

# LONG STRATTON BUDGET

It is quite challenging at times to understand exactly what your money is being spent on and why everything is going up. The Town Council have asked me to create this leaflet so that I can convey to you all where your money is going.

The Local Government Finance Act 1992, section 41 (1) specifies that the Town Council must issue a precept to the billing authority which is South Norfolk District Council, the precept is the amount of council tax required by the Town to cover its budgeted expenditure. Section 50 outlines that the precept must be set based on a calculated budget taking into account anticipated income and expenditure, reserves and any contingency for the upcoming financial year and the responsibility for this lies with the Town Council.

During November and December, members of the Finance committee met several times to discuss the budget for 2025/26. This was calculated by using the 2024/25 income and expenditure to date, adding on the known income and expenditure for the next 6 months and then filtering in known rises for 2025/26, a very challenging process 6 months before the new financial year as the cost of living changes regularly and this can impact the Council's budget the same as it affects every household within Long Stratton.

Over the next pages I will share with you the budget for 2024/25 and how this compares to 2025/26 and what this means to you.

Becky Buck, Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

## **MEET YOUR COUNCIL**

**Chairman**  
**Councillor**  
**Kelly Lunness**

**Vice-Chairman**  
**Councillor**  
**Mat Pochin**

**Councillor**  
**Andrew Lansdell**

**Councillor**  
**David Willis**

**Councillor**  
**Katrina Thompson**

**Councillor**  
**Helen Dickerson**

**Councillor**  
**Judith Baker**

**Councillor**  
**Louise Mundford**

**Councillor**  
**Robin Ciorra**

**Councillor**  
**Susan Smith**

**Councillor**  
**Justin Harris**

**Councillor**  
**Florence Morimont**

**Councillor**  
**Fiona Lawrence**



## **Long Stratton Town Council**

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January 2025

# 2024/25 Budget

Budget Headlines, expenditure		Budget Headlines, income	
Administration	£33,126.04	Administration	£1,754
Resource	£161,840.64	Events	£1,500
Streetlights	£10,886.65	S137 & Grants	£9,900
Environment	£30,756.40	Playing Field	£744.78
Events	£3,000	Pavilion	£12,383
Assets	£10,950	General Reserves	£12,000
Churchyards	£1,392.50	Precept	£229,988
S137 & Grants	£2,500	Ear Marked Reserves	£9,900
Playing Field	£7,924.95	Total	£278,169.78
Pavilion	£15,792.60	<b>Increase of £1.05 a month per Band D property</b>	
Total	£278,169.78		

## Explanations

General Reserves are a requirement in law for the Council to have a minimum of 3 months worth of operational budget in the case of emergency, if at the end of the financial year you have more than 3 months worth, General Reserves can be used to bolster the budget to avoid having the precept increased. Ear Marked Reserves is ring fenced money to be used for a specific purpose, in 2024/25 this was for the maintenance of Swan Lane toilets which to date has cost the Council £21,454.09, unfortunately there is no longer money for this purpose and therefore the entire cost will need to be met out of precept for 2025/26. An example of some of the rising costs that the Council have faced with utilities is the electricity for street lights, based on the expenditure of 2023/24 the Council budgeted £2,987 for 2024/25 however to date streetlight electricity has cost £4,561.04 nearly £1600 more. With additional payments to be made. Positives for 2024/25 is that the income derived from the Pavilion is more than expected at £14,043.36.

# 2025/26 Budget

2 major expenditure requirements that the Council had to account for in 2025/26 budget was the loss of the ear marked reserves for Swan Lane Toilet maintenance £9,900 and the provision of youth work. In 2024/25 the Council were successful in a grant for a youth worker and associated costs £31,245 which ended 31 December 2024. Part of the grant fund was a commitment to providing youth facilities throughout 2025/26. The Council felt it was important to continue engaging with the young people as we have seen a massive reduction in vandalism and ASB which was costing the Council several thousand pounds a year. In 2024/25 the cost of vandalism to the Council is £112. Another challenge the Council considered was how do we provide essential services in preparation for a growing Town without the housing to contribute to the precept. There is no straightforward answer , what was concluded was that the Council need to generate as much income as possible to reduce the possibility of a large precept rise for 2026/27. For 2025/26 some of the expected costs are known such as streetlight maintenance which is contracted others, such as utilities like we have to balanced in what we think could happen.

<b>Budget Headlines, expenditure</b>		<b>Budget Headlines, income</b>	
Administration	£68,260.10	Administration	£2,754
Resource	£157,673.38	Resource	£200
Streetlights	£9,891.80	Events	£1,500
Environment	£30,622.66	Playing Field	£749.12
Events	£4,000	Pavilion	£17,788
Assets	£10,750	General Reserves	£12,500
Churchyards	£1,396	Precept	£266,074.22
S137 & Grants	£500	Ear Marked Reserves	£2,929.80
Playing Field	£7,375.60	Total	£304,695.14
Pavilion	£14,185.60		
Total	£304,695.14		

# What does this mean for you?

In order to determine how the budget impacts your personal finances, I would like to share with you how the precept requirement is split between Long Stratton residents.

South Norfolk District Council make the calculation on what is known as the Tax Base. The Tax Base is the amount of households that pay council tax and they average what a Band D council tax payer would be. Therefore if you are on either side of Band D then the amount of precept you pay would either decrease or increase slightly. The tax base changes annually based on any housing that has taken place or if people's circumstances change for example.

In 2024/25 Long Stratton tax base was 1420 properties meaning that the precept was split between 1420 houses on a sliding scale but averaged out on a Band D property.

The precept for 2024/25 therefore was £161.96 per property.

In 2025/26 the tax base decreased to 1415 which means that the precept of £266,074 will be split between 1415 properties totalling £188.03 per annum.

This is an increase of £26.07 per Band D household which equates to £2.17 per month.

The budget is a complex financial picture and as much as I would like to share all the details of each budget headline it isn't something I can do within this leaflet however, if you would like to know more about what the Council does for you or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me in the office and I will happily assist you further. You can also attend the next Council meeting which will be held on 14th April 2025 in the community room at the pavilion at 7pm to gain understanding of how we represent your community.

Many thanks for reading, Becky Buck Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for Long Stratton Town Council.