

**Teignbridge District Council
Council
26 February 2026
Part i**

BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2026/27

Purpose of Report

To consider a recommendation from the Executive in relation to the Final Financial Plan Proposals 2025/26 to 2028/29. The information set out below is intended to assist the Council in its consideration of the Executive's budget proposals. The Executive Member for Corporate Resources will present the Executive's proposals.

Recommendation(s)

- a That the Teignbridge band D council tax for 2026/27 is increased by 2.99% or £6.05 to £208.33 per annum**
- b Maintaining 100% council tax support**
- c That general reserves are increased to 12.4% of the net revenue budget for 2026/27 or £2.6 million**
- d That £200,000 of the general reserve balance in any one year be available to the Executive to meet unexpected expenditure in addition to the agreed revenue budget**
- e All other decisions with regard to budgetary change will be approved by reference to virement rules in the financial instructions**
- f That the summary revenue budget for 2026/27 is £21.0 million as shown at appendix 4. In particular the revenue budget includes:**
 - Assumptions of a 3.0% pay rise for 2026/27**
 - Revenue contributions to fund capital are maintained at £1,500,000 to support the capital budget**
 - Core voluntary grants are increased by 4% for three years from 2026/27 through to 2028/29**
 - The councillors community fund grant is maintained at £1,000 each**
 - Continued resources to cover Modern 25**
- g That fees and charges are approved as shown summarised at appendix 6.**

- h That the capital programme as shown at appendix 7 is approved. The capital programme to 2028/29 has been updated to align with the One Teignbridge Action Plan, which was adopted at Full Council on 23 October 2025. The main aims are to work with communities, support the local economy, care for the environment, create affordable homes and work with partners to bring forward infrastructure improvements. It also includes:**

Infrastructure delivery plan projects are vital to the development and accessibility of the area. These include highways and cycle path projects, funded by CIL and external sources where available.

Investment in housing (Homes4Teignbridge) continues. On 23 October 2025, the Sherborne House car park social rented flats budget was increased to £7,243,317. Homes England funding in support of the scheme was confirmed in early December 2025. Half of the funds for this scheme come from council resources (receipts and internal borrowing) and half from external contributions.

The purchase of council homes supported by the Local Authority Housing Fund continues, with a further provision of £1,000,000 in prudential borrowing to improve temporary accommodation arrangements and reduce the use and cost of bed and breakfast accommodation. Investment in other support measures such as disabled facilities continue, funded from Better Care grant.

There are provisions to continue corporate decarbonisation measures, including energy efficiency measures at Dawlish and Newton Abbot leisure centres.

Provision is also included for town-centre investment, including the refurbished Market Hall in Newton Abbot, due to complete in 2026. There is a £3,000,000 provision for employment infrastructure, to create new spaces for jobs and local enterprise. These projects aim to stimulate growth in the local economy and ensure it is an attractive and well-connected environment for local businesses.

- i That the Financial Plan 2026 to 2031 is approved as set out in appendix 8**
- j That the prudential indicators are noted and the prudential limits approved all as set out in appendix 11**
- k That the updated treasury management strategy statement and authorised lending list as set out in appendix 12 is approved together with the capital strategy in appendix 12a**
- l That each scheme will be considered on its merits as explained at the end of appendix 12 to decide the calculation of minimum revenue provision for capital expenditure in 2026/27**

m That the council tax resolutions as recommended in appendix 15 are approved

Financial Implications

The financial implications are contained throughout the report. The main purpose being to approve the level of council tax for Teignbridge and associated resolutions, the final budget proposals for both revenue and capital budgets and medium term financial plan covering the years 2025/26 to 2028/29 and the prudential limits.

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Legal Implications

Council is required under general local government law including as part of the setting of council tax etc., as well as the budget and policy framework procedure rules in the constitution (section 7(a) and 7 (b)) to approve a budget each year. See also section 3 of the report.

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Risk Assessment

The main risk in budget setting is the failure to deliver a balanced budget. This has an impact on the use of reserves and the consequent ability to fund services ongoing. The Funding Review and Business Rates reset has removed a lot of the volatility from government funding in the short to medium term. Unfortunately it has crystallised funding gaps also.

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Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

The revenue budget supports the funding of a Climate Change Officer and associated revenue budget and capital projects are highlighted which contribute towards our climate change objectives in appendix 7 – capital programme.

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Executive Member

Councillor John Parrott – Executive Member for Finance & Corporate

Appendices/Background Papers

App 1 – Budget timetable 2026/27
App 2 – Council tax base 2026/27
App 3 – Council tax calculator 2026/27
App 4 – Summary revenue plan 2025/26 onwards
App 5 – Revenue budget detail
App 6 – Fees and charges summary
App 7 – Capital programme
App 8 – Financial plan 2026 - 2031
App 9 – Financial plan sensitivity and risk analysis
App 10 – Equality impact assessment
App 11 – Recommended prudential indicators
App 12 – Treasury management statement, authorised lending list and minimum revenue provision annual statement
App 12a – Capital strategy
App 13 – Consultation report
App 14 – Draft minute of the Executive meeting held on 10 February 2026 relating to the final financial plan proposals 2026/27 to 2028/29
Appendix 15 – council tax resolutions 2026/27

Budget and settlement files
The Constitution

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1** To consider a recommendation from the Executive in relation to the Final Financial Plan Proposals 2026/27 to 2028/29. The information set out below is intended to assist the Council in its consideration of the Executive's budget proposals. The Executive Member for Corporate Resources will present the Executive's proposals.
- 1.2** The final financial plan proposals 2025/26 to 2027/28 as per agenda item 8 Overview and Scrutiny, 3 February 2026 and agenda item 7 Executive 10 February 2026 have been issued. These include the detailed budget background; a complete budget pack will be issued to all Members once relevant information has been finalised. The proposals include recommended revenue and capital budgets for 2026/27 and planned in outline for 2027/28 and 2028/29.

- 1.3 Appendices 1 to 8 were attached to the Overview & Scrutiny and Executive agendas. The recommended figures are based on the provisional settlement as the final settlement had not been agreed. The final settlement has now been received. MHCLG has changed the method by which the Business Rates reset was calculated. As such our initial funding position is significantly lower. This would have meant a reduction in central government funding in future years, but a new funding stream, the 'Adjustment Support Grant' has been introduced to ensure that councils do not suffer reductions in funding in year 1 between the draft and final settlement being announced. Because of this, and because we now receive funding support equivalent to 100% of the given starting position, the level of support for the next three years is materially the same as the draft settlement.
- 1.4 A sensitivity and risk analysis is added at appendix 9 as part of the assessment of the robustness of the budget and adequacy of the reserves. See also 2.4 below. New mainly technical appendices 10 to 15 are being added to the website as they become available. The full council pack together with all appendices will be issued as we have the final recommended precepts from county, fire and police.

2. FINANCIAL PLAN SUMMARY

In considering the recommendation from the Executive the Council may wish to have regard to the following points.

2.1 A financial background for 2026/27 of:

- 2026/27 marks the beginning of a three-year settlement and the long awaited 'reset' of Business Rates. The results are disappointing to Teignbridge, but we no longer have to worry about impending fluctuations in funding with every year's settlement.
- We have benefitted from previous savings plans and restructuring efficiencies are still producing cost reductions. This budget also gains from the Strata partnership.
We are reviewing savings options via the Modern 25 agenda.
The budget process has required £1.1 million of earmarked reserves to balance the budget in 2026/27, a further use of £1.0 million of earmarked reserves in 2027/28 and £1.2 million in 2028/29. Further work will be required to identify savings/generate income to balance the on-going budget gap and protect our earmarked reserves.
- We are operating within our Council Strategy. This sets the tone for contributing to civic life and ensuring public services focus on 'place and person' while remaining accountable, fair and value for money. At the heart are the overarching projects that guide our activities, where we focus our resources and how we shape services to deliver real progress for the district.

- The economy continues to be fragile with the current economic conditions, very low growth and this has created significant financial uncertainties for the future.
 - The assumption of a 3.0% pay rise from 1 April 2026.
 - A referendum would be triggered if the band D council tax increase is equal to or above 3% AND is above £5
- 2.2 The budget detail in appendix 5 clearly shows the responsible Executive member as in recent years to provide transparent accountability.
- 2.3 The capital programme funding includes community infrastructure levy for local plan projects. Contributions from revenue to capital have been maintained at £1,500,000 to support the capital budget.
- 2.4 The chief finance officer is designated under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. He endorses the recommendations made in this report and discharges his duty under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 to report to the Council on the following matters:
- a) the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the council tax calculations; and
 - b) the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- The relevant detailed sensitivity and risk analysis is shown at appendix 9.
- There are enough reserves in the short to medium term to balance the budget in a context of falling resources and income streams. This includes heavy use of earmarked reserves. Risks are therefore manageable at present. If action is not taken promptly to balance the medium term position the Council will face challenging decisions that can be managed or avoided by a strategic approach now.
- 2.5 An equality impact assessment has been carried out on the financial plan 2026/27 and this is shown at appendix 10.
- 2.6 Recommended updated prudential indicators are shown at appendix 11. An updated treasury management statement, incorporating policy statement, clauses to be adopted, investment strategy including authorised lending list and minimum revenue provision statement is at appendix 12. The capital strategy is at appendix 12a. Both the treasury management statement and capital strategy are linked to the proposed revenue and capital budgets and have regard to affordability, prudence and sustainability as required by the latest Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Prudential Code 2021 and Treasury Management Code 2021.

- 2.6.1 Indicators 1 to 4 of the prudential indicators are calculated from the proposed revenue and capital budgets and have been changed accordingly.
- 2.6.2 The authorised lending list at appendix 12 takes account of the latest ratings for banks and building societies.
- 2.7 The budget proposals have been published and considered by Overview & Scrutiny and at a meeting of town and parish councils.
- 2.8 A budget survey was put on the website and publicised to encourage feedback. In particular it was brought to the attention of businesses, the residents' panel and Teignbridge relationship groups. Responses are included for member consideration as appendix 13 to the Council budget papers.
- 2.9 Also included is a recommendation to pass the formal council tax resolutions which are set out in appendix 15. These are technical resolutions which are required to be passed by law by the Council and take into account the requirements of our precepting bodies.
- 2.10 Final decisions are being made by police (30 January), county (24 February) and fire (16 February) and members will be advised accordingly.

3. LEGAL / JUSTIFICATION

Council is required under the budget and policy framework procedure rules in the constitution (section 7(a) and 7(b)) to approve a budget to Council each year).

In coming to a decision in relation to the revenue budget and the council tax, the Council and Councillors have the following legal duties:

- a. To act in accordance with their statutory duties and responsibilities;
- b. To act reasonably; and
- c. To have careful regard to their fiduciary duty to its rate payers and Council tax payers.

The Council has a clear legal duty to set a balanced budget. A resolution not to set a Council tax would be unlawful so would be a resolution to set a Council tax which deliberately did not balance the budget.

The meaning of fiduciary duty is more difficult to define but can be summarised as a duty to conduct administration in a business-like manner with reasonable care, skill and caution and with due regards to the council's rate payers. When discharging their fiduciary duties councillors will need to consider the following:

- a. Prudent use of the council's resources, including the raising of income and the control of expenditure;
- b. Financial prudence both long and short term;

- c. Striking a fair balance between the interest of the council tax payers on the one hand and the community interest and adequate and efficient services on the other hand; and
- d. Acting in good faith with a view to complying with statutory duties and exercising its statutory powers for the benefit of the community.

Restriction on voting

Members' attention is drawn to the provisions of S.106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 which applies to members where: they are present at a meeting of full Council, Executive or relevant Committee and at the time of the meeting an amount of Council tax and has remained unpaid for at least 2 months and any budget or Council tax calculation or recommendation or decision which might affect the making of any such calculation, is the subject of consideration at the meeting.

In these circumstances, any such members shall at the meeting and as soon as practical after its commencement disclose the fact that S.106 applies to them and shall not vote on any question concerning budget setting.

Failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence unless such member can prove that they did not know S.106 applied to them at the time of the meeting or that the matter in question was the subject of consideration at that meeting.