

Budget and Precept for 2025/26

The nitty gritty – how much is it costing you?

Your Town Council has approved its operational budget for next financial year 2025/26 commencing 1st April 2025. The precept has risen from £210,711 in 2024/25 to £277,913 in 2025/26 which represents a 31.89% increase.

In your pocket, it means an additional £21.70 per year (or 42 pence per week) for a Band D rated household which is an increase at 23.61% and your contribution to the Town Council will be £113.61 from your total council tax bill.

That's a hike – what are you getting for your money?

Chiefly, the above increase will provide a £75,000 budget for community projects which has been earmarked towards:

- A pump track or padel court.
- Introduction of street lighting at the mouth of Ropewalk at the entrance off Ilbert Road, enhanced street lighting for the footway which links the Cattle Market Car Park and Quay Car Park and replacement aesthetic bollard lighting in Duncombe Street at the junction with Fore Street.
- A spruce up/refit of the Memorial Shelter in Embankment Road.

It also means:

- The Town Council's core services from Quay House, Cemetery, St Edmunds Churchyard and Treblepark Allotments will be protected.
- Grants for community groups will be available.
- Sponsorship for Fair Week's fireworks, fun run, waste collection, town criers' competition and Glove Hanging/Floral Dance is sustained.
- Sponsorship for the Remembrance Sunday commemorative event.
- Repainting of the currently shabby Embankment festoon lighting posts, an enhanced Christmas Lights display and maintenance of street furniture and parks' play equipment.
- A sinking fund for Open Space, Sport & Recreation projects is enhanced.
- Grass verges are cut across the town 7 times during the financial year alongside weed maintenance, vegetation clearances and pothole repairs.
- Two new public seats will be installed in Highfield Drive and a new public seat in Redford Way following residents' requests.
- Miscellaneous business including bunting, town marketing, CCTV monitoring, Town Bus subsidy, flood resilience/gully cleaning and Bandstand upkeep.

Has the town council spent up in 2024/25 – or are there funds remaining?

Yes, unspent funds will be carried forward as earmarked reserves for unfinished business from 2024/25 for the introduction of CCTV cameras in Fore Street, additional CCTV in the Recreation Ground and a contribution towards proposed floodlighting at the Skatepark.

The full income and expenditure budget for financial year 2025/26 is available at: www.kingsbridge.gov.uk