



MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

2025/2026

2026/2027

2027/2028

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY

Connah's Quay Town Council

on

4 FEBRUARY 2026

Amended & Agreed 3 JUNE 2026

CONNAH'S QUAY TOWN COUNCIL'S MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

1. PURPOSE

The Medium-Term Financial Plan assists the Council's financial planning over a number of years to address local challenges, deliver the Council's strategic aims and meet community priorities.

The Plan has been prepared based on four key principles:

1. Maintaining existing services and ensuring a balanced budget
2. Safeguarding a prudent level of balances and reserves
3. Ensuring any one-off purchases above a certain amount are spread over a number of years
4. Keeping any future increases in council tax as low as possible.

The plan will assist Town Councillors to understand the processes the Clerk and Financial Officer and Chair of Finance & General Purposes go through in preparing the budget.

2. THE BUDGET PROCESS

Setting a strong budget requires a focus on the previous years' financial results, likely challenges and on the current situation.

The next years' budget is always set whilst the current budget has several months to run. Budget precept for the next financial year is approved in January. Due to this any projection of likely outcomes is at best an estimate, an indicator of what may happen but not yet a fact to be relied on.

3. LONG TERM PROJECTS

The Council may embark on long term projects either because the cost in any one year would be too great for the budget or because the work could not be completed in one year. For such items a plan will be required and the annual amount included in the budget for each of the years in the plan. The amount for any year may be adjusted if financial pressures dictate.

4. RESERVES

The Town Council has a Reserves Policy.

As per the Reserves Policy, the general and earmarked reserves will be reviewed at least annually and will always be part of the budget setting process.

The Reserves fall into two categories: General and Earmarked.

General Reserves - A level of general reserves will be maintained at a minimum of 20% expenditure.

Earmarked Reserves – These are established to 'save up' for a significant expenditure, such as play equipment, civic hall kitchen, venue improvements, CCTV etc.

These costs tend to be predictions which must be reviewed regularly and changes made as necessary. It is possible that the replacement cost of an item due to cost of living, interest rates etc may be found to be inadequate and would need increasing when reviewed.

The reserves for 2024/25 were £61,031 which is below the recommended level of 25%.

A satisfactory level of general reserves will be aimed to be maintained with a minimum of 20% expenditure to be achieved by the end of 2026/27.

The Town Council projected level in 27/28 will be at least 25%.

The general reserves at year end for 25/26 were at 19.9% this is below the recommended level by Wales Audit of 25%.

To increase reserves for 26/27 it is planned to increase the income from each venue by promoting and encouraging use for events in the Community Centre, Quay Building and Civic Hall, especially with bar functions and catering.

5. UNCERTAIN ESTIMATES

During the budget setting process, it is possible to predict the likely cost of some items with a high degree of accuracy. However, other costs are not as easy to predict, such as repairs and maintenance to venues. In these cases, it is usual to set an average figure based on the previous year in the budget. If a budget of each heading is not spent this will remain in the Town Council accounts. There may be occasions when a budget figure needs moving from one heading to another. This will be approved by Council.

6. APPROVED BUDGET

The Town Council use RBS Rialtas accounts package. This is renewed annually after approval by full council.

Appendix 1 – Forward Budget Detail – By Centre

This details the following:

Current Year Budget – 25/26

Next Year Budget – 26/27

Year 2 Budget – 27/28

7. BUDGET NOTES FOR INCOME/EXPENDITURE

Income

The Town Council generates income from the Civic Hall, Community Centre, Quay Building (Council Offices) and school milk reclaims.

The Tenancy at Will was agreed by Council to be surrendered on the Kathleen & May Centre on 2 April 2025 minute no. 316

The Town Council has proposed and agreed that the Quay Café leased by the Town Council until 2030 from Primary Health Properties and is now managed by VC Veterans/Caafi Naafi should receive income from Caafi Naafi for the use.

The projected budget income for 25/26 at all venues had been reduced dramatically to ensure the income totals are met which will then not put the Town Council under financial burden. The projected income has been increased each year as plans are to promote the use of each venue more effectively.

Expenditure

Due to the cost of living with utilities these projected expenses have increased by 8% in 25/26 and 8.5% for each year after.

The rates for 26/27 are budgeted to be increased by 8% on the actual from the previous year and in 27/28 by 7% respectively. This is due to the financial difficulties FCC have currently under with the reduction of services they provide for the residents of Flintshire.

School milk expenditure has been increased slightly due to the increase in milk cost prices. This influences the Town Council as these prices are passed on from the milk supplier.

Councillor allowances have remained at the same level for the projected period. This may get increased by the IRPW in forthcoming years but will need to be addressed if this happens.

CCTV expenditure. Full Council agreed that the Town Council would contribute to the funding of the CCTV in the town for 2025 and continuing until March 2028. A service level agreement was signed on the 2 April 2025, minute no. 310. It was agreed on the 7 January 2026 to contribute to the CCTV services for 24/25 financial year, a retrospective SLA was agreed by Council. This had previously been put on hold until upgrades were made to the cameras, ensuring residents get the best possible service and value for money.

Property Maintenance – This was agreed in 24/25 budget for the upgrade and maintenance across all venues for such plans as improvement works to the kitchen in the Civic Hall and improvements to the Allotment site. This is not for just the Civic Hall and Allotments but for all venues within Connah's Quay Town Council's remit.

Youth Engagement Programme – This was agreed in 23/24 financial year for assistance with youth programmes. All requests must be authorised by Full Council upon requests for assistance. This budget expenditure is a benefit to the community for the youth of the town.

Quay Play – Summer Playscheme. The Town Council agreed to make a 3-year contribution. This was agreed at Full Council on 6 December 2023 minute ref 165. This includes summer 2026.

Quay Play is run by FCC and the Town Council funds the provision. Quay Play takes place over the 6-week summer holidays for all primary school children to attend free of charge. Connah's Quay is the largest and most successful summer playscheme run by FCC. The Town Council will continue to fund this expenditure as it provides excellent community benefit.

Festive Lighting – This includes Christmas lights along the main street in Connah's Quay and the Christmas Tree located at the end of Wepre Drive. This was agreed in 2021 for a 5-year contract. This will expire July 2026. Quotes will be sought and brought to Council once received.

Audit

2024/25 expenditure for Audit was due to the costs involved with previous outstanding budgets by Audit Wales for the financial years 18/19, 19/20, 20/21 & 21/22.

2022/23, 23/24 & 24/25 audits have been completed with Audit Wales. The invoice for these has yet to be received from Audit Wales

Internal Audit for 25/26 was agreed at Full Council on 4 June 25 Mins ref 31. It was agreed that JDH Business Services is agreed.

8. PRECEPT

The precept for 2025/26 was set at £451,421 – Band D Charge of £71.91 per annum – an increase of £4.92 per household.

This equates to 7.34% for 2025-26.

The precept for 26/27 is proposed to be set at £475,995. This equates to a Band D charge of **£76.11** per annum; an increase of **£4.20** per household, which equates to 8 pence per week per household. This equates to 5.84%.

The precept for 27/28 is projected to be between 5% and 6% increase.