

Budgeted Income and Expenditure and Movements in Reserves for 2025/26

The table below analyses Newquay Town Council's gross and net expenditure over the major committees for which it is responsible, together with comparative figures for 2024/25.

| | Budget 2024/25 | | | | Budget 2025/26 | | |
|---|----------------|------------------|------------------|--|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Income | Expenditure | | | Income | Expenditure | |
| | Gross | Gross | Net | | Gross | Gross | Net |
| Governance and Resources | 0 | 1,111,135 | 1,111,135 | | 0 | 1,226,929 | 1,226,929 |
| Environment and Facilities | 241,363 | 1,149,954 | 908,591 | | 188,482 | 1,247,040 | 1,058,558 |
| Community and Tourism | 82,674 | 617,907 | 535,233 | | 97,008 | 755,147 | 658,139 |
| Planning and Licensing | 0 | 2,500 | 2,500 | | 0 | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| Total Revenue | 349,037 | 2,881,496 | 2,557,459 | | 285,490 | 3,231,616 | 2,946,126 |
| Interest & Dividends Received | | | (25,000) | | | | (67,503) |
| Net Operating Expenditure/(Income) | | | 2,532,459 | | | | 2,878,623 |
| Net Contribution to/(from) Reserves - Earmarked | | | 126,266 | | | | (148,427) |
| General Fund increase/(reduction) | | | 484,557 | | | | 121,019 |
| Expenditure to be met by Precept | | | 3,143,282 | | | | 2,851,215 |
| Precept to meet this expenditure | | | 2,613,754 | | | | 2,851,214 |
| General Fund opening balance | | | 239,320 | | | | 723,877 |
| General Fund closing balance (forecast) | | | 723,877 | | | | 575,450 |
| Earmarked Reserves opening balance | | | 1,925,884 | | | | 2,052,150 |
| Earmarked Reserves closing balance (forecast) | | | 2,052,150 | | | | 2,173,169 |

The Precept for 2025/26 is £2,851,214 which represents no annual increase on a Band D Property, at £300.98 per annum the same amount as 2024/25.

| Employees at: | Full Time | Part Time |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| 31st March 2025 | 27 | 22 |
| 31st March 2026 | 27 | 23 |

During 2024/25 the Town Council had 5 staff vacancies, 2 which were not filled due to lack of interest/suitable candidates. Some of these duties were therefore carried out by contractors at a higher cost. One of these roles has been removed from the 2025/26 budget and alternative arrangements are being considered to fulfil this function. The other roles were filled.

The Town Council started its annual budget setting in August, which involved a line-by-line evaluation of the budget per committee and activity by officers and management. This draft budget was presented to the Governance and Resources Committee in November, considering expected rates of inflation and cost challenges as well as the known demands at the time.

Committees then reviewed their draft budgets and the risks associated with some rises in income targets and the costs for some services and utilities. These formed a draft budget which officers worked on to ensure the target set by Governance and Resources were being observed. The draft budgets presented to the Governance and Resources Committee in November 2024 was recommended to Full Council and adopted at its meeting on 4 December 2024.

What does this budget mean?

In 2016/17 the Town Council froze the Council Tax with a commitment that for that 5-year budget cycle would have little or no annual change, other than inflation. Up until this year the Council has met that commitment with seven financial years of a zero or less than inflation increase. Due to a change in the second home tax element the number of Band D equivalent houses has increased by

632.12, enabling the Council to remain the same for the coming year 2025/26 at a total of £300.98 on a D Band, equally a 0% rise.

The Town Council continues to engage with Cornwall Council on a financially balanced Town Devolution Package to see the return of Newquay's assets back to Town level control and delivery and has been approached for some smaller assets within Newquay that Cornwall Council wish to dispose of, and it believes in retaining and protecting assets and services for the residents on Newquay, such as the Library which was devolved in 2018.

The Council continues to review and evaluation of the services it delivers, to ensure they are fit for purpose and on solid foundations. This budget decision means we will be maintaining all existing services and seeking to evaluate the Council's staff structure, to understand whether there are better, more flexible, and collaborative ways of working that ensure we can meet the growing needs of the Town, whilst also providing an element of resilience.

Several projects completed during 2024/25 include:

- A £200k+ Concrete Waves phase 2 project to provide a "beginner level" area to the site to increase safety and attract wider users of this facility. With agreed funding received from Boardmasters, CIL and the Town Council.
- Capital upgrades to the Station toilets, in partnership with Boardmasters who are providing funding to assist with the re-opening of reconfigured and higher quality toilets.

The Council are currently working on the future key projects identified within the budget:

- A staff structure review, seeking to ensure we are sustainable and operating effectively.
- Installation of the Surf Statue following public consultation at Killacourt
- Planned installation of solar panels at Mount Wise in line with climate strategy aspirations.
- Creation and distribution of a Youth Grant to support youth projects within Newquay.
- Protection through devolution of the Newquay Youth Centre (on Whitegate Road)
- Review the business case for the investment properties of the Council such as Mount Wise and Killacourt Café.
- A full review of the Council Offices and Marcus Hill site, with a view to developing it into a more sustainable and relevant space with more capacity to serve the community.

Some of the major considerations we have contemplated during this budget setting includes:

- Devolution of essential services given the cuts required by Cornwall Council.
- Delivery of major capital projects and enhancements to our vital services
- The impact we have on the environment.
- Reducing the Council Tax burden on ratepayers as much as possible given the current situation and likely economic challenges ahead.

For further information about the work of the Town Council and the full budget information, please visit the website (www.newquay.gov.uk) an accessible version of this information will be published shortly and can also be obtained by contacting the office using the following details:

Tel: 01637 878388 **Email:** office@newquay.gov.uk

Write: Newquay Town Council, Municipal Offices, Marcus Hill, Newquay TR7 1AF

Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings of the Council and its Committees.



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Cllr Margaret North
Chair, Governance & Resources Committee