Bradley Wood				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00 (100%)
7706 Heritage Boards		-1,556.04	-1,556.04		15.00	-15.00	-1,571.04 (N/A)
SUB TOTAL		-1,556.04	-1,556.04	2,520.00	1,007.89	1,512.11	-43.93 (-1%)

Professional Fees

Code Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
7801 Solicitor Fees				4,000.00		4,000.00	4,000.00 (100%)
7802 Architect Fees				4,000.00	636.33	3,363.67	3,363.67 (84%)
7803 Consultancy Fees				4,000.00		4,000.00	4,000.00 (100%)
7804 Audit Fees				1,200.00	1,069.60	130.40	130.40 (10%)
SUB TOTAL				13,200.00	1,705.93	11,494.07	11,494.07 (87%)

Donations S137 and Other

Code Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
8000 S137 Donations		1,600.00	1,600.00	7,500.00	3,892.00	3,608.00	5,208.00 (69%)
8001 Other Donations				7,500.00		7,500.00	7,500.00 (100%)
8002 Donation Community				2,400.00	3,600.00	-1,200.00	-1,200.00 (-50%)
SUB TOTAL		1,600.00	1,600.00	17,400.00	7,492.00	9,908.00	11,508.00 (66%)

Ashbourne Town Council

9 January 2025 (2024-2025)

Summary of Receipts and Payments

All Cost Centres and Codes (Between 01/04/2024 and 31/12/2024)

Special Projects

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
9001	Election Costs				5,000.00		5,000.00	5,000.00 (100%)
9002	Millennium Square				72,000.00	37,397.31	34,602.69	34,602.69 (48%)
9003	Beacon Construction							(N/A)
9004	Greenman Gantry & Head				4,000.00		4,000.00	4,000.00 (100%)
9005	Town Hall Modernisation				35,000.00		35,000.00	35,000.00 (100%)
9006	Administration							(N/A)
9007	SIDS				10,000.00		10,000.00	10,000.00 (100%)
9008	Coronation Event							(N/A)
9009	Wright Memorial				500.00		500.00	500.00 (100%)
SUB TOTAL					126,500.00	37,397.31	89,102.69	89,102.69 (70%)

Summary

NET TOTAL	346,410.00	356,248.00	9,838.00	467,410.00	254,564.40	212,845.60	222,683.60 (27%)
V.A.T.		20,960.92			24,011.54		
GROSS TOTAL		377,208.92			278,575.94		



Ashbourne Town Council

Town Hall, The Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 1ES

Email: townclerk@ashbournetowncouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.ashbournetowncouncil.gov.uk

CLlr Robin Currie

Agenda reporting sheet Template

Full Council 21st January

<p>Agenda Item: <i>(insert the wording to appear on the agenda, the motion/resolution that you are seeking to resolve, i.e., "to resolve to..... to note that.....to ensure that.....")</i></p>	<p>To resolve to create the decision-making process required to manage the future of Ashbourne Town Hall and to give effect to decisions made as a matter of urgency.</p>
<p>Background Information: <i>(Insert as much information as possible so that councillors have the detail, they need to help make an informed decision, for example, cost, time, long term/short term project, where, how, why, when?)</i></p>	<p>Full Council had decided that an informal gathering of all Councillors, to discuss views and options in respect of the Town Hall would take place on Saturday 14th December. It is not clear why this was cancelled at short notice. However, its intention was to achieve a consensus on the way forward. Despite numerous discussions which have taken place over several years, no decisions have been made.</p> <p>There is however widespread concern that this cannot be allowed to continue if the essential steps to manage a costly and growing liability, which causes particular concern in the Council's budget setting process, are to be addressed.</p> <p>There can be no doubt that taking this forward is a challenging project for our small council. And the complexity of all the issues and possibilities has made it difficult to separate these, in order that an objective can be set and steps agreed to deliver that objective.</p> <p>At the meeting of the Finance, Town Hall and Human Resource Committee of 10/6/2024, with the intention of starting the process, it was resolved (Minute F/24/1620) that:</p>

	<p><i>'The objective of the Council is to establish the facilities necessary for the effective management of the Council's business, while striving to minimise the cost of maintaining the accommodation needs of the Council.'</i></p> <p>The appendix to this sheet sets out a suggested way forward</p>
<p>Background Documents: <i>(Insert the names of documents to be sent out with the meeting papers)</i></p>	<p>There are range of documents on file in respect of the Town Hall. Although these will be relevant in taking any decision forward, they are not directly relevant to this proposal.</p>
<p>Implications to be completed by The Clerk <i>(add in any notes NOT covered below)</i></p>	
<p>Staffing Implications</p>	<p>They may be implications for staff, in support of a Working Party should that be established.</p>
<p>The Council Objectives</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">X ✓</p>	

Equalities and Human Rights	There are no equalities and human rights issues	/
Biodiversity	There are no biodiversity issues	/
Financial	There are no financial implications at this stage	/
	There will be financial implications	/
	There is provision within the budget	some
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure	/
	Decisions may have potential for income generation	/

PLEASE NOTE – Agenda item requests: these must be received by The Town Clerk at LEAST 6 working days before the meeting at which you would like your item to be considered.

Appendix to Agenda cover page for Town Council on 21 January 2025.

The purpose of this paper is to try to simplify decision making in respect of the future of the Ashbourne Town Hall and to initiate a project to determine its future.

There are two headline approaches possible.

Option 1. The Town Council would examine the implications of retaining the current Town Hall, accepting that there are a range of options and implications to be explored if this approach is to be able to achieve the requirements of the resolution recorded in minute F/24/1620.

Option 2. Should the Town Council decide that the current Town Hall cannot meet that objective in its current form, it would then be necessary to explore the options for disposal or modification in whole or in part, to achieve the objective of the above resolution.

With both of these approaches, there may be some common themes, for example the need for refurbishment, but it is suggested that the first option should be examined first, since initial consideration of this, independent of the alternative option, will make it easier to start the project and avoid unnecessary work. It also reflects the assumption that the community would prefer that outcome. It has the added advantage of being a simpler examination, given that it is the status quo and because the decision will not be based on speculation in respect of disposal options nor dependence on other organisations.

In the event that the Council decides to pursue the second option, it would be very important to be able to present the initial study to justify a subsequent decision not to continue to occupy the Town Hall as at present, should that be the conclusion reached.

It is therefore proposed that a working party be established to examine option 1. above and to produce a draft document setting out both its conclusions and the evidence supporting those for consideration by the Finance, Town Hall and Human Resource Committee.

Cllr.A R Currie.