

To receive a report on the Town Council Precept for the year 2025/26 and consider any actions and associated expenditure

Due to the significant increase in the budget setting for 2025/26 (21.45%) the following options are for Members consideration.

The Responsible Finance Officer carried out a risk based assessment using general reserves / contingency and is content that the risk for Saltash Town Council remains low, due to best practice guidance suggests a minimum of 3 months contingency. Saltash Town Council is primarily precept funded. The Responsible Finance Officer has not sought the internal auditors expertise. She is happy to do so, if required, once a recommendation is agreed. However, the Responsible Finance Officer reiterates the importance of Saltash Town Council increasing the precept by a realistic percentage to retain the Town Council in a healthy and safe position.

Please note the precept level for 2024/25 was 13.68% however, members agreed to utilise General Reserves resulting in a reduction to 4.81%

The rate for Band D Dwelling has increased significantly for 2025/26 by 139.51 to 5,724.18 (2024/25 5,584.67). This will help to reduce the % for the Precept Budget increase as illustrated in the table below.

Option 1 - 5% increase on Precept as requested by Full Council / retaining the contingency pot at 5.06 months.

See table below for more information

Option 2 - The actual precept increase for 2025-26 / retaining the contingency pot at 5.06 months

See table below for more information

Option 3 - The actual precept increase for 2025-26 / retaining the contingency pot of £599,387 & reducing the contingency to 4.27 months

See table below for more information

Option 4A - The actual precept for 2025-26 decreased by budget savings for no additional roles (refer to appendix A) / reducing the Band D increase to 5% / retaining the contingency pot at 5.06 months

See table below for more information

Option 4B - The actual precept for 2025-26 decreased by budget savings (refer to appendix A) / reducing the contingency pot to 4 months

See table below for more information

Option 5 - The actual precept increase for 2025-26 decreased by budget savings for no additional roles (refer to appendix A) / reducing the Band D increase to 11% by utilising General Funds / retaining the contingency pot at 5.06 months /

See table below for more information

Details	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4A	Option 4B	Option 5
Total Budgets 2025/26	£1,686,035	£1,686,035	£1,686,035	£1,686,035	£1,686,035	£1,686,035
Savings on Recommended Budgets (Salaries)				-£64,639		-£64,639
Savings on All Recommended Budgets					-£192,290	
Revised Total Budgets 2025/26	£1,686,035	£1,686,035	£1,686,035	£1,621,396	£1,493,745	£1,621,396
Release from General Reserves	-£228,407			-£127,355		-£41,981
Revised Precept 2025/26	£1,457,628	£1,686,035	£1,686,035	£1,494,041	£1,493,745	£1,579,415
Increase compared to 2024/25 - £	£69,411	£297,818	£297,818	£105,824	£105,528	£191,198
Increase compared to 2024/25 - %	5.00%	21.45%	21.45%	7.62%	7.60%	13.77%
Tax Base 25/26 : 5,724.18 (Tax Base 24/25 : 5,584.67)						
Band D Increase - %	2.44%	18.49%	18.49%	5.00%	4.98%	11.00%
Band D Increase - Annual	£6.07	£45.97	£45.97	£12.43	£12.38	£27.34
Band D Increase - Weekly	£0.12	£0.88	£0.88	£0.24	£0.24	£0.53
Estimated General Reserves 2024/25	£276,992	£505,399	£616,957	£405,300	£718,429	£718,429
Estimated Contingency Fund 2024/25	£710,945	£710,945	£599,387	£683,689	£497,915	£683,689
Total General Reserves and Cont. Fund	£987,937	£1,216,344	£1,216,344	£1,088,989	£1,216,344	£1,402,118
Contingency Fund in Months	5.06	5.06	4.27	5.06	4.00	5.06

**End of Report
Responsible Finance Officer
Finance Officer**