



NORTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, Windmill Lane, Northam EX39 1BY

Acting Town Clerk: Guy Langton (CiLCA, PSLCC)

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To all members of the Council:

You are hereby summoned to attend the **SPECIAL NORTHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING** on

Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 6.30pm

at The Town Hall, Windmill Lane, Northam for the transaction of the business listed on the agenda below.

Council Members:

Appledore Ward: Cllr Edwards, Cllr Ford, Cllr Hames and Cllr Tait.

Northam/Orchard Hill ward: Cllr Brading, Cllr Himan, Cllr Leather, Cllr Lo-Vel, Cllr Newman-McKie and Cllr Whittaker.

Westward Ho! ward: Cllr Bach, Cllr Hodson, Cllr Roscoe and Cllr Singh.

Questions by the public

There will be a period for questions by the public. In accordance with Standing Order 3, members of the public may make representations, ask questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of any Council business at Full Council, and at Committee meetings in respect of business on the agenda.

Anyone wishing to ask questions is requested to notify the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Recording, photographs and filming

In accordance with the Council's policy on filming and recording of Local Council and Committee meetings (available to read in the Chamber) and arising from the *Local Government and Accountability Act 2014* the press or public may audio-record, photograph or film meetings, or report from the meeting using social media. As such, members of the public may be recorded or photographed during the meeting. Anyone wishing to record or photograph the meeting must notify the Town Clerk before the commencement of the meeting.

Public attendance at Council and committee meetings

As a public body, Northam Town Council understands the need for transparency and accountability. The Council will therefore seek to conduct meetings using practices and procedures set out within the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, which states:

Subject to subsection (2) below, any meeting of a body exercising public functions, being a body to which this Act applies, shall be open to the public.*

Subsection (2) states:

Where a meeting is open to the public, a body may, by resolution exclude the public from the meeting (whether during the whole or part of the proceedings) whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of that business or of the proceedings; and where such a resolution is passed, this Act shall not require the meeting to be open to the public during proceedings to which the resolution applies.

Therefore, the Council's policy is to allow public access to meetings unless the business being transacted is confidential or there are 'other special reasons' to exclude the public.

Guy Langton

Guy Langton, Town Clerk & RFO

Date of issue: 24th December 2024

AGENDA

- 1 To receive and approve apologies for absence, in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 s85(1)** *All apologies must be notified to the Town Council offices by 5pm on the day of the meeting.*
- 2 To agree the agenda as published**
- 3 To receive any dispensations and disclosable pecuniary or other interests**
Members are reminded that all interests must be declared prior to the item being discussed
- 4 Mayor's Announcements**
- 5 Public Participation**
*We welcome Parishioners speaking or making representations, asking questions or giving evidence at the meeting of the Full Council in respect of any issue affecting the Northam Town Council area. A period of twenty minutes is allocated for this unless directed by the Chair of the meeting and a member of the public shall not speak for more than 4 minutes.
A question shall not receive a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chair of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.*
- 8 To consider the Grants to be made to local organisations as recommended by the Finance Committee** *(p3-4 and attached)*
- 9 To consider the draft Budget for 2025-26** *(p5-12 and attached)*
- 10 To confirm the precept to be requested for 2025-26**

Grant Awards

Annually, the Council seeks applications from charities and community groups supporting the residents and the wider community in the Northam Civil Parish.

The grant application window runs for approximately a month in early Autumn and the applications are considered by the Finance committee. Its role is to recommend the grants to be awarded to Full Council.

Grants are paid early in the following financial year, so those awarded in 2024-25 will be paid to the group in April or May 2025-26.

This enables the Council to allocate an accurate figure for its grant provision in the budget, from which the Council derives its precept requirement.

In previous years, the Council has extended its grant application window, having received fewer than 20 grants in its initial window in the three previous grant rounds. The officers amended the approach in the autumn of 2024 and contacted all those organisations that had received a grant from the annual granting process the previous year. That generated 39 applications by the deadline, 40 by the time the Finance meeting was held and one further just after the meeting, a total of 41. Thirteen of the applicants had not applied in the previous year. Not all those contacted applied for a grant. Recipients of the Mayoral grant were not contacted.

In the past three grant rounds, the Council has awarded less in grants than has been applied for. The Council policy normally provides a maximum grant of £750 for each applicant. This figure has been in place for 5 years, since the awards paid in 2020-21 (applications in autumn 2019). Had the amount risen in line with inflation (CPI), it would be approximately £825.

The Council has General Power of Competence (GPC, introduced in the Localism Act 2011), so can do anything that a person may do (if it is legal). For reference, Councils that do not have that power (and all Parish/Town Councils prior to February 2012) are empowered grants under S137 of the LGA 1972¹. The amount for the 2024–2025 financial year is £10.81 per elector for parish and town councils in England. Northam parish had 10,372 on 1st December 2024. The maximum community grants that would be allowed to award if the Council did not have GPC would therefore be $10,372 \times £10.81 = £112,121$.

The Town Clerk has compared the recommended grants for 2025-26 against the three previous years. The detail can be seen in the table overleaf. The total grant recommended grant award for 2025-26 is £60,607 (including £1,000 to the North Devon Record Office).

In previous years, the Council has included a small extra amount in its Grants cost centre to meet ad hoc and emergency requests. This has been placed in a separate cost code for 2025-26, at £2,000. The officer notes that the Council, as corporate trustee, may also make grants from the Northam

¹ Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows local councils to spend a limited amount of money for the benefit of their area. The amount a council can spend under section 137 is based on a prescribed sum per head of the relevant population. The amount for the 2024–2025 financial year is £10.81 per elector for parish and town councils in England.

Burrows Charity (up to an agreed normal maximum of £500). The grant fund is anticipated to be in the region of £10,000 in normal years (all things remaining the same).

The full list of grants recommended is attached.

Award Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Number of applications	33	33	33	41
Total grants requested	£20,600	£21,135	£25,791	£25,492
Total grant awarded	£11,850	£13,355	£17,791	£19,607
Average grant requested	£624	£640	£782	£622
Average grant awarded	£359	£405	£539	£478
% grant awarded against application	58%	63%	69%	77%
Number of applications that were not awarded a grant	9	5	2	1

Notes:

One award in 2022-23 was met by the Welcome Back Fund so has been removed from the figures.

The awards in 2025-26 included the Record Office grant, which has not been included previously. That award has been removed for consistency of approach.

Recommendation: The Council award the grants as listed and includes a Grants cost centre in its 2025-26 budget that comprises £24,000, allocated as follows:

Cost Centre	Cost Codes	Budget	
Grants	ND Record Office	£	1,000
	Advertising	£	500
	Grants evening	£	500
	Ad hoc and emergency requests	£	2,000
	Annual grants 2025-26	£	20,000
	sub-total		£ 24,000

BUDGET REPORT

The Finance committee met in December to review the draft budget. At that meeting, the committee recommended that an increase of 4.35% be applied to the Council's precept request, meaning a notional Band D property would provide £4.63 more into the Council's budget. The Town Council's portion of the Council Tax would therefore rise to £110.99, for a notional Band D property. The effect on each band is shown in the table below.

Band	Ratio	Ratio as %	Previous Year 2024-25 NTC	Annual increase 2025-26 NTC	estimated 2025-26 NTC bill	
					annual	monthly (12)
A	6/9	67%	£ 71.26	£ 3.10	£ 74.36	£ 6.20
B	7/9	78%	£ 82.96	£ 3.61	£ 86.57	£ 7.21
C	8/9	89%	£ 94.66	£ 4.12	£ 98.78	£ 8.23
D	9/9	100%	£ 106.36	£ 4.63	£ 110.99	£ 9.25
E	11/9	122%	£ 129.76	£ 5.65	£ 135.41	£ 11.28
F	13/9	144%	£ 153.16	£ 6.67	£ 159.82	£ 13.32
G	15/9	167%	£ 177.62	£ 7.73	£ 185.35	£ 15.45
H	18/9	200%	£ 212.72	£ 9.26	£ 221.98	£ 18.50

Should this recommended rise be applied, the precept for 2025-26 would therefore be **£644,337**, an increase of £76,505 over the £567,832 applied in 2024-25. In the same period, the Town Council has seen an increase in the tax base² of 466.66, up from 5,338.76 in 2024-25 to 5,805.42 in 2025-26.

This increase is significantly more than the Council's more normal increase between 150 and 180. The larger increase is due, in the most part, to the application of a 100% premium (additional levy) on those properties defined as second homes on the Council Tax register.³

Should second homes become main residences or holiday let businesses, the tax base increase would fall (or even decrease) in the future, necessitating greater rises in the precept to maintain the Council's budget.

For context, two other possible increases have been calculated, a rise matching the November 2024 CPI inflation figure (2.6%) and one provides a General Project cost centre of £45,000 (General project and unallocated reserve funds in 2024-25 totalled £43,462).

A 2.6%, inflation matching increase would mean a precept of **£633,537**. The increase for a notional Band D property would be £2.77 per year, giving a table as presented overleaf.

² The notional number of Band D properties in the area.

Notes - the Council area registered second homes in 2022 =	441
the Council area registered second homes in 2024 =	462
gross movement was 552 properties. 462 (83%) are 2nd homes with 100% levy	83%

³

Band	Ratio	Ratio as %	Previous Year 2024-25 NTC	Annual increase 2025-26 NTC	estimated 2025-26 NTC bill	
					annual	monthly (12)
A	6/9	67%	£ 71.26	£ 1.85	£ 73.12	£ 6.09
B	7/9	78%	£ 82.96	£ 2.16	£ 85.12	£ 7.09
C	8/9	89%	£ 94.66	£ 2.46	£ 97.12	£ 8.09
D	9/9	100%	£ 106.36	£ 2.77	£ 109.13	£ 9.09
E	11/9	122%	£ 129.76	£ 3.38	£ 133.14	£ 11.09
F	13/9	144%	£ 153.16	£ 3.99	£ 157.15	£ 13.10
G	15/9	167%	£ 177.62	£ 4.62	£ 182.24	£ 15.19
H	18/9	200%	£ 212.72	£ 5.54	£ 218.26	£ 18.19

A 5.16% increase would allow the Council to include a figure of £45,000 in the General Projects cost centre. The figure for 2024-25 was £30,000 but there was a unallocated reserve of £13,462 in the budget, which the Town Clerk included in the General Projects cost centre when entering budget into the cashbook on Scribe. In this scenario, the precept would rise to £649,537, increasing a notional Band D property by £5.49 per year. The table for a 5.16% increase is below.

Band	Ratio	Ratio as %	Previous Year 2024-25 NTC	Annual increase 2025-26 NTC	estimated 2025-26 NTC bill	
					annual	monthly (12)
	6/9	67%	£ 71.26	£ 3.68	£ 74.94	£ 6.24
	7/9	78%	£ 82.96	£ 4.28	£ 87.24	£ 7.27
	8/9	89%	£ 94.66	£ 4.89	£ 99.55	£ 8.30
	9/9	100%	£ 106.36	£ 5.49	£ 111.85	£ 9.32
	11/9	122%	£ 129.76	£ 6.70	£ 136.46	£ 11.37
	13/9	144%	£ 153.16	£ 7.91	£ 161.06	£ 13.42
	15/9	167%	£ 177.62	£ 9.17	£ 186.79	£ 15.57
	18/9	200%	£ 212.72	£ 10.98	£ 223.70	£ 18.64

Budget detail

The Finance committee agreed to a re-organisation of the Council's cost centres, which have been applied to the budget table. These changes are to align the budget with the requirements of annual reporting and audit, and the Council's operational areas. In future years, funds unspent in a cost centre will be carried into the next financial year. The following pages explain the budget as it is presented on the attached budget table.

Anticipated bank balances at the end of 2024-325 are a total of £246,250, made up as follows:

Co-op (current account)	£ 55,000
Nationwide	£ 93,000
Cambs & County	£ 93,000
Cambs BS (Tennis)	£ 5,250

Receipts

The Council has three deposit accounts, two will earn an anticipated interest receipt of £30 per month each. The Bank of England (BoE) has not reduced interest rates yet but this may decrease if the BoE

does reduce base rates. The estimate is therefore rounded down by approx. £10 per month in each case.

The third deposit account is the ‘sinking fund’ for the Council’s tennis courts in Westward Ho!

The Council also has a number of services that it provides for the community. Those that are directly linked to a cost centre have had their income applied to that cost centre. The remaining are:

Boat Park: The Council raises £1,300 letting spaces in its boat park on Appledore Quay.

Gig Clubs: The Council lets two Gig Clubs store gig boats on its land, one at the carpark adjacent to the Seagate Hotel and one on the Boat Park on The Quay. The combined income is £2,250.

Car park lease: The Council leases the car park adjacent to the Seagate Hotel to that hotel, raising £5,000 per annum.

Grass cutting: The Council is grants £4,846 by Devon County Council to cut the verges across the whole of the Parish. Maps of the extent of the cutting are available to view – please ask the Town Clerk. The Council also cuts the verges for Abbotsham Parish Council (7 cuts a year), for which it receives £2,772.

Staff costs

The anticipated salary total in 2025-26 is £347,712. This includes a full settlement of the increase the Unions have been requesting for the last two years (10%) and a 3% overtime payment for all staff. To ensure eventualities are covered, the amount was rounded up to £350,000.

The Council receives a £7,000 payment from the Northam Burrows Charity each year. This is to cover the cost of staff administering the Northam Burrows Manor Passes. It could be that VAT is applied to this in the future (the Town Clerk is seeking advice on how to best approach this).

£10,000 is included for training. Two members of the maintenance team have not received the full suite of training and this will be addressed in 2025-26. The Town Clerk has had his attendance of the second (and final) year of the CertHE Community Governance approved, a cost of £3,400 plus travel and accommodation. He, and all other members of the administrative and managerial staff team will be training and attend webinars etc to maintain and improve their knowledge and skills.

Staff costs for budget 2025-26

2025-26 (2024-25 rate presented)	Anticipated Union Salary request 2025-26	2025-26		Annual			Monthly totals			
		Possible FTE Salary*	plus overtime at 3% (ave. 5 hrs/month)	Estimated total salary	NI NTC Con	NEST NTC Cont	Gross pay	NI NTC Cont	NEST NTC Cont	Total from NTC
£ 274,041	10%	£ 301,445	£ 310,488	£ 288,063	£ 36,459	£ 23,190	£24,005	£ 3,038	£ 1,933	£28,976
Annual anticipated total				£288,063 + £36,459 + £23,190			£ 347,712			
Staff recharge to Burrows Charity							£ 7,000			
Payroll budget to fund							£ 340,712			
Suggested budget							£ 341,000			
Staff costs budget 2024-25							£ 340,000			
Increase on 2024-25							£ 1,000			
							0.29%			

Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) (outgoings of £16,620 anticipated)

The Council requires £16,620 to service its three PWLB loans. These are broken down as follows:

PWLB 1	Northam Hall	£8,400		June 2008 to June 2033 at 5.33% interest (EIP)
PWLB 2	Westward Ho! Park tranche 1	£3,500		June 2021 to June 2070 at 2.37% interest (Annuity)
PWLB 3	Westward Ho! Park tranche 2	£4,720		May 2021 to May 2070 at 2.83% interest (Annuity)
	sub-total		£16,620	

Grants

Have been explored in detail previously at this meeting.

Administration

Staff costs have been excised from this budget this year. Work at the Town Hall (which the Council occupies but does not own) is included in this cost centre.

Members

Member's allowances (paid to all elected members) are considered 'income' for the purposes of HMRC, so are subject to the increased NI payments from April 2025. All members (elected or co-opted) may claim travel and other expenses associated with being Councillors.

The Council resolved to refresh the Mayor's Chain. The regalia specialist the Council uses for this work has estimated the cost of the below detailed work to be approximately £2,600. The Town Clerk also recommends a fund is built up for future work and has allocated a £450 pot for this first year.

MAYORAL CHAIN RECONFIGURATION

On customer's Sterling silver gilt Mayoral double chain on velvet backing. Remove 7 oldest links from back outside row (1966 to 1972-73/1975-74) and fit these into the single chain as an inner front row and include connecting rings to fit to the existing links.

Produce 6 new links (P893 fancy shape size 35mm x 33mm), complete with connecting rings, polished hard gold-plated finish.

Fit these 6 and one of customer's own links into the back outside row on velvet backing.

A fund is included for a Beadle, as has habitually been the case even though there is currently no active Beadle for Northam TC. As a comparison, Barnstaple's Beadle receives an honorarium of approximately £1,000 plus travel expenses.

Elections

The Town Council pays the cost of any elections for its membership. These range from a nominal cost when there is an uncontested election at the scheduled time to approximately £11,500 for a contested Northam Ward by-election. The 2024 elections cost the Council approximately £22,800. The normally scheduled May 2027 election could cost the Council in the region of £15,000 (assuming

cost increases at TDC). There are two financial years until that election (2025-26 and 2026-27), the Town Clerk therefore has included enough to meet that anticipated cost.

Twinning

The Town Clerk has reviewed the amounts allocated to Twinning by this Council historically. Applying the Bank of England's inflation calculator to the figures from the 1970s and 80s, when the Council and Twinning Group were active, the annual budget would now be just over £2,400. That figure is therefore included in the budget.

Council machinery and equipment

This is a new cost centre, taking elements of the previous cost centres *General Council Equipment Various* and *Town Projects and asset Management* that related directly to Council tools, equipment and machinery.

Broadly, the cost centre identifies costs for the Council's three trucks (other than insurance), large machinery and their maintenance, tools and equipment, and PPE and workwear. Fuel for trucks and machinery is combined.

The Environment & Maintenance Committee has recommended the Council purchase a two-wheel tractor (along with a rotating weed removal head and a mowing head) to support the functions of the Maintenance Team, at a cost of £20,000. This has been included.

Planning and Development

This cost Centre aligns with the Council's work relating to Planning and its Neighbourhood Plan, including a fund for public events, if needed.

ICT

A new cost centre holding all the Council's IT and communication technology costs.

Human Resources

The costs associated with the Council's HR functions. Note that this also includes H&S advice under the current contract.

Parks and Recreation

A new cost centre aligned with the work of the Council's committee of the same name. Funds are included towards the replacement of pieces of play equipment in each park. The income related to the Council's two allotment sites is included within this cost centre, a total of £1,300.

Environment and Maintenance

A new cost centre aligned with the work of the Council's committee of the same name. A fund for robust outdoor water bottle filling points is included, grants of up to 50% are available but figure is for 3 units with 25% grant received.

The Council now has six defibrillators across the Parish. A fund is included toward the cost of replacement of their batteries at the end of their lifespan (4 years) the oldest.

Tennis courts

A new cost centre, specifically aligned to the operation of the tennis courts (other than events). This cost centre is anticipated to operate at a surplus however, all excess funds will be passed to an

earmarked reserve at the end of the financial year (the amount identified as an earmarked reserve is currently and will continue to be held in the Cambridge Building society, as resolved by the Finance Committee (minute 2410/327). Significant excess can be diverted to the Parks and Recreation cost centre. t. The LTA advise £1,200 per court to be carried for ongoing maintenance of the courts. A breakdown of the requirements has been provided.

Notice Boards

The Environment and Maintenance committee, when resolving to replace the two oldest most rotten noticeboards earlier in 2024-25, recommended that the other two old wooden boards be replaced in the coming financial year (minute 2410/307, p98). A number of Councillors have requested that this Council seek to install a noticeboard outside the Town Hall for all Council notices. A fund for this has also been included.

Northam Hall

This cost centre is anticipated to operate at a small surplus. The cost centre includes a 'large project reserve' which carries £30,000 from this financial year and could be used to extend the solar PV cell coverage (with increased battery capacity), insulate the roof, replacing the boiler with a more economical alternative etc. Any funds unspent in this code will be carried into the next financial year. A small amount for a notice board to publicise classes and events at Northam Hall is also included – the Hall had a notice board until over 4 years ago, when the board and legs rotten. Hall users and members of the public have been asking for such an information board since the Town Clerk has been an officer at this council.

Pavilion and CPT

A new cost centre, reflecting the basic costs of operating the building. It includes a sub-cost centre for the Changing Places Toilet, which is currently directly connected to and associated with the pavilion.

A resolution by Full Council has requested that future plans for the pavilion building are actively considered. Funds have been included to engage professionals to assist with this, if necessary and for large pieces of work, such as repair of the roof.

Community Centre Toilet

The council provides a public (accessible) toilet behind the Community Centre on Fore St in Northam. Its costs are presented as a separate cost centre.

Insurances

All Council insurance costs have been included in this new cost centre.

Community

A new cost centre extending the May Fair cost centre to include other Council events (other than those directly related to the Mayoral, Civic or Twinning functions). The May Fair budget has been reduced from £10,500 in 2024-25 to £7,500. The May Fair, being early in the financial year, has recorded activity in two financial years. That makes it slightly more complex to report but the income/expenditure cost will be presented to the Finance Committee once all items have been recorded in the accounts, normally in the summer.

Funds for other events (to be confirmed), for tennis court & CPT 'opening' and for tennis camps are also included. The tennis camps were very popular in August 2024, with children from across the Parish attending. There are plans to work with ARC to provide tennis camps again in 2025 (detail to be agreed).

Funds for Youth services continues to be included. The amount assigned in 2024-25 was a £10,000 earmark. This has been carried forward and further funds added.

The fund for newsletters has been increased to reflect the increased cost of production and distribution. It also includes costs of other communication, which could be newspaper/radio advertising etc.

General Projects

The final cost centre is included in the arithmetical table at the bottom of the budget sheet. The Town Clerk has flexed this cost centre up and down to vary the required precept. As has been previously stated, in 2024-25, this cost centre was boosted by an 'unallocated reserve' of £13,642 that was included in the agreed budget, giving a total of £43,642. When the Finance committee considered the draft budget, the number of projects that could call on this fund was noted as wide and numerous. The recommended precept increase provides a £45,642 for this cost centre, an increase of 4.5% on the previous year.

Budget calculation 2025-26			Recommended	Approx. inflation	Increased project fund
Earmarked reserves, inc.		(a)	£ 203,740	£ 203,740	£ 203,740
General reserves (JPAG advice is 3 months operating costs, NTC = £40,000)		(b)	£ 40,000	£ 40,000	£ 40,000
Total funds to be held in reserve		(c)=(a)+(b)	£ 243,740	£ 243,740	£ 243,740
Anticipated expenditure		(d)	£ 624,619	£ 624,619	£ 624,619
Cost Centre: General Projects			£ 45,642	£ 34,842	£ 50,642
Total required for 2024-25		(e)=(c)+(d)	£ 914,001	£ 903,201	£ 919,001
Less anticipated balance at 31-3-25	Co-op (current account)	£ 55,000			
	Nationwide	£ 93,000			
	Cambs & County	£ 93,000	(f) £ 245,897	£ 245,897	£ 245,897
	Cambs BS (Tennis)	£ 4,897			
Balance to fund		(g)=(e)-(f)	£ 668,104	£ 657,304	£ 673,104
Less anticipated receipts for 2024-25 (not in cost centres)		(h)	£ 23,767	£ 23,767	£ 23,767
Precept required		(i)=(g)-(h)	£ 644,337	£ 633,537	£ 649,337
Precept 2024-25 was		(x)	£ 567,832	£ 567,832	£ 567,832
Precept increase in funds received		(y)=(i)-(x)	£ 76,505	£ 65,705	£ 81,505
Precept increase % in funds received		(z)=(y)/(x)x100	13.47%	11.57%	14.35%

Precept requested	£644,337
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Taxbase 2024-25	5,338.76	2024-25 Band D rate	£106.36	£106.36
Inflation on 31 Oct 24 (CPI)	2.60%			
Increase in tax base	466.66	Notes - the Council area registered second homes in 2022 =		441
2025-26 Taxbase	5,805.42	the Council area registered second homes in 2024 =		462
2025-26 Band D rate	£110.99	gross movement was 552 properties. 462 (83%) are 2nd		83%
Band D rate increase	£4.63	homes with 100% levy		
	4.35%	if all 2nd homes became main residences or holiday let businesses the tax base increase would fall in the future, necessitating greater rises to maintain the budget.		
Various possible increases	Precept	% increase in household Council Tax bills	Notes	
Recommended	£644,337	4.35%	allows a small amount of flexibility in the Council's finances to meet unforeseen	
Approimate Inflation increase	£633,537	2.60%	this increase is aligned to the 30th November 2024 CPI inflation rate (2.6%) and could be significantly affected by any decrease in 2nd homes, so necessitating a greater increase in the future.	
Increased project fund	£649,337	5.16%	the extra funds allocated to the General Projects cost centre.	

Recommendation: The Council considers the budget, whether its contents meet the requirements of the operations and projects of the Council and identify the required precept to be levied in 2025-26.