

**LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE PLANNED FOR 2025/2026**

Comparison of expenditure by Committee of the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 financial years:

	<u>Original Approved</u> <u>2024/2025 Budget</u>	<u>2025/2026 Budget</u>
Administration (inc. operations & projects)	£265,528	£294,040
Communications & Engagement Committee	£104,170	£105,805
Facilities Committee	£395,799	£423,527
Total Expenditure	£765,497	£823,372
Projected Income (rents and charges)	-£120,300	-£117,650
Expected Grants & Transfer Fees	-£0	-£0
Reserves*	-£40,000	-£6,950
<b>Precept **</b>	<b>-£605,197</b>	<b>-£698,772</b>
Total Income	-£765,497	-£823,372

Employees at 31/01/2024    3 F/T 11 P/T

Employees at 31/01/2025    3 F/T 12 P/T

\*Reserves Total £531,226 (at 31/12/24) of which £207,104 is nominated to carry out specific activities and projects, e.g. major property repairs and improvements, development of parks and open spaces, replacement of CCTV and active travel.

**\*\*Precept 2025/2026 is £698,772.** The budget has gone through a rigorous and transparent process and equates to a council tax charge of £191.03 per annum for a band D property (or £148.58 for those in band B, which is more popular of the households in Liskeard). This compares favourably with other town councils of a similar size in Cornwall. Having kept costs low for many years, Liskeard Town Council's budget is starting from a low base. It is spending well below the county average for town councils. In monetary terms the increase is £20.64 across the whole year, or £0.40p per week at Band D. For the majority band B properties, this increase is even lower at £16.06 across the year, or £0.31p per week.

Many of the budget increases are driven by factors beyond the Town Council control, such as the increased Employer National Insurance contributions, the forthcoming elections in May 2025, and increased costs of CCTV live monitoring. However, the Town Council also hope to deliver some exciting new projects, such as replacing the skate park at Rapsons, and continuing with the refurbishment of the Public Hall providing better community facilities and a boost to the town centre. The Town Council has also recently taken over ownership of Castle Park to improve its management.

Careful budgeting in recent years has allowed the Town Council to continue to provide many services via the devolution process, some of which may have otherwise been lost to the town, such as public realm CCTV, public conveniences, weed control and open spaces.

Liskeard Town Council consists of 15 members who are elected for a four-year term. Only the Mayor can receive a small allowance for their Council work – £1,890 in 2025/26. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings of the Council and its Committees.

## **Liskeard Town Council – Buildings and Services**

The Town Council operates a range of historic buildings and provides various services used by the people of Liskeard, the surrounding area and visitors. They include: the Public Hall complex (Town Council offices, 6 function rooms and a large hall); the Guildhall & Clock Tower (6 business premises inc. the Arcade shops); Foresters Hall (Liskeard & District Museum and Tourist Information Centre); Castle Park, Rapson's Field Multi Use Games Area and skatepark; Thorn Park; Allotments; Public Toilets (Dean Street, Sungirt and Westbourne Car Park); green space at Eastern Avenue; 33 public benches; 6 promotional granite map plinths; maintenance and live monitoring of an 10 camera town CCTV system; monitoring of 4 defibrillators; websites and social media pages; Christmas lights and events such as Liskeard Unlocked and Nadelik Lyskerrys. Grant funding is also available to support other new community initiatives which bring benefit to the town.

The Town Council maintain: the War Memorial, Fountain monument and Pipe Well; certain footpaths on an agency basis on behalf of Cornwall Council; weed control in the town centre; and manages Westbourne gardens on a 10-year agreement with Cornwall Council. In conjunction with Liskeard in Bloom, the Council organises the twice-yearly ornamental planting and maintenance of the 11 granite planters on the Parade and in Dean Street, the planting of the roundabout near Morrison's, and 14 hanging baskets at Council properties.

As a statutory consultee on planning applications, during 2024 the Town Council considered and provided input on 66 applications and four other consultations.

The Town Council works closely with the police and other agencies through the Safer Liskeard initiative to reduce the anti-social behaviour in and around the town centre.

## **Liskeard Town Council – Projects 2025/2026**

The Town Council secured £12,500 of Town Accelerator Funding from Cornwall Council to prepare a community-led Vision and Action Plan for the town. It has chosen Hemingway Design, to undertake an assessment of Liskeard and the range of projects it has underway, and work with residents, businesses and community organisations to agree how the town should move forward and respond to the challenges it faces.

£20,000 of Town Delivery Funding from Cornwall Council has been secured towards the Guildhall project, which involves bringing the former court room on the first floor of the Grade II listed building back into use. The Town Council proposes to undertake some essential cleaning and repairs with the aim of creating a unique space for local businesses and community organisations to trial a presence in the town centre and/or new approaches.

The Town Council is working on a project to replace the existing skatepark at Rapson's and hopes to secure grants from the Shared Prosperity Fund and Community Infrastructure Levy to help deliver it.

Further refurbishment is planned in the Public Hall to repair the exterior of the building, internal redecoration and fire safety improvements.

Castle Park was devolved to the Town Council on 1 November 2024, where it will continue the work of the Making Space for Nature project and further improve the park for the local community.

The Town Council is part of the Cornwall Council "Liskeard Redevelopment Working Group" which includes furthering the redevelopment of the former cattle market for a range of uses e.g., employment space, an integrated services hub, new bus interchange and expansion of the doctor's surgery.

Using contributions from recent housing developments for off-site public open space, we will be seeking to develop new sports pitches for the town at Roundbury.

In 2021/22 the Active Travel project commissioned a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Liskeard (funded by Town Vitality Funding from Cornwall Council), and detailed designs for improvements to prioritised walking and cycle routes. It is now working with Cornwall Council to progress these and obtain funding to deliver improvements on Charter Way and Plymouth Road, and the route from the railway station to the town centre.