

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 1 DECEMBER 2025 AT 6.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor J Lloyd (Chair),
Councillors C Booth, J Cole, A Govier, C Govier-Wiggins, R Henley, M McGuffie, M Lithgow, S Mercer, C Penk, S Pringle-Kosikowski, J Thorne, G Williams and K Wheatley

IN ATTENDANCE: David Farrow – CEO/Town Clerk
Alice Kendall – Democratic Services & Finance Manager
Wasif Choudhury – Democratic Services & Finance Officer
Sergeant Jon O'Connor, Wellington Community Policing Team (for minute 359)
One member of the press
One member of the public

354. WELCOME BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed those attending.

355. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APPROVE REASONS GIVE

Apologies were received from Councillor C Penk.

Councillor S Fox has previously been granted a leave of absence for all Council and committee meetings until the end of December 2025. The CEO/Town Clerk advised that written confirmation has been provided by Councillor S Fox that she has resigned her post and that the vacancy would be advertised as soon as possible.

356. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J Lloyd noted that her son is employed at Swallowfield/KDC One (Minute 360)

357. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 3 November 2025.

358. QUESTION AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

At this juncture, Councillor C Booth, J Cole and G Williams entered the meeting.

One member of the public spoke about concerns regarding significant traffic issues around St. John's Primary School. Councillor A Govier confirmed that he will take this up with Somerset Council and Council Officers will ensure to keep the member of public informed of any updates.

359. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

Sgt O'Connor presented his report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting and was duly noted.

360. CLOSURE OF SWALLOWFIELD/KDC ONE

A verbal update was provided by the CEO/Town Clerk on the closure of the Swallowfield production site. He advised that at this stage closure was a proposal and that the company was working its way through a process which needed to be respected. He had spoken to the

MD of the company and offered support when it was needed and had also made contact with the Economic Development Team at Somerset Council which also offers a range of support and will work alongside Wellington Town Council.

At this juncture, Council R Henley entered the meeting.

Councillors noted the negative impact the closure will have on the town and it was noted that the Council's Economic Development Committee should have oversight on this.

361. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor provided an update on her activities which was noted.

362. SOMERSET COUNCIL / LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (LCN) UPDATE

Councillor R Henley reported that the Local Government Boundary Commission noted they made a mistake in their interpretation of the advice given to them by Somerset Council. As a result, the consultation process has been re-opened and will close on 13 January 2026 with the view to finalise a decision by March 2026. It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk will formulate another response for the boundary commission.

Councillor R Henley stated that the Somerset Council Executive would be considering a report on the introduction of Sunday parking charges and despite overwhelming public opposition to the proposal it is likely to be proceeding. He reiterated that the introduction of Sunday car parking charges would not be appropriate for Wellington.

He also reported on a discussion at Health Scrutiny Committee about pharmacy provision in Somerset where he had argued for additional capacity for Wellington as he believes that the current pharmacy provision in Wellington is not appropriate for the town.

Council J Cole noted that NHS Somerset believe that two pharmacies is enough for Wellington. The Town Clerk confirmed that another meeting with NHS Somerset was scheduled later this week to review a range of matters.

Councillor A Govier confirmed that Somerset Council will be implementing traffic regulation orders in and around Wellington. He requested that Councillors should make him aware of any car parking anomalies which need to be reviewed so they can be addressed and highlighted.

Councillor J Lloyd confirmed that she will be attending the next Highways Somerset meeting and will raise any issues and concerns relayed to her such as car parking signage, the recoding issues with the North Street traffic lights etc.

363. TO RECEIVE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT ON RECENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Chief Executive's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

364. POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2025 were noted.

The proposals outlined in the draft budget papers pending any updates for draft 2 from the Committees was noted.

365. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2025 were noted and the following recommendations were discussed:

- (a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve that the draft line for Youth Services (£50,000) be renamed Youth Development.
- (b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the creation of an additional line in the Community Services cost centre be created specifically for the Cradle to Career project and to allocate an additional fund of £50,000.
- (c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the creation of an additional line in the Community Services cost centre for 2026/27 for youth provision to be delivered by In the Mix and to allocate funds of £9,000 for this.

366. ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2025 were noted and the following recommendations were discussed:

- (a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve that the Playing Field Path project is initiated as soon as possible, noting it falls outside of the current budget.
- (b) It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding with Transition Town Wellington.

367. PUMP TRACK

The following recommendations were discussed:

- (a) It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with this project now that viability has been confirmed.
- (b) It was **AGREED** to proceed with a formal request to Somerset Council to allocate S106 Funds of £48,710.30 to the project.
- (c) It was **AGREED** to proceed with grant and funding applications for the balance of the cost.
- (d) It was **AGREED** to seek competitive tenders for the construction of the Pump Track and to ensure that it is built using sustainable methods and materials to reduce the impact on the local environment.
- (e) It was **AGREED** to seek quotations to improve footpath access from the entrance to the Recreation Ground to the play area and then on to Pump Track site as part of the project.

368. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the appointment of Councillor G Williams to the Environment Committee.

369. ASSERTION 10 & PUBLICATION SCHEME

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following:

- (a) The Council appoint Aubergine to create and host its new website under a new .gov.uk domain
- (b) The updated Accessibility Statement be adopted (as per requirements for the WCAG guidance).
- (c) That delegated authority be granted to the Town Clerk to amend the IT policy as necessary.
- (d) To adopt the model ICO Publication Scheme.

370. BUDGET

At this juncture, Councillor C Booth left the meeting.

Draft 2 of the budget report was noted and after much discussion, the following recommendations were made:

- (a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Income & Expenditure budget for 26/27 as presented in the budget report noting the income at £127,535 and the expenditure at £1,75241.09
- (b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments into reserve for 26/27 as presented at £72,592.
- (c) It was **RESOLVED** to set the general reserve figure at £250,000

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:52.

STANDING DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of Somerset Council:

Councillor Andrew Govier

Councillor Ross Henley

Mayor

.....

Date.....



Title	Chief Executive's Report
Meeting	Full Council
Date of meeting	5 January 2026
Action Required	For noting
Report Author and email address	Dave Farrow townclerk@wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk

1. Introduction

1.1 This report will update councillors on matters not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

2. Other Matters

- As previously noted to councillors through email we were successful in securing a £12,000 grant from The Somerset Community Foundation's Help Through Winter Fund. This funding will help us run an expanded Warm Welcome Café at the King's Arms Community Hub, offering a friendly space, hot drinks, light lunches, and wellbeing activities every Monday, Wednesday and Friday throughout winter until the end of March. The funding is partly being used to employ a temporary part time Café Coordinator for the duration of the project and we have been able to recruit Jemma Stovell to that role. The service begins Monday 5th January.
- Councillor Lithgow and I joined a virtual meeting of the Metro Board on the 12 December and received an update on the station project. Work on finalising and costing the design work is continuing with £300k of accelerated funding being released to complete the work. Work on the spine roads is due to start in January with the final planning decisions being taken in the development in February/March. The current thinking is that if all goes to plan the station will be operational in mid/late 2028.
- Councillors Govier, Thorne and Williams and I met representatives of Somerset NHS Integrated Care Board on the 3 December to discuss community provision in the town. We took the opportunity to reiterate the Council concerns about pharmacy provision in the town and I subsequently wrote to Sukeina Kassam, Director of Primary Care with NHS Somerset to set out the Council's concerns. A copy of that letter is attached for information. We heard about the proposed changes to Community Hospital Provision in

the town in the context of the Government's 10 year plan for the NHS and the community engagement exercise they will be conducting in the new year to discuss community provision. They are keen to work with us and we will be taking this forward in the next few weeks.

- On the back of our community work to date, including the Kings Arms programmes and the Cradle to Career work, we have been approached by Somerset Council to see if we would like to host one of six Best Start Family Hubs in Somerset with an initial focus on improving outcomes in early years and supporting parenting. We will be the first hub in the county. There is additional funding available through central Government for this project over a three-year period. We have also been asked if we would be prepared to host a visit from Department for Education who want to visit examples of existing good practice officials as part of the project. A briefing will be provided to the Community Committee at its January meeting.
- We have had confirmation that the Community Connect funding we receive from Somerset Council that enable us to employ the Community Connect Champion will continue for 2026/7 and 2027/8. This work will tie in closely with the Family Hub work
- Somerset Council has received funding of £3.78m to develop the electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the County with the intention of rolling out 1600 low power charging points over the next two years including making provision, where possible, for residents without off street parking. It is inviting residents to submit suggestions for where charging points could be located but is clear that not all suggestions may be suitable. Further information can be found here <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/electric-vehicle-charging/> along with a link to suggest locations. We will be promoting this in the new year and will provide more information at the January Environment Committee.
- Councillors will have seen from Wasif's email before Christmas that enough requests have been received by Somerset Council to mean that there will be a bye-election for the Rockwell Green Ward vacancy on the 10 February 2026. The Notice of Election will be published on the 6 January and nominations will commence on the 7 January.

3. Communications and Social Media

In the period from 25th November to 18th December 2025 our social media posts have reached an estimated 40.4k people. We have also received 2.4k content interactions. These numbers are lower than the previous period but this does cover a shorter span of time. Our Facebook page netted 119 new followers, bringing our total up to 4,021. We hit the 4k mark at some point on Friday 5th December.

Our top five posts in this period were:

1. Christmas Shop Window Competition Winners – 335 reactions, 15,421 reach
2. Light on above the gate in Wellington Park – 307 reactions, 14,389 reach
3. Christmas tree and reminder of switch-on event – 221 reactions, 11,503 reach
4. Toilets closed in Wellington Park – 85 reactions, 14,717 reach
5. New signage in Wellington Park – 75 reactions, 3,103 reach

A "Year in Review" video has been compiled to look back on all the work the Council has done in 2025 and this is due to be published on Friday 19th December. It will be available on our social media and our YouTube channels.

The Kings Arms Community Hub's Facebook is also performing well with 625 total followers. Posts go out on this page consistently to share ongoing work and events and things to look forward to in the new year.

The Wellington Town Council newsletter has 263 subscribers and the next issue is due to go out on Friday 9th January. The January newsletter may be a bit lighter on the ground due to the Christmas break so I will be doing a write up of things that are coming in 2026 including new activities at the Kings Arms, community development opportunities, and plans for our open spaces.

4. January Meetings/Events

Date	Time	Event	Location	Who Involved
5 January	6.00pm	Full Council	URC Hall	All
12 January	6.00pm	Policy and Finance Committee	URC Hall	Committee members
19 January	6.00pm	Community Committee	URC Hall	Committee members
21 January	10.30am	Town and Parish Council briefing	Virtual	CEO/Town Clerk
21 January	7.00pm	Environment Committee	URC Hall	Committee members
29 January	9.30am	CCTV Review Meeting	tbc	CEO/Town Clerk
29 January	7.30pm	Presidents Evening Wellington Pantomime	The Wellesley Cinema	Mayor

5. SLT Annual Leave

None

6. Links to Council Vision and Place Plan

Vision

- An inclusive, safe and secure town where everybody is supportive of each other and offers particular care for the more vulnerable members of our community
- A town with a diverse, thriving, and resilient local economy
- A town with vibrant cultural, sporting, and social communities
- Proud and protective of our heritage, green spaces, and biodiversity
- Committed to becoming a net carbon neutral town
- A destination of choice for people to live and work and for businesses to be located.
- Connected with the Blackdown Hills National Landscape and surrounding communities

Wellington Place Plan

- Inclusive Access and Connected Communities
- Pride in Place: Culture, Heritage & Belonging
- A Healthy, Sustainable & Green Town

- Youth, Learning & Lifelong Support
- Housing, Inclusion & Community Safety
- Enterprise, Skills & Local Economies

7. Financial Implications

None

8. Risks

None

9. Considerations

The Council is asked to note the report.

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

28 Fore Street,
Wellington,
Somerset
TA21 8AQ
Tel 01823 662855



Sukeina Kassam
Director of Primary Care
NHS Somerset
Wynford House
Lufton Way
Lufton
Yeovil
Somerset
BA22 8HR

17 December 2025

Dear Sukeina,

Pharmacy Provision in Wellington

I am writing on behalf of Wellington Town Council to express our deep concern regarding the current and future provision of pharmacy services in the town.

At present, Wellington has only two fully functioning pharmacies, located within Superdrug and Boots. The Jhoots pharmacy, which replaced Lloyds in early 2023, proved unreliable before closing in September 2024. Additionally, the Boots pharmacy at Wellington Medical Centre closed in February 2024. An application by Orange Pharmacy to reopen within the Medical Centre was rejected by NHS Somerset ICB. Furthermore, the space previously occupied by Boots at the Medical Centre is now being used to accommodate additional patients following the closure of Luson Surgery, eliminating any possibility of a pharmacy reopening there.

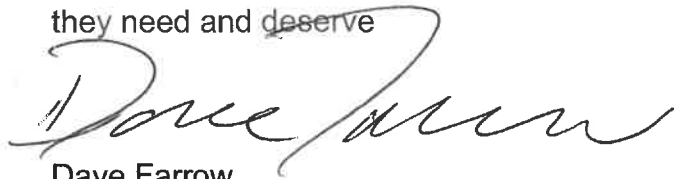
The most recent Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment appears to conclude that two pharmacies are sufficient for Wellington. However, less than two years ago, the town had four pharmacies—presumably based on the then-current assessment. What has changed?

Wellington is a growing town with an aging population, which naturally increases demand for services such as pharmacies. Residents are already experiencing significant delays at the remaining two pharmacies, both when prescriptions are submitted and when they are collected. These delays are not just inconvenient—they risk compromising patient health and wellbeing, particularly for those managing chronic conditions or requiring urgent medication.

We understand that an application has been submitted to open a new community pharmacy in Wellington. While we appreciate that there is a process to follow, we strongly urge the ICB to approve this application without delay. Doing so would not only restore service levels closer to what the town had two years ago but also demonstrate NHS Somerset's commitment to equitable access to healthcare and proactive planning for population growth.

Failure to act now will exacerbate existing pressures, increase patient dissatisfaction, and potentially lead to avoidable health complications. Conversely, approving this application will send a clear message that NHS Somerset prioritises patient safety, timely care, and community wellbeing.

The Council would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this matter further and explore how we can work together to ensure Wellington residents receive the pharmacy services they need and deserve

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Farrow', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Dave Farrow
Chief Executive Officer /Town Clerk

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON WEDNESDAY 10th
DECEMBER 2025 AT 6.00PM**

PRESENT: Councillor M Lithgow (Vice-Chair),
Councillors S Mercer, J Lloyd, J. Thorne.

IN ATTENDANCE: Annette Kirk - Facilities Manager
Wasif Choudhury – Democratic Services and Finance Officer
Laura Batcha – Community Development Officer
Sally Mann – Fuse Performance (Minute 376)
John Lee – Fuse Performance (Minute 376)
Deborah Richardson – Somerset Film (Minute 377)
Councillor S Pringle-Kosikowski

371. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor C Booth, C Penk & K Wheatley.

372. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest declared.

373. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2025.

374. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public in attendance.

375. WELLINGTON EMPLOYER AND SKILLS PARTNERSHIP

The Community Development Officer provided a briefing on a new network aimed at bringing local employers, training providers, and community partners together with the key aim to strengthen Wellington's economy while building a stronger future workforce for the town.

This work will tie directly into the Cradle to Career programme by focusing on improving outcomes for young people and allowing us to bring employers into that conversation to help shape skills development, work experience, and future job pathways.

Laura Batcha, the Community Development Officer, will represent the Town Council as lead convenor. The project currently involves the following individuals: Rob Morish (Somerset Careers Hub), Charity Hunt (Careers Lead at Court Fields Community School), Collen Blake (Somerset Council Employment Hub), Hattie Winter (Somerset Council Economic Development), Claire Care (Reminisce Learning) and Charlotte Joyner (Young Somerset).

Councillor J Thorne noted his support for this initiative and confirmed that this further demonstrates the additional responsibilities and growth of Wellington Town Council.

Councillors confirmed they would like updates to be fed back directly to the Economic Development Committee.

376. GARDEN OF LIGHT REPORT

Sally Mann and John Lee of Fuse Performance Ltd provided a verbal post-event report which was noted.

Councillors thanked Fuse Performance for their efforts in organising the event which was well received by those that attended.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve holding another event in October 2026.

It was **AGREED** that the funds raised from the 2025 event (£2,124.31) would be retained by Fuse Somerset Outdoor Arts for future arts projects/events in Wellington.

It was **AGREED** to produce a one-year Service Level Agreement with Fuse Somerset Outdoor Arts that will be drafted by the Events Working Group. The Economic Development Committee will review and finalise this agreement.

It was noted that Council Officers have delegated authority to pay £2,000 post event expenses.

At this juncture, Laura Batcha, Sally Mann and John Leigh left the meeting.

377. FILM FESTIVAL

A verbal post event report and presentation was provided by Deborah Richardson of Somerset Film which was noted.

It was noted that some of the content of the Film Festival has since appeared on BBC Somerset. Visit Somerset and BBC Somerset also advertised the event.

Deborah noted that in planning the event and deciding which films to showcase they attempt to deliver a diverse range of cinema which is as broad and popular as possible.

At this juncture, Deborah Richardson and Councillor S Pringle-Kosikowski left the meeting.

378. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON EVENT

A post event report was circulated, and a verbal update was provided by the Facilities Manager which was noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve event expenditure.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a token gift of £50 to Chris Thenbergh who played Santa Claus.

379. BUS SHELTERS

A report was circulated which was noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the proposed scheme and gives delegated power to Council Officers and two committee members to proceed with sponsor recruitment, design finalization, and installation scheduling.

Councillors J Lloyd and M Lithgow volunteered to be the committee members for this project.

380. PROMOTION OF WELLINGTON

A verbal report was provided by the Facilities Manager which was noted.

It was noted that Councillor K Wheatley has been writing statement for the Promotion of Wellington website focusing on a series of niches and sectors where the town has strength e.g. Fashionista Wellington and Vintage Wellington. He has also been liaising with the CEO of Berrys Coaches about using the Guild of British Coach Operators to promote the Wellington coach stop as an alternative to the nearby M5 services as a comfort break.

Council J Lloyd noted that she had recently attended a Highways Somerset meeting regarding Car Park signage where it was confirmed that new boards and signage will be incoming however there is currently no timeline provided for this.

381. BUDGETS

The budget paper was circulated and noted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:20.

Signed.....

Date.....

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Road Traffic Order – 18 months period.

EVENTS: September 2026 to March 2028

Wellington Independent Market – High Street Market

Date:	Event Time:	Location
2026		
Saturday 5 th September (mini food festival)	10am to 4.00pm	High Street
Saturday 12 th December	10am to 3.00pm	High Street
2027		
Saturday 27 th March	10am to 3.00pm	High Street
Saturday 5 th June	10am to 3.00pm	High Street
Saturday 4 th September (mini food festival)	10am to 4.00pm	High Street
Saturday 18 th September	10am to 3.00pm	High Street
Saturday 11 th December	10am to 3.00pm	High Street

Wellington Town Council Events:

Date:	Event:	Location
2026		
Saturday 28 th November	Christmas Light Switch On	High Street
2027		
Saturday 27 th November	Christmas Light Switch on (TBC)	High Street



Title	Response to Boundary Commission Consultation
Meeting	Full Council
Date of meeting	5 January 2026
Action Required	Decision
Report Author and email address	townclerk@wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Council whether it wishes to amend the submission made to the Boundary Commission in August 2025 given that the consultation period has been extended.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Boundary Commission has been carrying out a consultation exercise on proposed new division boundaries for Somerset following the establishment of the unitary authority in 2022. The Council had submitted a response to the most recent consultation in August 2025
- 2.2 The Boundary Commission recently announced that it was recommencing the consultation due to issues with the initial consultation and at its meeting in December the Council asked to review the response to consider whether any addition was necessary.
- 2.3 The response submitted in August was as follows:

Wellington Town Council welcomes the proposal to create divisions for Wellington East and West which are coterminous with the town's current boundaries for those areas but has significant concerns regarding the proposal for aligning Tonedale and Rockwell Green, which currently sit within the town council's boundary, with 'nearby rural parishes'.

Having established that you want to 'avoid combining the urban area of Wellington with its surrounding rural parishes' as is the current situation, you then propose doing exactly that by combining the urban areas of Rockwell Green and Tonedale with different rural areas.

Rockwell Green and Tonedale have no affinity with the rural areas you suggest they should be joined with and vice versa and from an electoral point of view will most likely result in the electorate of either the rural or urban areas feeling that they are not being properly represented.

The Council's view remains that the boundary for the town council should form the boundaries for the two Wellington divisions and that the proposals do not meet two of the three statutory criteria namely 'the need to reflect community interests and identities' and 'provide for effective and convenient local government.'.

3 Links to Council Vision and Place Plan Vision

- An inclusive, safe and secure town where everybody is supportive of each other and offers particular care for the more vulnerable members of our community
- A town with a diverse, thriving, and resilient local economy
- A town with vibrant cultural, sporting, and social communities
- Proud and protective of our heritage, green spaces, and biodiversity
- Committed to becoming a net carbon neutral town
- A destination of choice for people to live and work and for businesses to be located.
- Connected with the Blackdown Hills National Landscape and surrounding communities

Wellington Place Plan

- Inclusive Access and Connected Communities
- Pride in Place: Culture, Heritage & Belonging
- A Healthy, Sustainable & Green Town
- Youth, Learning & Lifelong Support
- Housing, Inclusion & Community Safety
- Enterprise, Skills & Local Economies

4 Financial Implications None

5 Risks

5.1 That the current proposal from the Boundary Commission does not represent the best model for the town.

6 Considerations

The Council is asked to consider whether it wishes to add to the August submission to the Boundary Commission and if so what to would like to add

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Precept 2026-2027
Full Council 5 January 2026

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This paper contains information to inform the setting of the precept requirement for 2026-27. It is presented to Full Council held on 6 January 2026.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Town Council is a local precepting authority and may issue a Precept demand to the appropriate Billing Authority (Somerset Council)¹.
- 2.2. The precept demand must be made before 31 January for the financial year beginning the following 1 April.

3. Basis of Preparation

- 3.1. The Council's Precept requirement is the calculated aggregate of the expenditure estimated to be incurred (including contingencies), the income estimated to be received, financial reserves as required, and funds already held.²
- 3.2. To inform the above-mentioned calculations, the Council set a budget for 26-27 at its December meeting. A summary of the income and expenditure is contained in Appendix A.
- 3.3. As part of the Council's budget setting, the level of reserves was also considered with funds transferred into and out of earmarked reserves within the current financial year. Payments into reserves for 2026-27 were recommended by the Policy & Finance Committee as per the summary table in Appendix B. It was further recommended that the level of general reserve is set at £250,000. The reserve levels were approved by Full Council at the December meeting.

¹ Local Government Finance Act 1992 s39 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/14/section/39>)

² Local Government Finance Act 1992 s49A (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/14/section/49A>)

4. Year End Balances and Surplus

4.1. As part of the budget and precept setting process, the RFO has forecasted the income and expenditure to the end of the year to inform the possible level of surplus that the Council will hold.

4.2. The year end bank balances are calculated as follows

25-26 Bank Balances	
Opening	£810,167.47
(+) Receipts	£1,431,555.68
(-) Payments	£1,455,198.77
Closing	£786,524.38

4.3. Based upon the closing bank balance as set out in 4.2 above, the year end balance of reserves from item 3.3 and the general reserve amount, the Council's surplus can be calculated as follows

25-26 Surplus Calculation	
Closing Bank Balance	£786,524
(-) Earmarked Res Balance	£408,815
(-) General Res Amount	£250,000
Surplus	£127,709

4.4. The surplus amount is formed by underspent budget lines and transfers from earmarked reserves back into the general fund. This amount off sets the precept as it is money already collected and held by the Council.

5. Precept Calculation

- 5.1. As per the calculation set out in the legislation referred to in item 3.1 above, the 26-27 Precept amount is calculated using information from the previous tables as follows

26-27 Precept Calculation	
Expenditure Budget	£1,752,411
Payments into Reserves	£72,592
	£1,825,003
(-) Income Budget	£127,535
(-) Surplus Held	£127,709
	£255,244
Aggregate (Precept Figure)	£1,569,759

NB The Precept demand figure is always rounded up to the nearest whole number.

6. Tax Base and Band D Average Impact

- 6.1. The total precept is divided by the Tax base. The Tax Base is set each year by the Billing Authority for each of its parishes. It is the equivalent number of Band D properties in a parish or town after adjustments. Adjustments will usually include projections on new properties, any reductions that residents may be entitled to (e.g., disability or single occupancy), void properties and the collection rate. Somerset Council has not given data on how these adjustment calculations have been made.
- 6.2. For example, if a town had 100 band B properties, 100 band C properties and 100 band E properties, this would be 288.89 band D equivalent (assuming no other adjustments were made for the items listed above). This figure is calculated on the basis that each band of property pays a different percentage of the Band D Precept, the table below provides the breakdown of the example calculation.

Band	% of Band	No of Properties	Adjusted D Figure
A	66.67%	0	0
B	77.78%	100	77.78
C	88.89%	100	88.89
D	100.00%	0	0
E	122.22%	100	122.2
Total (Band D Equiv.)			288.89

- 6.3. The figure for Wellington for 26/27 is **5,957** thus, giving a Band D Precept figure for 26/27 of **£263.52**.
- 6.4. As mentioned in the example given in item 6.2 above, each band of property pays a different percentage of the Band D Precept, with bands A to C paying less and E to H paying more. 73% of properties in Wellington sit within bands A to C. The table below provides a breakdown of the amount each band will pay per year and the number of properties within each band.

Band	% of Band D	Precept £	No of properties	% of total properties
A	66.66%	175.67	1157	14.3%
B	77.77%	204.95	2929	36.2%
C	88.88%	234.23	1818	22.5%
D	100.00%	263.51	1004	12.4%
E	122.22%	322.07	945	11.7%
F	144.44%	380.63	188	2.3%
G	166.66%	439.18	36	0.4%
H	217.07%	572.02	8	0.1%

- 6.5. Setting the Band D Precept at £263.52 will result in an increase of 24.37% (£51.64) from the 25/26 figure. The table below shows the yearly and weekly increase amounts for each band of property.

Band	Yearly Increase (£)	Weekly Increase (£)
A	34.43	0.66
B	40.17	0.77
C	45.91	0.88
D	51.64	0.99
E	63.12	1.21
F	74.60	1.43
G	86.07	1.66
H	103.29	1.99

7. Resolutions Required

- 7.1. The Council must make resolution to set the Precept figure for 26/27. Based on previous resolutions setting the budget and the information provided in this report, the Precept should be set at £1,569,759 (£263.52 Band D equivalent).

Appendix A – Budget Summary

Cost Centre	Income 26/27	Expenditure 26/27
Administration	£0.00	£348,052.00
Affiliation Fees	£0.00	£3,380.00
Allotments	£6,230.00	£5,500.00
ARF	£29,800.00	£40,500.00
Christmas	£1,000.00	£41,750.00
CIL	£0.00	£0.00
Community Services	£31,255.00	£257,262.00
Cost of Democracy	£0.00	£18,020.09
Economic Development	£0.00	£59,250.00
Environment	£0.00	£10,860.00
Events	£200.00	£27,630.00
Fore Street	£250.00	£210,143.00
Grants	£0.00	£64,045.00
Income	£26,000.00	£0.00
IT Website Int.	£0.00	£26,060.00
Kings Arms	£15,500.00	£91,036.00
OS Depot	£0.00	£25,400.00
OS Overheads	£0.00	£413,523.00
OS Projects	£0.00	£33,500.00
Pitches & Pavilions	£6,000.00	£18,750.00
Pop Up	£3,800.00	£10,250.00
Public Toilets	£0.00	£40,000.00
Together in Tone	£7,500.00	£7,500.00
Total	£127,535.00	£1,752,411.09

Appendix B – Reserves Summary

Earmarked Reserves	25/26	Anticipated	2026/27	
Name	Opening Bal	YE Bal	Payment	Balance
Elections	£6,500.00	£500.00	£17,500.00	£18,000.00
CIL	£17,084.78	£16,434.67	£0.00	£16,434.67
Railway Station	£30,000.00	£30,000.00	£0.00	£30,000.00
Capital Projects	£45,000.00	£39,908.25	£13,091.75	£50,000.00
Playing Pitch Strategy	£9,000.00	£9,000.00	£0.00	£9,000.00
Cades Farm Com. Hall	£6,900.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Youth Services	£50,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Cost of Living Fund	£20,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Green Grants	£7,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Committed CIL	£67,200.00	£50,000.00	£0.00	£50,000.00
Vehicle Replacement	£18,500.00	£18,500.00	£12,000.00	£30,500.00
Kings Arms CIL	£74,158.62	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Longforth CIL	£62,300.00	£57,300.00	£0.00	£0.00
Play Areas	£20,500.00	£20,500.00	£10,000.00	£30,500.00
Bridges	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	£40,000.00
Basins Allotments CIL	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Longforth Road Toilets	£0.00	£149,672.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total	£454,143.40	£408,814.92	£72,591.75	£274,434.67