

LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE PLANNED FOR 2026/2027

Comparison of expenditure by Committee of the 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 financial years:

	<u>Original Approved 2025/2026 Budget</u>	<u>2026/2027 Budget</u>
Administration (inc. operations & projects)	£294,040	£318,032
Communications & Engagement Committee	£105,805	£147,193
Facilities Committee	£423,527	£560,517
5 Year Capital Programme	-	£130,000
Total Expenditure	£823,372	£1,155,742
Projected Income (rents and charges)	-£117,650	-£132,450
Expected Grants & Transfer Fees	-£0	-£33,000
Use of Reserves*	-£6,950	-£0
Precept (Town Council part of the Council Tax)	-£698,772	-£990,292
Total Income	-£823,372	-£1,155,742

Employees at 01/04/2025 3 F/T 12 P/T (FTE equivalent 9.8)

Expected Employees at 01/04/2026 3 F/T 14 P/T (FTE equivalent 11.5)

*Reserves Total £561,631 (at 31/12/25) of which £241,489 is nominated to carry out specific activities.

Liskeard Town Council has agreed its budget for 2026/27, setting out clear plans to protect local services, invest in community facilities and take on more local decision-making, all while remaining one of the more affordable towns in Cornwall to live in.

The increase in the town council's share of council tax will help safeguard services that matter to residents, such as parks, public toilets, CCTV, weed control and community spaces, many of which the Town Council has taken on to prevent them being lost.

For most households in Liskeard (Band B), the increase will be £1.15 per week. Even with this change, Liskeard Town Council's spending remains below the Cornwall average for town councils. (Total council tax charge £268.06 pa for a band D property, an increase of £77.03 pa.)

The budget also supports a new five-year investment programme, with planned improvements to Castle Park, the replacement of the skatepark at Rapson's, and further refurbishment of the Public Hall to boost community use and the town centre.

Liskeard Town Council is also preparing to take on more local facilities from Cornwall Council, bringing decisions closer to home and ensuring services are managed by people who know the town best.

All 15 councillors are unpaid volunteers, and residents are encouraged to attend council meetings and have their say on the town's future. This budget is about stepping up for Liskeard – protecting what we value, investing for the future, and keeping Liskeard a great and affordable place to live.

Liskeard Town Council – Buildings and Services

The Town Council operates a range of historic buildings and provides 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 with updated lighting and sound systems for performances); 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. Increased 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 2025 the Town Council considered and provided input on 55 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 2026/2027

The Town Council has recently brought together public, private and community representatives to establish Liskeard Renewal Partnership. Its main aim is to turn the ideas from the Town Vision, developed in 2025, into practical action, including obtaining funding for projects to benefit the town. The Town Council will provide some staff support and funding to back this up with specialist skills and experience. In other towns, including Saltash and Torpoint, a similar approach has paid for the initial investment many times over.

The Town Council is working on projects to improve Castle Park, replace the existing skatepark at Rapson's, and the development of new sports pitches at Roundbury using initial funding from contributions from new housing developments.

Further refurbishment is planned in the Public Hall, including new sound and lighting systems in the main hall for concerts, performances, and other entertainment. Look out for the programme of events.

The Town Council will employ a new part-time Events & Communications officer to develop the current programme of community events, working with other organisations in the town to ensure the continuation of popular events such as Lights Up and increase the number of large community events in the calendar.

In 2021/22 the Active Travel project commissioned a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Liskeard. Funding has now been secured for improvements to route 1 connecting the railway station with the town centre and on to the Addington roundabouts, and a small section of Charter Way. Public consultation on the designs will take place in 2026. The Council continues to work with the transport team at Cornwall Council to seek further funding for extensive improvements to Charter Way to include a segregated foot and cycleway and is seeking smaller measures in New Road to reduce traffic speeds and improve pedestrian safety.

During 2026, the Town Council will be working with Cornwall Council to develop the devolution package which will result in a phased handover of facilities including some carparks, parks and open spaces and sundry items, giving local control and management of how these are maintained and developed for the community.