



Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council
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facebook.com/okehamptontowncouncil

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NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2025

Sign up to receive the newsletters electronically by visiting the Council's [website](#)

2025/26 Budget and Precept

The precept is the amount that town and parish councils can raise through their resident's council tax. In this area it is collected by West Devon Borough Council (WDBC) on behalf of the town and parish councils.

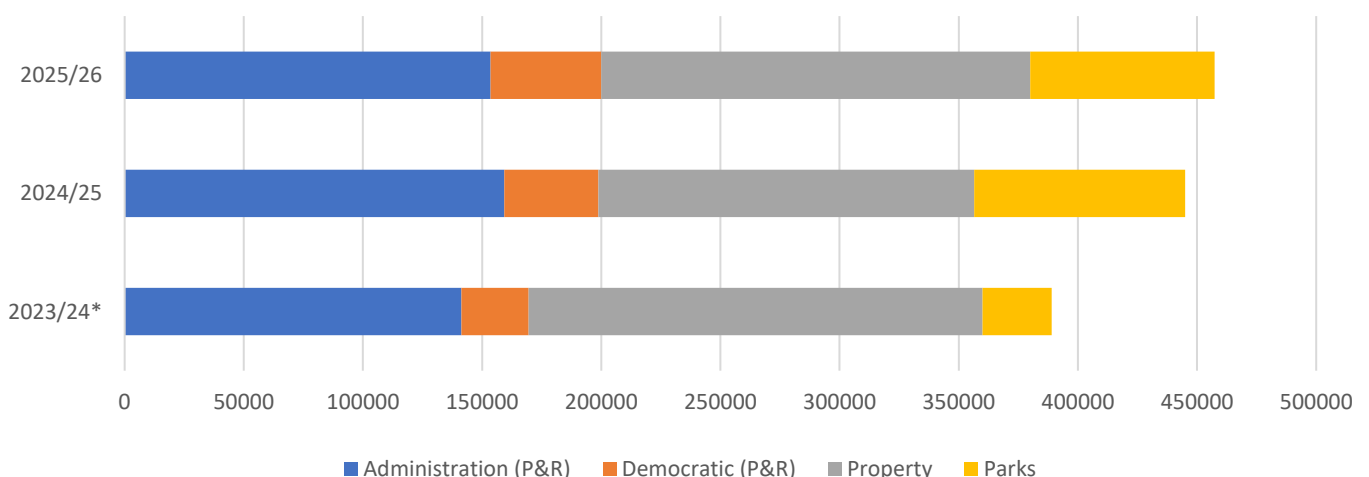
Following a process of scrutiny which commenced with budget workshops in August, the budget and precept of £457,313 was set by the Council on 20th January 2025 for the 2025/26 Financial Year. This amount equates to an increase of 2% or £0.07 p/week on the precept for a Band D property to meet the projected expenditure for the year. The budget can be found on the council website or obtained from the Council Office.

WDBC is now able to collect an additional premium from second homes, some of which will be passed to the town and parish councils through the precept. There aren't that many second homes within the town boundary, but this additional income means that the precept increase has been able to be kept to a minimum for the coming year.

The chart shows the actual budget spend for 2023/24, the precept for the current financial year 2024/25 and the recently approved precept for next year, 2025/26 which includes essential work to the riverbanks through Simmons Park.

Precept Requirement by Committee

*Denotes actual spend



Co-Option of Councillor

David McNeill was co-opted as Town Councillor at a meeting of the Council on 20th January 2025. Details of your councillors including how to contact them can be found on the website or obtained from the office.





OKEHAMPTON YOUTH COUNCIL

A free first aid course run by Joe Rice for those aged between 7 and 18 years of age is being hosted by the Youth Council on 19th February in the Charter Hall.

Places are limited and must be booked in advanced by emailing the youth council or calling 01837 53179.



Okehampton Youth Council

If you are interested in joining the Youth Council or can assist in any way, please email youthcouncil@okehampton.gov.uk or contact us through the council office.



FREE First Aid Workshop For Children Aged 7+ At The Charter Hall, Okehampton



Wednesday 19th February 2025

2.30pm – 4pm

To find out more or to book a place please contact Okehampton Youth Council - youthcouncil@okehampton.gov.uk or 01837 53179

www.joericefirstaid.com

[f](#) [@joericefirstaid](#)

Wildlife Information Boards and Hedgehog News

The Parks Team have been busy again.

To the left is an image of one of six new wildlife information boards that have been provided in and around Simmons Park depicting flora and fauna that can be found in the park. They have been designed locally, and the wooden backing has been sourced from a fallen beech tree in the park.

Three more hedgehogs are expected to be released into Simmons Park in early February.

Devon and Cornwall Alert

PCSO Sean Jones will be setting up in the town centre from 11am on Tuesday 4th February to provide information about the DC Alert system <https://alerts.dc.police.uk/>

The Alert is a two-way community messaging system operated by Devon and Cornwall Police which helps them to connect with communities, it tells people what is happening in their area and allows them to respond directly with any information.

Curtains (free to a good home)

The old Charter Hall curtains, pictured, are free to a good home. There are 6 pairs of window curtains which are 1m in length, 2 full length stage curtains with longer side panels and a large trapezoid piece of fabric.

If anyone can make use of them, please let us know, they are currently in the Town Hall where they can be viewed.



Forward dates for your diary:

Commonwealth Day – Monday 10th March 9.20am outside of St James' Church

Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 8th April 2025, 7pm

VE Day 80th Anniversary – Thursday 8th May, 3pm - 8pm

Mayor Choosing and Annual Council Meeting – Wednesday 14th May

Coming up in February

- **Mondays** - Mental Health Drop-in Sessions, Charter Hall 10am-1pm
- **Tuesdays** – West Devon Folk Choir, Charter Hall
- **Mondays and Wednesdays** – Clubercise, 6pm-8pm Charter Hall
- **Thursdays** - Ballroom and Latin American Dancing, 7.30pm-8.30pm Charter Hall
- **Saturdays** – Parkrun, 9am Simmons Park

1st Courtney Players performance (Charter Hall)

4th Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)

8th RBL Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)

15th Community Links Big Breakfast (Charter Hall)

18th Employment Fair (Charter Hall)

19th First Aid for Young People (Charter Hall, 2pm)

22nd Friends of Hospiscare Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)

Town Council Meeting Dates

Members of the public are welcome to attend council meetings and have the opportunity to address the council. Alternatively, meetings are livestreamed through the council Facebook page where they are available to view.

February

3rd Property Committee

24th Full Council

Meeting dates for 2024/25 can be found on the [website](#). Some Planning Committee Meetings have been scheduled others will be convened as needed.

Council meetings normally start at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Fore Street.

Occasionally meetings are added or subject to change, details can be found on the [website](#) or noticeboard in the Victorian Arcade.

Contact Us – 01837 53179

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Abi Horn, Assistant Clerk
admin@okehampton.gov.uk

Tracey Bryant, Finance Officer
accounts@okehampton.gov.uk

James McGahey, Park-Keeper
parks@okehampton.gov.uk

Your Councillors

Cllr Allenton Fisher (Town Mayor)
Cllr Richard Colman (Deputy Mayor)

Cllr Laura Bird	Cllr Christine Marsh
Cllr Terry Cummings	Cllr David McNeill
Cllr Frankee Hart	Cllr Mark Richards
Cllr Carole Holt	Cllr Bob Tolley
Cllr Dr Michael Ireland	Cllr Simon Weekes
Cllr Tony Leech	Cllr Julie Yelland