

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

BUDGET PLANNING

The intention of this information sheet is to assist Members through the budget setting process. If there are areas of information or training you require in future editions, please contact Cherie at cherie.carruthers@abingdon.gov.uk

Funding the Council's Services

The focus of this information sheet is the income streams the Council currently has. The Council has the ability to affect the level of income it receives from some income streams, but not others, and this is explained below.

	£	Share of income	
Precept (council tax)	1,755,659	85.4%	Calculated as the difference between the cost of services and the income from the other streams. Impact of changes on residents depends on number of dwellings liable for council tax each year (council tax base).
Property & land rental	120,048	5.8%	The majority of this income arises from leases, rental and licence agreements. These are agreed for a set number of years and then can be reviewed (increased).
Cemetery services	63,018	3.0%	
Market tolls	26,653	1.3%	
Town events	1,500	0.1%	
Fairs	21,659	1.1%	
Museum service	16,245	0.8%	
Guildhall	17,714	0.9%	
Open Spaces	9,100	0.4%	
Grants	8,500	0.4%	
Bank & investments	3,500	0.2%	
CIL contributions	5,040	0.2%	
Vehicle purchasing	5,000	0.2%	
Allotments	1,717	0.1%	
Fishing	1,500	0.1%	
Certifications	105	0.005%	
Total	2,056,958		

below give an overview of the timescale. Please contact Cherie at any time during this process if you need any information (background figures etc.) to support any bids:

September /October 2022	Members to discuss and submit any budget bids to the Chair of relevant spending committee. FO to meet with officers who hold a budget.
October 2022	Chairs to meet with Leader of Council and RFO to discuss
November 2022	Draft budgets based on existing services and any budget bids submitted by the Chairs will be presented to each spending committee
Wed 7 Dec 2022	Draft Full Council budget, based on recommendations from the other spending committees shall be presented.
Tues 17 January 2023	FGAM meeting, agree budget recommendation to Council
Wed 26 January 2023	Council meeting at which budget must be resolved
Wed 25 January 2023	RFO to submit precept demand to VOWH DC

Precept

The precept is the funding of the total value of the net budget which the Council resolve. Town and Parish Councils make a Precept Demand to the district council who collect the precept on behalf of them. The Town Council receives the precept in two half-yearly installments and this payment is not affected by any non-payment of council tax by residents.

The District Council must accept the precept demand and then collect the appropriate amount from the residents of the parish as part of the Council tax it charges.

Band D council tax

The number of properties which are liable to pay council tax within a parish is called the Council Tax base. Dividing the precept by this tax base gives the annual band D council tax charge (in relation to town council only). Eligible properties are rated in the bands A – H. Band D is used each year to compare against historical charges and against other parishes.

Why do we refer to band D?

When setting budgets, a Council could compare the precept (Net budget requirement) to previous years. This would give an indication of whether the Council is spending more or less than before. However, this comparison would not demonstrate the impact of any changes in the precept on residents. Comparing band D council rates takes into the account the number of eligible properties (which changes every year) and provides a measure of the impact any changes would have on the “average” household within the parish.

Historical data

Budget year	Precept	Council tax base	Band D rate	Band D change from previous yr.
2017-18	£1,475,771	12023.2	£122.74	6.5% rise
2018-19	£1,533,499	12138.9	£126.33	2.9% rise
2019-20	£1,549,607	12270.5	£126.29	No change ¹
2020-21	£1,633,160	12311.8	£132.65	5% rise
2021-22	£1,737,703	12359.2	£140.60	6% rise

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL monies)

This is collected by the District Council on all eligible housing developments. The Town Council then receive 15%.

Received to date: £266,951 this is currently in reserves 370, 371, 372 & 374

More is due for 2022-23. It is worth noting that the 2017-18 CIL pot must be spent this year or returned.

Already committed: £15,000 Friends of Abingdon, Abbey Buildings Trust (29th Jan 2020 Council Meeting (in addition to £10,000 awarded from JET Fund)

The Adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan would result in a higher percentage of CIL received.

Future new spending plans

Future spending plans are being reviewed to determine whether there is already an allocated budget or money ringfenced for them. If not then the council must be prudent and ensure a budget is set aside.

Existing reserves

The following list provides the balances as of September 2022. *Expected levels of spending against these reserves will be reported in the next information sheet.*

321	RAF GRAVE MTCE RSV	1,005.00
322	VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT REPL FUND	90,928.00
323	J E F RESERVE	764.00
325	JET PROJECTS	29,139.44
326	County Hall Improvement Fund	1,827.25
327	ELECTIONS RESERVE	7,571.00
328	ATC Environmental Projects	10,000.00
330	EMR Abingdon in Bloom	7,000.00
331	EMR Allotments	7,153.62
334	EMR Civic Treasures	24,784.00
335	EMR Community Fund	26,000.00
337	EMR Computers/Equipment	43,555.00
338	EMR Earmarked Grants	2,500.00
339	EMR Fisheries	2,000.00
340	EMR Flood Alleviation	6,191.00
341	EMR Footpaths	11,897.00
343	EMR Museum Acquisitions	6,000.00
344	EMR New Cemetery Fund	924,069.00
345	EMR Play Equipment	79,359.72
346	EMR Property Reserves	153,375.94
347	EMR Recreation Small Projects	13,608.00
348	EMR Street Furniture	24,162.36
349	EMR Website	3,619.00

350	EMR Community Led Plan	68,783.70
351	EMR Media	3,060.00
352	EMR Cemetery Improvements	30,368.00
353	EMR Arboriculture	71,462.92
356	EMR Xmas Lights	15,765.00
357	EMR Bob Frampton Prize Fund	550.95
358	GH Maintenance improvement fund	266,965.00
359	EMR Conservation Area Appraisal	5,000.00
362	EMR Youth Strategy	5,000.00
363	EMR Active travel	15,000.00
370	EMR CIL 2017-18	1,854.00
371	EMR CIL 2018-19	4,133.70
372	EMR CIL 2019-20	51,503.42
373	EMR CIL 2020-21	111,074.35
374	EMR CIL 2021-22	98,385.74
385	Capital Financing Reserve	1,963,766.24
Total		4,189,182.3