DRAFT Budget 2026-27

Contents

Introduction

The Financial Regulations, when referring to the council's budget, that:

The draft budget with any committee proposals and two-year forecast, including any recommendations for the use or accumulation of reserves, shall be considered by the Finance and Human Resources committee and a recommendation made to the council (para 4.6)

This is the first year that these financial regulations have been in place and the Clerk regrets that it has proved more complex to prepare a two-year forecast with accurate figures. The main reason for this is the identification of carry-over to the following financial year. This relies on reasonably accurate forecasting of spending against the current budget.

The budget should indicate the level of spending expected in the year, with excess funds transferred to general or earmarked reserves unless resolved to be carried forward. Through the year, committees have sought to minimise spending even when funds were identified in the budget agreed in January 2025, or resolving to spend more than was budgeted. This has meant forecasting spending has not been possible across the approx. 190 cost centres in the budget.

In previous years, the Town Clerk has drafted a budget. This amount was then reduced by the sums the Council held in deposit accounts and any estimated carry-forward. The resulting figure was the precept requested.

The draft budget outlined in this report requires a precept of £673,401. Adjusted for the Tax Base (see below) the increase is 2.69% (£2.98 per year for a Band D property).

Generally, and to aid understanding, the effect of increasing or decreasing the precept by a set amount on the annual charge levied by this council is:

Increase / Decrease	Effect on precept	Percentage change
£1,000 / -£1,000	17p/year / -17p	0.14% / -0.14%
£10,000 / -£10,000	£1.69/year / -£1.69	1.48% / -1.48%
£100,000 / -£100,000	£16.92/year / -£16.92	14.84% / -14.84%

Proportion of the precept

Overleaf are two bar charts, representing the proportion of the budget and the precept that each cost centre equates to, and a table showing the percentages.

Precept request deadline

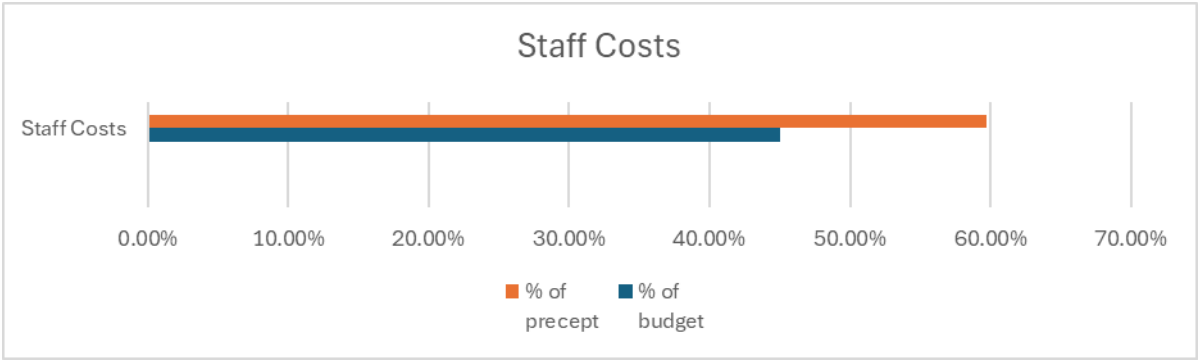
Torridge District Council expects the Council's precept request to be submitted by the 23rd January 2026. Full Council is scheduled for 28th January 2026.

Recommendations

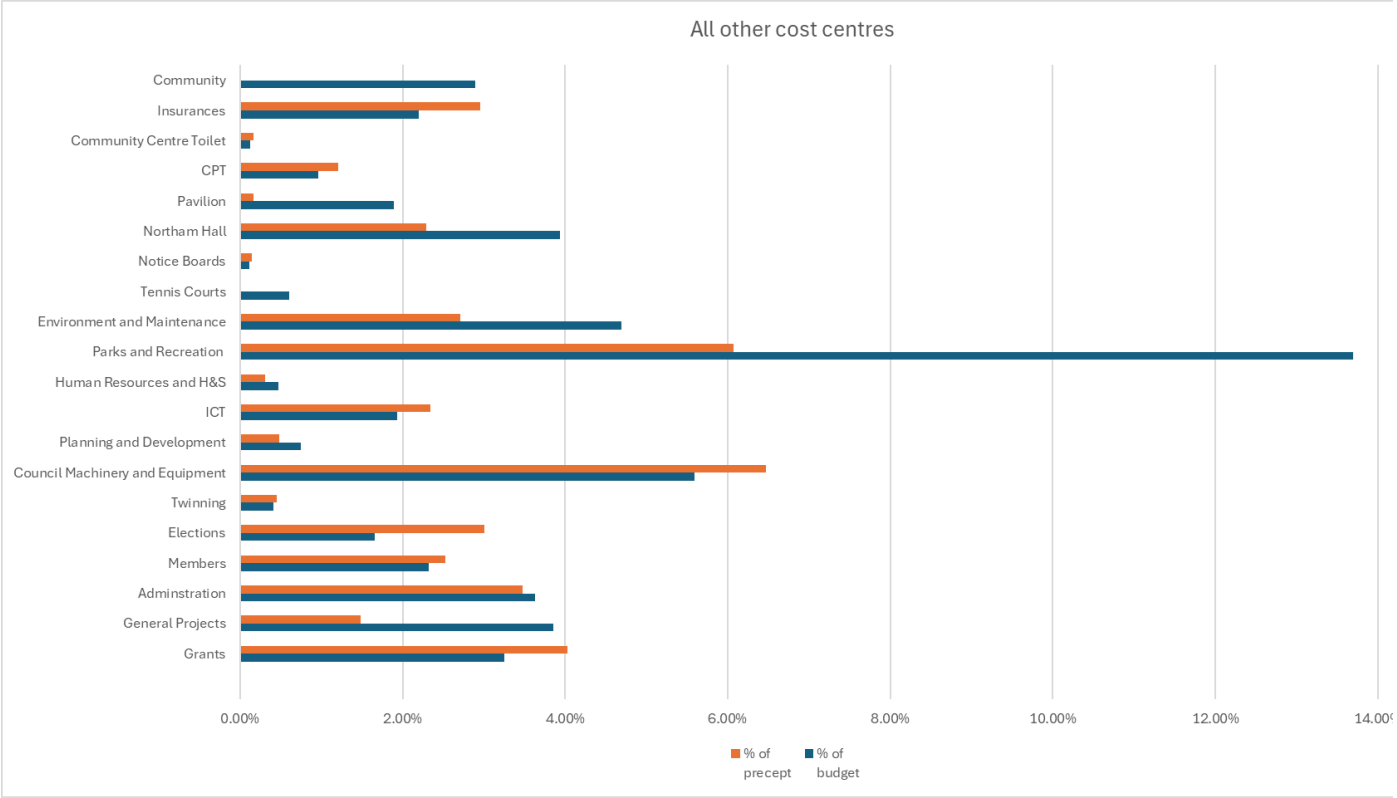
All **recommendations** are made as the report progresses and are listed again at the end of the report, to allow them to be considered in turn or all together.

Comparative use of funds (graphs)

Cost Centre	% of budget	% of precept
Staff Costs	45.06%	59.73%



Cost Centre	% of budget	% of precept
Grants	3.25%	4.03%
General Projects	3.85%	1.48%
Adminstration	3.62%	3.47%
Members	2.32%	2.52%
Elections	1.65%	3.01%
Twinning	0.41%	0.45%
Council Machinery and Equipment	5.60%	6.47%
Planning and Development	0.74%	0.48%
ICT	1.93%	2.34%
Human Resources and H&S	0.47%	0.31%
Parks and Recreation	13.69%	6.08%
Environment and Maintenance	4.69%	2.71%
Tennis Courts	0.60%	0.00%
Notice Boards	0.11%	0.15%
Northam Hall	3.93%	2.29%
Pavilion	1.89%	0.17%
CPT	0.96%	1.21%
Community Centre Toilet	0.12%	0.17%
Insurances	2.20%	2.96%
Community	2.90%	0.00%



Council Tax base

The tax base is the total number of properties in the parish area that are liable to pay Council Tax, adjusted and expressed as Band D equivalents. This figure is used to calculate how much each household contributes to the total precept. With the number of occupied properties increasing across the parish, the tax base has been rising annually. This increase was accelerated for the current budget year (2025-26) by Torridge DC levying a 100% uplift on second homes. A number of those properties have since been changed to first homes, small businesses or sold. Across Torridge, there has been a very small increase in the tax base for 2026-27 of 70.32 (from 26,407.82 to 26,477.64, a 0.27% increase).

Northam parish has received one of the largest increases of 103.25 (from 5,805.25 to 5,908.50, a 1.78% increase).

Should the Council **not** raise the precept, the increased Tax Base would mean an average Band D property would be asked to pay **£1.94 less** in Council tax in 2026-27 (1.75% less).

Should the Council not wish to raise the precept paid by each property, the precept could be raised by £11,463 to £655,800.

Inflation

The CPI inflation rate on the 31st October 2025 was 3.6% and fell to 3.2% on the 30th November 2025.

The UK State Pension will increase by 4.8% in April 2026, due to the triple lock mechanism (using average earnings growth as the highest of inflation, earnings, or 2.5%). This means average earnings have increased by 4.8% in the year to 30th September 2025.

Carry-over

The budget presented for 2026-27 includes a figure for carry-over from the current year. In future years, there should be little or no carry-over unless a service/facility was not provided in that year (for example, as has been the case with Youth Provision). Surplus funds from the Council's parks and facilities (such as Northam Hall) will be put to an earmarked budget at the end of the financial year. Currently, earmarked reserves are held in the council's deposit accounts, to be drawn from should significant work be required.

The Town Clerk notes that, in future years, the Council's budget would increase substantially because little or no carry-over would be included. To operate the budget with no carry-over in 2026-27 would mean a precept requirement of £782,185 precept (an increase of £137,848 or 21.39%, should there be no tax base change). The Council needs to be aware that this may be the case in future years, should the tax base remain static.

The effect of this would be mitigated in a similar way by using excess funds in the Council's reserves at the end of 2026-27 to minimise any increase.

Earmarked Reserves

The Council's earmarked reserves are held in three of the council's accounts, the figures are below. For a detailed breakdown of what is included in those reserves, see the table overleaf.

Nationwide	£	96,055
Cambridge BS	£	9,162
Total	**£**	**105,217**

Earmarked Reserves	**Sum**	**Holding Account**
Anchor Park (Mrs WCC Anderson's bequest)	£20,000	Nationwide BS
Appletree Gardens	£7,000	Nationwide BS
Churchfields Skate Park	£9,055	Nationwide BS
Lords Meadow	£15,000	Nationwide BS
Ridgeway Drive	£7,000	Nationwide BS
Westward Ho! Park	£7,500	Nationwide BS
Defibrillators	£1,500	Nationwide BS
LCWIP	£5,000	Nationwide BS
War memorials	£4,000	Nationwide BS
Floating Parks reserve	£20,000	Nationwide BS
Tennis Courts	£9,162	Cambridge BS
Total	**£105,217**	

General Reserve

The budget includes £146,565 as a General Reserve.

The Council does not hold a level of general Reserves that meets the recommendations of the SAPPP Practitioner's Guide (see extract below), which expects a larger authority to have approximately 3 months in general reserve. This money is to provide a contingency fund to cover unexpected inflation, unforeseen events and unusual circumstances.

With a precept in 2026-27 of £673,401, the recommended level for general reserve is £168,350. The General Reserve indicated below could be brought closer to the recommended level should the carry-over exceed expectation.

Hinkley & Rugby Building Society	£	50,000
Cambridge & Counties Bank	£	96,565
Total	**£**	**146,565**

Extract from SAPPP Guide

5.33. The general reserve of an authority comprises its cash flow and contingency funds to cover **unexpected inflation, unforeseen events and unusual circumstances**.

5.34. The generally accepted recommendation with regard to the appropriate minimum level of a smaller authority's general reserve is that this should be maintained at between three and twelve months of net revenue expenditure.

5.35. The reason for the wide range is to cater for the large variation in activity level between individual authorities. The smaller the authority, the closer the figure may be to 12 months expenditure, the larger the authority, the nearer to 3 months. In practice, any authority with income and expenditure in excess of £200,000 should plan towards 3 months equivalent general reserve.

Recommendation 1: The Council align its General Reserve with the recommendation included in the SAPPP guidance.

Council income other than Precept

It is anticipated that the Council will receive £125,963 in 2026-27, comprising:

Receipt	From	Allocated Cost Centre
£7,000	Recharge to the Northam, Burrows Charity in recognition of the work the Council's staff undertake administering the Charity.	Staff Costs
£1,300	Appledore Boat Park space rentals.	Administration
£2,200	Gig Clubs (£1,320 inc VAT per club), one on the Boat Park and one at the carpark adjacent to the Seagate.	Administration
£5,000	Seagate Hotel to rent the adjacent carpark.	Administration
£530	Allotment rent from Windmill Lane.	Parks and Recreation
£600	Allotment rent from Burrough Farm Allotment Association.	Environment and Maintenance
£120	Northam Lions for access to the pitch and compound at Burrough Farm.	Environment and Maintenance
£4,992	DCC to cut grass verges	Environment and Maintenance
£2,772	Abbotsham PC to cut grass verges in that parish.	Environment and Maintenance
£5,000	Tennis court bookings	Tennis
£21,000	Northam Hall bookings	Northam Hall
£2,500	May Fair income	May Fair
£72,949	S106 grant towards a MUGA at Westward Ho! Park (inc £14,000 for 10 year's maintenance of the surface).	Parks and Recreation

Recommendation 2: The Council adopt F&HR's recommended changes to charges for Council facilities and services (minute 2507/168), namely:

	Current	Proposed	Increase
Regular user	£ 10.00	£ 11.00	10%
Casual booking	£ 12.50	£ 13.50	8%
Commercial user	£ 25.00	£ 25.00	0%
Half day (4hr)	£ 47.50	No longer	14%
Full day (8hr)	£ 92.00	available	17%
Wedding	£ 250.00	£ 250.00	0%

2(a) Revise the charges for the use of Northam Hall from 1st April 2026, increasing the charges for regular and casual bookings by £1 and removing the reduction for multiple-hour booking, new charging schedule drafted (right)

2(b)Increase the annual charge for vessels stored at the Council's Boat Park from £50 to £55 for a 10ft boat and from £4 to £5 per extra foot (to a maximum of 20 feet), with effect from 1st April 2026.

2(c) Increase the annual charge to the Gig Clubs from £1,260 to £1,320, with effect from 1st April 2026.

Staff Costs

The budgeted figure includes the Unions' pay request for 2026-27, which is for:

An increase of at least £3,000 or 10% (whichever is greater) across all spinal column points (including a minimum pay rate of £15 an hour for the pay spine).

Applying the request to the Council's staffing, budget in 2025-26, the requirement is £409,250, which is reduced by the £7,000.

Pay requests in previous years have been similar, with council employees awarded 3.2% for 2025-26.

The net cost to the Council is £402,250 (45.1% of the Council's budget, 59.7% of the precept).

Pension provision

In October this year, the Finance committee was asked to consider its pension arrangements for its employees (minute 2510/371). The committee resolved to put the matter before the Full Council for consideration, though **the Finance & HR committee recommended that no change was made to the Council's pension arrangements**.

Current position: The Council offers its staff a contributory NEST pension. Staff contribute 5% and the Council 10%.

The Council is eligible to offer a contributory Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) to its employees, which would bring it in line with other similar authorities (e.g. Bideford Town Council, Ilfracombe Town Council, Okehampton Town Council, Tavistock Town Council and Barnstaple Town Council). All District and the County Council in Devon offer a contributory

LGPS pension for their employees. From this straw-poll comparison, NTC is not offering a parity of terms and conditions with similar employers locally. The closest comparator, Bideford TC, offers LGPS.

In a November 2025 report by the Institute for Government, the average contribution for a public sector employer in 2021 was 18%, the private sector was 6%. Specific schemes, in 2024, were as high as 28.6% (Civil Service: 28.7%, NHS: 23.7%, Teachers: 28.6%).

LGPS actuarial calculations have set the contribution levels for the three years commencing 2026-27 will be 18.1%.

Should the Council enrol its staff in the LGPS, the staff costs would increase by £17,750 (to £420,000) the increase in the precept per Band D property would be £3/year.

Recommendation 3: The Council consider the pension arrangements for its staff, noting the recommendation of the Finance & HR committee.

Grants

The Council awards grants as part of its General Power of Competence (as defined in the Localism Act 2011), described as the 'power of first resort'. As a parish council, Northam Town Council is empowered to award grants under Section 137 of the Local Government act 1972. This is described as the 'power of last resort'.

S137 allows parish councils them to spend a limited amount of money on projects that benefit the community but are not covered by other statutory powers, typically by making grant awards. To be eligible, those organizations must typically be non-profit, have a bank account, and demonstrate how the grant will benefit the local parish or community. For the 2025-26 financial year, the government-approved amount is £11.10 per elector. With 10,114 electors, the limited grant fund NTC could distribute is £112,265.40.

2025-26 grants (to be awarded in May 2026)

The Council has received 41 grant requests, the same number as in 2024.

The total requested is £26,671, in 2024 it was £26,492, a 0.7% increase. The total fund requested equates to £4.51 per Band D property per year, approx. 3.96% of the precept.

In 2024, the committee awarded £20,607, 77.8% of the request (3.2% of the Council's precept).

The agreed grant awards (07.01.2026) will be included in the 2026-27 budget, along with a small fund for ad-hoc grants.

Recommendation 4: The Council adopt the recommendation of the F&HR committee on 07.01.2026.

Mayoral charitable fundraising

Current practice is that the Council allocates a fund with which the mayor provides their Civic Dinner and any other fundraising events, with surplus funds in the cost centre being donated to the mayor's chosen Charity. This appears to have been the approach since the Covid-19 lockdowns.

The Council has included funding for the Civic Dinner in its budget as far back as records can be searched (2011-12). There is a slight complication, payments being made for a civic dinner may not be paid in the same financial year as the civic year for which it is held (the financial year is 1st April to 31st March annually, the civic year is 1st May to 30th April).

The Town Clerk has sought advice from the wider sector and can report that there are broadly three models:

1. The Council provides neither funds to the Mayoral events, nor a grant to the mayor's 'fundraising account' or chosen charity. The mayor's 'fundraising account' therefore starts at (near) zero at the beginning of the civic year.
    a. The mayor then raises funds through donations and ticket sales.
    b. The cost of the Civic Dinner (and other events) is taken from the funds raised.
    c. The chosen charity receives the balance at the end of the civic year, return the account to near zero (to ensure the account remains open).

2. The Council makes a **grant** to the mayor's 'fundraising account' at the start of the civic year, allocating a suitable amount in the budget.
    a. The mayor then raises further funds through donations and ticket sales.
    b. The cost of the Civic Dinner (and other events) is taken from the grant and the funds raised.
    c. The chosen charity receives the balance at the end of the civic year, return the account to near zero (to ensure the account remains open).

3. The Council makes **no grant** to the mayor's 'fundraising account' at the start of the civic year but allocates sufficient funds to pay for the civic dinner and associated expenses.
    a. The mayor then raises further funds through donations and ticket sales, depositing the funds in the 'fundraising account'.
    b. The cost of the Civic Dinner (and other events) is met by the council's budget.
    c. The chosen charity receives the balance of the mayor's 'fundraising account' at the end of the civic year, return the account to near zero (to ensure the account remains open).

Recommendation 5: The Council consider the model of Mayoral fundraising going forward, preferably choosing one of the above models.

Insurances

Council insurance cover the following:

- General Insurance: including the rebuild costs of Northam Hall, the Pavilion and Blue Lights Hall (year 2 of 3-year contract).
- Insurance for Mrs Anderson's Bequest (year 1 of 3-year contract).
- Motor insurance: for all the council's road-going vehicles.
- Breakdown cover.
- Engineering: for the compressor.
- Human Resources: to cover legal costs etc.
- Cyber insurance: to help protect the Council's data and finances from cyber-attack.

The budgeted cost of insurance paid by the Council is £19,950 per year.

Community

The council will carry much of its community cost centre forward. There has been little spending on youth-provision or events other than the May Fair, Christmas Fair and Carol Service. The required budget from the precept in 2026-27 is £1.

In future years, the May Fair will be funded through its own bank account, though the Council will provide some funding each year, essentially a 'grant'. The May Fair will retain its carry-over each year to enable it to have more expensive acts every few years with limited effect of the overall budget. Income from stalls at the May Fair is budgeted at £2,500 and the funds to be used by the May Fair in 2026-27 £6,500.

In 2025-26, the total cost of Remembrance services was c.£350. In the future, the Council will need to provide more support to these events. Changes to legislation (e.g. Martyn's Law[1]) may require further spending (barriers etc.).

Council Machinery and Equipment

This cost centre includes vehicle and maintenance tools and machinery purchase, servicing and repair. The presented budget includes an anticipated carry-over of £7,223 for this cost centre, meaning that the budget requires a precept of £43,584. That includes a £25,000 fund, to be included annually, to purchase larger machinery. Should the budget not

[1] Martyn's Law, officially the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, became law in the UK on April 3, 2025, named for Manchester Arena victim Martyn Hett, requiring public venues and events (from 200+ capacity) to implement stronger security and preparedness against terrorism, including risk assessments, security plans, and staff training, with tiered responsibilities for standard (200+ capacity) and enhanced (800+ capacity) premises to reduce vulnerability and harm from attack

be spent in a year, the balance would be transferred to the Council's earmarked reserve for a future purchase.

A new walk-behind mower will be purchased before the end of this financial year, to take advantage of winter price reductions and trade in offers.

Recommendation 6: The Council consider purchasing a walk-behind street cleaning machine in the 2026-27 financial year.

ICT (Information and Communications Technology)

This cost centre includes the council's computers, phones, software and hardware. The presented budget includes an anticipated carry-over of £1,812 for this cost centre, meaning that the budget requires a precept of £15,738. That includes a £5,600 fund, to purchase 'Decisions' software. This can improve agenda pack assembly and hybrid/remote meeting management (a demonstration for members has been requested).

Recommendation 7: That the Council purchase the 'Decisions' software and license.

Parks and Recreation

The Council had great success with the pump-track it rented in the summer of 2025. Officers are seeking prices for as longer hire in 2026 and have included £6,500 in the budget. Should further funds be required, they could be drawn from the general projects budget or general reserve. Details will be considered at an appropriate committee.

Approximately £10,000 will be carried forward to re-lay the skatepark surface, which needs doing every 3 years and is due in 2026-27. In 2023-24 it was c.£14,800. Should additional funds be required, they will be drawn from general reserves or general projects.

Most of the carry-over from the 2025-26 Parks and Recreation budget will be placed on the Council's earmarked reserves. This will enable the Council to be able to undertake significant work in its parks should there be a resolution to do so. The Council would not be able to justify having earmarked reserves to replace all equipment and facilities in all of its parks, there could be little or no justification to retain a large sum of money for each park, unless the Council resolves to do otherwise.

Recommendation 8: The Council create a general cost code 'Earmarked Reserves' in the Parks & Recreation cost centre for future work across its parks.

Environment and Maintenance

The Clerk has assumed that the MVSIDs (speed signs) will be purchased before the end of the financial year. Should that not happen, or any funds remain, the balance will be carried forward in that cost centre to complete the project.

The Council has only 2 bus shelters now, the responsibility for all but the stone shelter by the swimming pool and the wooden shelter opposite the war memorial being the last two for which it retains responsibility. Fernbank has adopted all other NTC shelters and is working with TDC and DCC over the remainder f the 21 and 21A routes in the parish, though the Clerk has advised all organisations of the sensitivity of shelters in conservation areas.

The war memorials will need professional cleaning in 2026-27 (once every 4 years). In 2022-23 it was c.£2,880. £4,000 has been budgeted.

Tennis Courts

NTC's tennis courts have £5,346 in bookings (after fees) this financial year. The council is expected to earmark £3,600 a year for future maintenance (as part of the 15-year maintenance agreement with the LTA). This allows the council to subsidise the children's summer tennis camps (provided with ARC) with some of the surplus.

Court and annual pass fees have not been increased since the courts were fully open in May 2024 and remain £5/court/hour and £35 for an annual pass (up to 6 people).

Northam Hall

The budget includes receipts of £21,000 for hall hire. Expenditure is £35,710 (inc PWLB repayments of £8,100.[2] The Hall's day-to-day expenses are budgeted to be £22,610, slightly more than its income. Additionally, there is a large project reserve of £5,000.

Pavilion

The pavilion working group continues to work on this project. The final approval will be before Full Council in due course. The budget includes funds for future work and the balances carried forward will be earmarked to help fund any future work.

Changing Places Toilet

The changing places toilet has budgeted running costs of £8,700 in 2026-27. Unspent funds will be carried forward at the end of this and future years.

[2] Loan from June 2008 to June 2033, decreasing repayments.

Recommendations:

1. Recommendation 1: The Council align its General Reserve with the recommendation included in the SAPPP guidance.

2. Recommendation 2: The Council adopt F&HR's recommended changes to charges for Council facilities and services (minute 2507/168), namely:
    a. Revise the charges for the use of Northam Hall from 1st April 2026, increasing the charges for regular and casual bookings by £1 and removing the reduction for multiple-hour booking, new charging schedule drafted (right)
    b. Increase the annual charge for vessels stored at the Council's Boat Park from £50 to £55 for a 10ft boat and from £4 to £5 per extra foot (to a maximum of 20 feet), with effect from 1st April 2026.
    c. Increase the annual charge to the Gig Clubs from £1,260 to £1,320, with effect from 1st April 2026.

3. Recommendation 3: The Council consider the pension arrangements for its staff, noting the recommendation of the Finance & HR committee.

4. Recommendation 4: The Council adopt the recommendation of the F&HR committee on 07.01.2026.

5. Recommendation 5: The Council consider the model of Mayoral fundraising going forward, preferably choosing one of the listed models.
    a. The Council provides neither funds to the Mayoral events, nor a grant to the mayor's 'fundraising account' or chosen charity. The mayor's 'fundraising account' therefore starts at (near) zero at the beginning of the civic year.
    b. The Council makes a grant to the mayor's 'fundraising account' at the start of the civic year, allocating a suitable amount in the budget.
    c. The Council makes no grant to the mayor's 'fundraising account' at the start of the civic year but allocates sufficient funds to pay for the civic dinner and associated expenses.

6. Recommendation 6: The Council consider purchasing a walk-behind street cleaning machine in the 2026-27 financial year.

7. Recommendation 7: That the Council purchase the 'Decisions' software and license.

8. Recommendation 8: The Council create a general cost code 'Earmarked Reserves' in the Parks & Recreation cost centre for future work across its parks.

Cost Centre	Budget	Income (estimated)	Carry-over	Sum required	Notes	Previous year's sum required (budget)	Increase/ decrease in sum required
Insurances	£19,950	-	£51	£19,899			
Staff Costs	£409,250	£7,000	-	£402,250	The net cost to the Council is £402,250 (45.1% of the Council's budget, 59.7% of the precept). Should the Council enrol its staff in the LGPS, the staff costs would increase by £17,750 (to £420,000) the increase in the precept per Band D property would be £3/year, increasing the share of the budget to 46.25% and precept to 60.9%.	£360,800	£43,450
Grant giving	£29,500	-	£2,393	£27,107	Grant level agreed by F&HR 7.1.26	£24,000	£5,500
General Projects	£35,000	-	£25,000	£10,000		£34,842	£19,842 less
Administration	£32,920	£8,500	£1,038	£23,382	Income from boat park, Gig Clubs and car park lease	£30,630	£3,640
Members	£21,045	-	£4,076	£16,969	£1,300 / year to be earmarked for a new chain in 5 years	£24,880	£3,835 less
Elections	£15,000	-	-£5,250	£20,250	next scheduled election May 2027, 2 years at £15,000/year	£15,750	£4,500
Twinning	£3,700	-	£700	£3,000	Mayor to visit Mondeville in May 2026	£2,400	£600
Council machinery and Equipment	£50,817	-	£7,233	£43,584	The Council include a fund of c£25,000 each year to replace larger machinery and trucks. Unused funds would be earmarked at the end of the year.	£62,050	£18,466 less
Planning & Development	£6,750	-	£3,500	£3,250	All costs are associated with the Northam Neighbourhood Plan	£5,250	£2,000 less
ICT	£17,550	-	£1,812	£15,738		£14,850	£887
HR and H&S	£4,250	-	£2,180	£2,070		£6,350	£4,280 less
Parks & Recreation WWHo! Park PWLB	£124,369 £8,220	£73,479	£9,975	£40,915	Income is from Windmill Lane allotments Grant from S106 for MUGA	£117,493 PWLB £8,220	£76,578 less
Environment & Maintenance	£41,100	£8,484	£18,237	£9,873	Income from grass cutting agreements (DCC and Abbotsham), Burrough Farm allotments and Northam Lions. Includes a fund for planting and maintaining the green in Westward Ho!, in conjunction with TDC. P3 grant money to be requested.	£60,116	£38,759 less
Tennis Courts	£5,487	£5,000	£487	Zero	Carry-over is moved to 'sinking fund' (earmarked reserves) Tennis receipts meet part cost of Summer Camps	£997	£997 less
Notice Boards	£1,000	-	-	£1,000	For maintenance of boards if needed	£4,700	£3,700 less
Northam Hall N'Hall PWLB	£27,610 £8,100	£21,000	-£691	£15,401	PPL-PRS fees increased in 2025-26, causing the negative carry-over	£29,560 PWLB £8,400	£14,159 less PWLB £300 less
Pavilion	£17,150	-	£16,031	£1,119	Plans to renovate/redevelop the pavilion to be progressed.	£19,950	£18,831 less
CPT	£8,700	-	£585	£8,115		£8,900	£785 less
Community Centre Toilet	£1,100	-	-£14	£1,114	Repair work required is increasing due to facility's age	£949	£165
Community	£26,300	£2,500	£23,799	£1.00	Made up of: Carol Service, Commemorations, Events, May Fair, Newsletters & communication, Remembrance, Youth Services	£19,950) inc	£19,949 less
TOTALS	**£908,148**	**£125,963**	**£108,784**	**£673,401**	**2.69% increase**	**£644,337**	**£29,064**

Earmarked reserves, inc.								(a)		£ 105,217
General reserves (see SAPPP advice)								(b)		£ 146,565
Total funds to be held in reserve								**(c)=(a)+(b)**		**£ 251,782**
Anticipated expenditure								(d)		£ 908,148
Anticipated income								(e)		£ 125,963
Total required for 2024-25								**(f)=((c)+(d))-(e)**		**£ 1,033,967**
Less anticipated balances at 31-3-25	Nationwide Building Society	£	96,055	earmarked reserves (a)				(f)		£ 360,566
	Cambridge Building Society	£	9,162	earmarked reserves (a)						
	Cambridge & Counties Bank	£	96,565	general reserve (b)						
	Hinkley & Rugby Building Society	£	50,000	general reserve (b)						
	Co-op (current account)	£	108,784	carry-over						
Balance to fund					£ -			**(g)=(e)-(f)**		**£ 673,401**
Less anticipated receipts not in cost centres (e.g. Grants)								(h)		£ -
Precept required								**(i)=(g)-(h)**		**£ 673,401**
Precept 2025-26 was								(x)		£ 644,337
Precept increase in funds received								(y)=(i)-(x)		£ 29,064
Precept increase % in funds received								(z)=((y)/(x))x100		4.51%

Precept requested	**£**	**673,401**

Taxbase 2025-26	5,805.42	**Notes**
2025-26 Band D rate	£110.99	* In 2025-26, it was noted that if all 2nd homes became main residences or holiday let businesses the
Inflation on 31 Oct 24 (CPI)	4.30%	tax base increase would **fall** in the future, necessitating greater rises to maintain the budget.
Increase in tax base	**103.08**	
2025-26 Taxbase	**5,908.50**	* Through 2025-26, a number of the identified 2nd homes in Northam have been redefined as 1st
2025-26 Band D rate	**£113.97**	homes, sold, converted to small businesses, **reducing the increase** in Tax Base for 2026-27.
Band D rate increase	**£2.98**	
	2.69%	

Band	Ratio	Ratio as %	Previous Year 2025-26 (NTC part)	Annual increase 2026-27 (NTC part)	Estimated Total 2026-27 (NTC part) annual	monthly (12)	monthly (10)
A	6/9	67%	£ 74.36	**£ 2.00**	£ 76.36	£ 6.36	£ 7.64
B	7/9	78%	£ 86.57	**£ 2.33**	£ 88.90	£ 7.41	£ 8.89
C	8/9	89%	£ 98.78	**£ 2.65**	£ 101.44	£ 8.45	£ 10.14
D	9/9	100%	£ 110.99	**£ 2.98**	£ 113.97	£ 9.50	£ 11.40
E	11/9	122%	£ 135.41	**£ 3.64**	£ 139.05	£ 11.59	£ 13.90
F	13/9	144%	£ 159.83	**£ 4.30**	£ 164.12	£ 13.68	£ 16.41
G	15/9	167%	£ 185.35	**£ 4.98**	£ 190.33	£ 15.86	£ 19.03
H	18/9	200%	£ 221.98	**£ 5.97**	£ 227.95	£ 19.00	£ 22.79