



Fylde Borough Council – Budget Proposal Consultation

This document outlines the proposed Fylde Council budget for 2026/27. Comment and feedback is welcome from all stakeholders. Feedback received before **5.00pm on Friday 27th February 2026** will be considered as part of the Budget setting process which culminates at Fylde's Council budget setting meeting of 4th March 2026. Feedback should be submitted by email using listening@fylde.gov.uk or by post to Budget Consultation Feedback, The Town Hall, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire, FY8 1LW.

The Financial Context

Throughout the last few years Fylde has been implementing plans to reduce spending, deal with uncertain levels of income, particularly from central government, and rising costs due to inflationary pressures experienced throughout the country. The primary objectives are to maintain high levels of service delivery across the borough, attract inward investment wherever possible and enhance the quality of life for residents whilst maintaining a robust and balanced budget position over the medium term to support the delivery of the priorities set out in the Councils Corporate Plan, which can be found on the Council website at: [Corporate Plan 2024-2028](#)

Each year the Council produces a five year rolling budget forecast which is included within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. In recent years much work has been done to ensure that the Council's finances remain robust. Following consideration by the Council's Executive Committee meeting on 10th February 2026, the latest Medium Term Financial Strategy will be considered by the Internal Affairs Scrutiny Committee on 12th February 2026 and the full Council on 4th March 2026. This includes a summary financial forecast (See Appendix 1 attached) which shows projected revenue surpluses for 2025/26 and 2026/27, with a more uncertain period following afterwards. However, central government funding allocations beyond 2026/27 are subject to annual confirmation as part of the annual Local Government Finance Settlement.

At the meeting of 27th January 2026, the Council approved significant capital investment to redevelop the provision of swimming facilities within the borough. This included a substantial refurbishment of St Annes Pool, along with the inclusion of additional facilities, and the redevelopment and re-opening of Kirkham Pool. The total capital cost in respect of both swimming pools is £9.340m. The schemes require additional capital expenditure of £6.951m after allowing for sums already contained within the existing capital programme, with £4.951m being funded from the council's Capital Investment Reserve and £2.0m from borrowing. This is a scheme of significant scale and importance to the Council and the residents of the borough.

The latest update to the Financial Forecast includes the impact of the 2026/27 Local Government Finance Settlement, details of which were finalised in early February 2026. The settlement marks the first time in this decade that the Government has illustrated multiple years' worth of funding allocations, covering 2026/27 to 2028/29.

The settlement for 2026/27 confirmed a major change in the funding formula for local authorities, including a reset to the methodology for the distribution of business rates income, the consolidation of a number of individual grants and the discontinuation of New Homes Bonus grants. The reset to the business rates system led to the discontinuation of the Lancashire-wide Business Rates Pool for 2026/27.

In order to maintain the current financial position, the Council needs to continue with the approach to delivering savings and efficiencies and maximising income which have helped deliver balanced budgets and contribute to reserves over recent years. Through continued focus on the importance of financial stability the Council has delivered a savings programme in recent years and has continued to reduce overheads wherever possible. Ongoing modernisation work and business improvement will continue to make Council services more efficient, save money and maintain frontline services to customers. This work has yielded ongoing savings to help improve the Council's overall financial position over that period.

Although it is clear that further uncertainty and challenges lie ahead in the later years of the financial forecast, **the overall forecast financial position of the Council continues to be relatively stable, and the finances of the Council remain robust.** Whilst challenges remain as detailed in the Medium Term Financial Strategy report, prudent financial management has provided a relatively stable financial environment which allows the necessary time to determine how this Council can best respond to the challenges it faces and deliver its strategic priorities.

This approach will ensure that the Council continues to achieve and sustain a balanced budget position on an ongoing basis and is able to deliver the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan.

The Budget Proposals for 2026/27

The latest budget forecast included at Appendix 1 reflects the impact of central government grant allocations and known cost increases, together with estimates for future years. Savings and efficiencies will continue to be delivered where possible throughout the life of the forecast to reduce the call on reserves in the later years of the forecast.

The full Medium Term Financial Strategy is available on the Council's website [at this link](#) or by request from the Council.

For 2026/27 an increase of 2.99% in the average council tax charge is proposed, resulting in an average overall Band D charge for 2026/27 of £239.11.

This will mean an increase of around 13p per week for a Band D property which will help to safeguard services alongside a number of growth items as the Council focuses on investment in the borough and on delivering the priorities in the corporate plan.

The budget proposals include:

The revenue budget proposals for 2026/27 are:

- Further budget provision to reflect additional costs arising from the examination of the Local Plan during 2026/27;
- Additional budget resource to secure and strengthen Fylde's events programme through a modest and controlled revenue investment;
- Budget provision for projected cost of the introduction of a food waste collection scheme during 2026/27.

The capital programme for 2026/27 includes:

- Substantial investment in the provision of swimming facilities, as described above, along with a number of schemes already approved for delivery within the capital programme
- Additional investment in Fairhaven Lake Boathouse to address fire safety, electrical systems, heating, ventilation and building fabric issues. The aim is to ensure this operational facility remains safe for staff and continues serving thousands of families who visit throughout the year to enjoy activities on and around the Lake.

Further details of these budget proposals are included in Appendix 2.

Capital Expenditure is defined as expenditure on the acquisition of a fixed asset and/or expenditure which adds value (not merely maintains) to the value of an existing fixed asset. Examples of fixed assets are: land, building, plant and vehicles.

These proposals are now published for consultation, and feedback from all stakeholders by the deadline of **5.00pm on Friday 27th February 2026** will be considered as part of the Budget setting process which culminates at Fylde's Council budget setting meeting of 4th March 2026.

Appendix 1 – The Medium Term Financial Forecast

Latest General Fund Budget Forecast 2025/26 to 2029/30 - as at 9th February 2026

	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	Adverse / Favourable
Forecast approved at Council on 3rd March 2025	11,994	12,767	13,215	13,330	13,330	Favourable Adverse
Forecast Changes since March 2025	- 32	- 79	- 337	- 158	- 107	
Revenue Budget Growth Items		311	370	670	640	
Forecast Budget Requirement: TOTAL	11,962	12,999	13,248	13,842	13,863	
Financed by:						
Council Tax Funding:						
Council Tax - Precept	7,584	7,907	8,242	8,589	8,951	
Sub Total - Council Tax Income	7,584	7,907	8,242	8,589	8,951	
Business Rates Funding:						
Retained Business Rates	4,800					
Baseline Funding Level		1,993	2,038	2,080	2,080	
Sub Total - Business Rates Income	4,800	1,993	2,038	2,080	2,080	
Other Funding:						
Revenue Support Grant	121	3,230	2,766	2,280	2,280	
Transitional Protection		15	87	170	170	
Adjustment Support Grant		373				
New Homes Bonus (NHB)	225					
Less - NHB distribution to Town & Parish Councils	- 11					
Funding Guarantee / Funding Floor Grant	1,051					
Sub Total - Other Income	1,386	3,618	2,853	2,450	2,450	
Forecast Financing: TOTAL	13,770	13,518	13,133	13,119	13,481	
Forecast surplus (-) / deficit for year	- 1,808	- 519	115	723	382	
Reserves	Surplus	Surplus	Deficit	Deficit	Deficit	
Forecast surplus/deficit(-) for year from above:	1,808	519	- 115	- 723	- 382	
Less: Transfer to Fleet Replacement Reserve	- 861					
Less: Transfer to Capital Investment Reserve	- 947	- 519				
Balance of surplus/deficit (-) remaining:	0	0	-115	-723	-382	
Balance of General Fund Reserves b/f	4,937	4,571	4,571	4,456	3,733	
Less in year transfer to fund slippage from 2024/25	- 366					
Less estimated transfer from (-) / to General Fund Reserves in year			- 115	- 723	- 382	
Forecast GF Reserve Balance at Year End	4,571	4,571	4,456	3,733	3,351	
Band D Council Tax (Excl Parish Precepts)	£232.17	£239.11	£246.26	£253.62	£261.20	
Indicative Band D Average Council Tax Increase	£6.74	£6.94	£7.15	£7.36	£7.58	
Band D Average Council Tax Increase	2.99%	2.99%	2.99%	2.99%	2.99%	

Appendix 2 – Budget Growth Proposals

BUDGET PROPOSALS - REVENUE ITEMS

	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	Description
Local Plan Examination Costs	0	131	50	50	0	This bid relates to additional Local Plan examination costs expected from 2026/27 to 2028/29. See bid document for more details.
Fylde Events Programme	0	40	40	40	40	This bid provides a structured proposal to secure and strengthen Fylde's events programme through a modest and controlled revenue investment. See bid document for more details.
Food Waste Collection Scheme Running Costs	0	140	280	580	600	This bid sets out the costs for the phased introduction of a Food Waste Collection service commencing in 2026/27. See bid document for more details.
TOTAL OF REVENUE GROWTH PROPOSALS	0	311	370	670	640	

BUDGET PROPOSALS - CAPITAL ITEMS

	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	Notes
Fairhaven Boathouse	117	0	0	0	0	This item relates to additional funding for the delivery of an enhanced programme of refurbishment works at Fairhaven Boathouse, full details of which can be found in the report to Executive Committee on 10th February 2026.
TOTAL OF CAPITAL SCHEME PROPOSALS	117	0	0	0	0	