



Wincanton
Town Council



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Wincanton Town Council Budget and Precept Setting **01st April 2024 – 31st March 2025**

INTRODUCTION

The preparation of an annual budget is one of the key tasks undertaken by the Council. The budget is an essential tool for controlling the council's finances and demonstrates that the Council will have sufficient income to meet its objectives and carry out its services. It results in the Council setting the precept for the year.

PRECEPT

The precept is the local council tax requirement for a parish and forms part of the total council tax charges in the local council area. Local councils do not receive any direct funding from central government and therefore are reliant on the local precept and any other income they generate from the services or facilities that they provide.

You may also be aware that soaring costs and demands on services have forced Somerset Council to declare a financial emergency. One of the ways they will look to save money is by reducing or stopping discretionary services.

BUDGET

Wincanton Town Council have set a total budget of £479,805 for the 2024/2025 financial year. This includes £20,000 for devolved services in the event that additional responsibilities are faced in light of the ongoing financial difficulties of Somerset Council.

This has resulted in an increase in the Band D equivalent (the average householder) of £12.67 for the year, an additional monthly cost of just over £1.05. Without the additional £20,000 contingency for the Somerset Council services the annual increase would have been £3.82.

A further breakdown of budgets with year-to-date income and expenditure can be found on the monthly reports which accompany the Full Town Council meeting agendas. These can be found on our website www.wincantontowncouncil.gov.uk

Please don't forget to check your eligibility for the various Somerset Council Rate relief schemes, you may be entitled to save up to 100% off your annual council tax rates.

Visit <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/council-tax/council-tax-discounts-and-exemptions/>

and <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/benefits-and-payments/council-tax-reduction/>

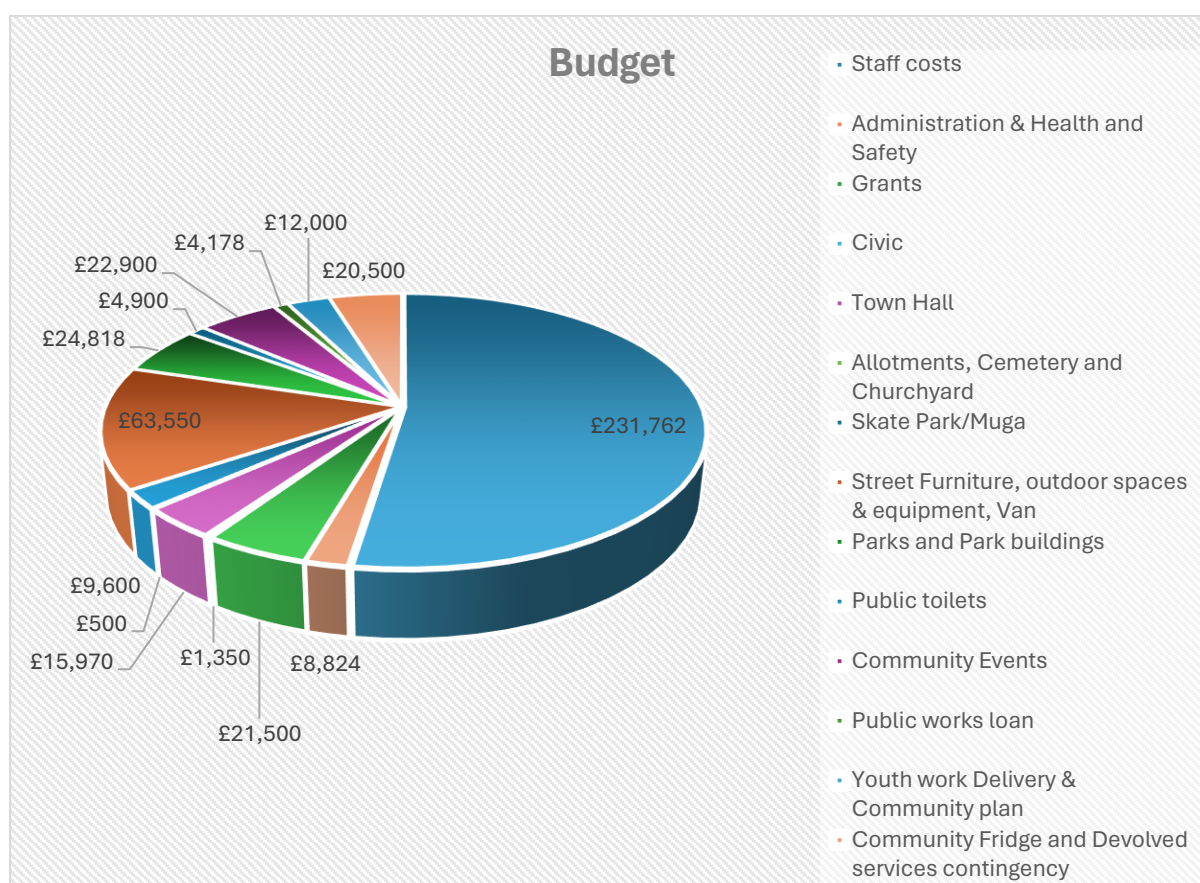
Or telephone Somerset Council on **0300 123 2224**.

A summary of the 2024/25 Wincanton Town Council budget can be found below with a full breakdown of variances in **Appendix 1**.

2024/2025 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

The figures below show the breakdown of expenditure, after income has been accounted for, Which equates to the precept requested.

Service	Budget
Staff costs	£231,762
Administration & Health and Safety	£8,824
Grants	£21,500
Civic	£1,350
Town Hall	£15,970
Allotments, Cemetery and Churchyard	£500
Skate Park/Muga	£9,600
Street Furniture, outdoor spaces & equipment, Van	£63,550
Parks and Park buildings	£24,818
Public toilets	£4,900
Community Events	£22,900
Public works loan	£4,178
Youth work Delivery & Community plan	£12,000
Community Fridge and Devolved services contingency	£20,500
TOTAL AS PER PRECEPT REQUEST	£442,352



Tracy Lamb, Deputy Town Clerk/RFO
14th February 2024

APPENDIX 1

Budget	2023/2024	2024/2025		Explanation for variances of more than 15%
Staff Costs				
Payroll costs	196285	226362	15.3%	Annual pay awards and Town Clerk moving to Full Time
Pension Deficit	2780	2800	0.7%	
Locum Staff	5000	0	-100.0%	There are no anticipated locum requirements for the coming year
Expenses	200	200	0.0%	
Training	1000	1200	20.0%	To provide training for a new member of the team
Staff Uniforms & PPE	600	800	33.3%	A small rise in monetary terms of £200 due to increased costs
Recruitment costs	500	400	-20.0%	The Council is now fully staffed
Overhead Expenditure	206365	231762	12.3%	
Administration				
Cll Money	0	20521	100.0%	Following the erection of new dwellings
Precept	406294	442352	8.9%	
Total Income	406294	462873	13.9%	
Accounting Software	2345	3000	27.9%	Following the purchase of an allotments IT package
Audit Fees	2600	2300	-11.5%	
Cemetery Software	300	260	-13.3%	
Assets Review	0	10000	100.0%	The councils assets need to be revalued to ensure insurance arrangements are up to date
Election costs	500	500	0.0%	
Email addresses & website	500	500	0.0%	
Other Admin Costs	100	200	100.0%	A small rise in monetary terms of £100 to cover small admin costs
Postage	100	50	-50.0%	A reduction as the majority of correspondence is now dealt with digitally
Photocopier lease	240	325	35.4%	Due to increased charges

Replacement IT equipment	500	500	0.0%	
IT Services	0	2000	100.0%	For the costs of Microsoft 365 cloud for efficient working
Stationery & Office Equipment	2000	1000	-50.0%	A reduction as the majority of correspondence is now dealt with digitally
Subscriptions/Memberships	2000	2000	0.0%	
Licences	75	0	-100.0%	This is now covered under open spaces below
Telephone & Broadband	840	960	14.3%	
Waste disposal/recycling	200	200	0.0%	
Bank charges	150	200	33.3%	Due to increased costs
Insurance	6000	5000	-16.7%	
Health & Safety	0	200	100.0%	For first aid items
Overhead Expenditure	18450	29195	58.2%	
Health & Safety				
PAT testing	0	150	100.0%	For electrical testing for safety purposes
Overhead Expenditure	0	150	100.0%	
Grants				
Grants Made	25000	20000	-20.0%	It was felt that the previous grants budget was too high and hadn't been fully used
Donations	1000	1000	0.0%	
Wincanton/Dist garden grant	500	500	0.0%	
Overhead Expenditure	26500	21500	-18.9%	
Civic				
Councillor training	100	100	0.0%	
Mayors Events/Expenses	500	500	0.0%	
Councillors expenses	1500	750	-50.0%	Councillors are not claiming expenses and were happy to reduce the budget
Overhead Expenditure	2100	1350	-35.7%	
Town Hall Maint/Costs				

Alarm testing and maintenance	600	600	0.0%	
CCTV maintenance	200	200	0.0%	
Cleaner	3000	3000	0.0%	
Cleaning Supplies	100	500	400.0%	For cleaning supplies and equipment
Clock Electricity	1500	1000	-33.3%	Utility costs haven't escalated as much as anticipated
Clock Maintenance	500	500	0.0%	
Decorating	1000	0	-100.0%	
Electricity	3000	2500	-16.7%	Utility costs haven't escalated as much as anticipated
Fire extinguisher inspect&main	300	300	0.0%	
Gas	2000	2000	0.0%	
Lift maintenance and repairs	150	150	0.0%	
Other costs	250	250	0.0%	
Water	500	850	70.0%	Due to the rise in water costs
Repairs & maintenance	500	500	0.0%	
Window Cleaning	150	120	-20.0%	Reduced in line with current costs
Rates	4000	3500	-12.5%	
Overhead Expenditure	17750	15970	-10.0%	
Allotments				
Allotment rent	1120	2300	105.4%	Previous budgets have been too low and rents are changing in 2024
Total Income	1120	2300	105.4%	
Water	600	700	16.7%	Higher usage
Fences, gates, etc	200	600	200.0%	
Grounds maintenance	500	200	-60.0%	
Allotment Rent	400	400	0.0%	
Overhead Expenditure	1700	1950	14.7%	
Cemetery				

Burial Fees	5500	5500	0.0%	
Memorial Fees	1600	700	-56.3%	Income has been less than previously budgeted for
Total Income	7100	6200	-12.7%	
Electricity	600	0	-100.0%	This is covered under other electricity costs
Repairs & maintenance	200	400	100.0%	
Rates	2000	1750	-12.5%	
Fences, benches and bins	500	500	0.0%	
Other Cemetery costs/repairs	100	100	0.0%	
Memorial testing	2000	0	-100.0%	Testing has been paid for and therefore no costs are required for the coming year
Top soil for backfilling	200	300	50.0%	
Overhead Expenditure	5600	3050	-45.5%	
Churchyard				
Churchyard maintenance	0	1000	100.0%	
War Memorial	0	3000	100.0%	
Overhead Expenditure	0	4000	100.0%	
Skate Park & MUGA				
Electricity (flood lighting)	3000	3000	0.0%	
Other costs	100	100	0.0%	
Surfacing Maintenance	1000	500	-50.0%	
Muga (FOR EMR)	3000	6000	100.0%	
Overhead Expenditure	7100	9600	35.2%	
General Street Furniture				
New benches and repairs	1000	500	-50.0%	
Bins including grit bins	1000	500	-50.0%	
Signage	200	200	0.0%	

Overhead Expenditure	2200	1200	-45.5%	
Outdoor spaces & equipment				
Sale of Scrap or equipment	80	50	-37.5%	Sales have reduced
Total Income	80	50	-37.5%	
Defibrillator	0	2000	100.0%	To provide replacement pads or parts
Equip/Furniture/Small tools	1000	1000	0.0%	
Wrixons View	200	0	-100.0%	
Play inspections	500	500	0.0%	
Grounds maintenance	500	200	-60.0%	
New/replacement tools	500	500	0.0%	
Tree works & inspections	4000	6000	50.0%	
Machinery maint & servicing	1500	1000	-33.3%	
Supplies - bags, cleaners etc	2500	1000	-60.0%	
CarPark Compensation (FOR EMR)	24500	24500	0.0%	
Equipment Servicing	2500	2000	-20.0%	
Fuel	4500	5000	11.1%	
Radios/communications	0	100	100.0%	For radio licences for events
Mower insurance	0	750	100.0%	Following the purchase of the mower
Vibration & noise testing	750	750	0.0%	
New and replacement equipment	1000	1000	0.0%	
Highways improvement scheme	0	4000	100.0%	
Play Equipment (FOR EMR)	5000	5000	0.0%	
Overhead Expenditure	48950	55300	13.0%	
Van				
Insurance	700	750	7.1%	

Other costs	50	50	0.0%	
Fuel	2000	0	-100.0%	This is now covered under outdoor spaces above
Road tax	300	300	0.0%	
Servicing, MOT & repairs	1000	1000	0.0%	
Van lease	0	5000	100.0%	Provision for a replacement van due to the age and condition of the current vehicle
Overhead Expenditure	4050	7100	75.3%	
Penn View - Recreation				
Other costs	100	100	0.0%	
Benches and bins	250	250	0.0%	
Fences, gates & bridges	250	500	100.0%	
Play equipment maintenance	2000	3000	50.0%	
Surfacing	2500	2000	-20.0%	
Overhead Expenditure	5100	5850	14.7%	
Cale Park - Recreation				
Rent - Cricket Club	25	50	100.0%	Cricket square and fees
Total Income	25	50	100.0%	
CCTV	0	5000	100.0%	
Water	650	100	-84.6%	Usage has reduced
Other costs	100	200	100.0%	A small rise in monetary terms of £100 to cover small costs
Grounds maintenance	0	1500	100.0%	
Benches and bins	1000	2000	100.0%	
Fences, gates & bridges	2000	2000	0.0%	
Play equip. & shelter maint.	2000	6000	200.0%	
Surfacing	0	1000	100.0%	
Car park surfacing repairs	20000	0	-100.0%	
Overhead Expenditure	25750	17800	-30.9%	

Cale Park Buildings				
Rent - Cale Park Building	8332	8332	0.0%	
Total Income	8332	8332	0.0%	
Alarm testing and maintenance	0	650	100.0%	Costs not previously budgeted for
Electricity	0	1000	100.0%	This was previously accounted for by other general electricity budgets
Other costs	50	100	100.0%	A minimal increase in monetary terms of £50
Building Maintenance - café	1000	1000	0.0%	
Health & Safety	500	600	20.0%	To cover increased costs
Septic Tank - café	400	200	-50.0%	
Works garage	2958	6000	102.8%	
Overhead Expenditure	4908	9550	94.6%	
Cale Park - Toilets				
Repairs & maintenance	500	500	0.0%	
Other costs	100	100	0.0%	
Overhead Expenditure	600	600	0.0%	
Churchfields - Toilets				
Electricity	500	1000	100.0%	Increased costs and usage
Water	200	200	0.0%	
Repairs & maintenance	250	3000	1100.0%	
Other costs	100	100	0.0%	
Overhead Expenditure	1050	4300	309.5%	
Community Events				
Other costs	100	100	0.0%	
Annual Awards	0	200	100.0%	No previous budget for the awards

Events	10000	10000	0.0%	
Flags	500	100	-80.0%	
Over 70's lunch	2500	2500	0.0%	
CAT Bus	2500	5000	100.0%	To provide additional support
Christmas Tree, Lights&Decs	5000	5000	0.0%	
Overhead Expenditure	20600	22900	11.2%	
Public Works Loan				
Public Works loan capital	2500	2400	-4.0%	
Public Works Loan Interest	1678	1778	6.0%	
Overhead Expenditure	4178	4178	0.0%	
Youth				
Young people project (events)	1500	0	-100.0%	Replaced by the LCN Youth delivery budget
Young Somerset people	1500	0	-100.0%	
LCN Youth Work Delivery	5000	10000	100.0%	
Overhead Expenditure	8000	10000	25.0%	
Projects				
Market	2000	0	-100.0%	
Neighbourhood Plan (FOR EMR)	5000	0	-100.0%	
Community Plan	0	2000	100.0%	
Wincanton-Future-Town Init.	4000	0	-100.0%	
Overhead Expenditure	11000	2000	-81.8%	
Community				
Community Fridge	1000	500	-50.0%	Fridges are new, therefore less budget is required.

Devolved services	0	20000	100.0%	A contingency due to Somerset Council declaring a financial emergency
Overhead Expenditure	1000	20500	1950.0%	
Total Budget Income	422951	479805	13.4%	
Expenditure	422951	479805	13.4%	