TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Resources Committee
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Date	9th September 2026
Subject	Draft Budget Consideration 2027-28 to 2029-30

Purpose Of Report

1. To present Members with the initial draft revenue budget for 2027–2028 and indicative projections for 2028–2029 and 2029–2030.

2. To explain the main changes and budget pressures included in the draft and enable Members to consider whether any amendments should be made before a recommendation is presented to Full Council.

3. The figures are based on the information and assumptions currently available. They remain subject to review during the budget-setting process, including confirmation of the 2027–2028 Council Tax base.

Background And Main Budget Pressures

4. The current 2026–2027 precept is £513,137. The draft budget uses the 2026–2027 tax base of 5,091.98 as an estimate because Calderdale MBC will not confirm the 2027–2028 tax base until January 2027. The precept request to CMBC has to be submitted the first week of February 2027

5. The Council continues to manage the annual loss of £44,151 in grant support from Calderdale MBC. An earmarked reserve was established to phase in the effect of this reduction. The remaining £11,000 is proposed for use in 2027–2028, which will fully utilise that reserve.

6. ***Pavilion and Bandstand:*** The draft budget includes increased running costs for the Bowls Pavilion and Bandstand. The latest estimates are £28,453 for the Pavilion and £17,691 for the Bandstand. These are now operational Council assets and the budget must make ongoing provision for utilities, security, maintenance and other running costs.

7. ***Staffing:*** The staffing budget includes provision for a new Facilities and Events Officer post. The role is intended to provide operational support for the Council's facilities and events, including the Pavilion and Bandstand, which have created additional responsibilities following their completion. The budget also includes maternity pay for the Community Support Officer and provision for maternity cover during the period of leave.

8. ***Office Equipment:*** Additional provision has been included for office and IT equipment. The current office printer was purchased second-hand in 2018 and is requiring increasingly frequent maintenance. The budget therefore includes £3,500 for a potential replacement printer. A total of £7,500 has been included for office and IT equipment. The increase in this budget line allows for any laptops that may be required for newly elected Councillors in May 2027.

9. ***EMRS:*** Included in the draft budget are the following provisions into EMRs:

- ***Festive Lights replacement: £8,300***

2027–2028 will be year six of the eight-year replacement programme. The Festive lights have been reviewed and they are coming to the end of their working life.

- ***Defibrillators: £2,060***

- ***Community Development: £10,000***

- ***Elections: £30,000***

An all-out Town Council election is due in May 2027 and is expected to cost approximately £27,000. The provision also allows for any variation in the final cost. The Council currently holds £35,000 in its Elections earmarked reserve. The draft budget proposes releasing £15,000 from this reserve to support the overall budget and reduce the precept requirement, leaving £20,000 available as contingency for possible future by-elections which can cost approximately £8-10,000.

Draft Budget Position

10. The current draft produces the following position for 2027–2028:

Draft Budget Summary	
Income	-£517,847
Expenditure	£648,373
Net increase in budget	£130,526
Use of EMR	-£36,000
Increase after use of EMR	£94,526
Indicative new Precept	£607,663
Approximate % Increase in Precept required	18%
Band D Charge	£119.34
Weekly increase in Band D	£0.36
Annual increase	£18.56

11. The budget requirement is £94,526 above the current precept. This produces an indicative precept requirement of £607,663.

12. If the tax base remains at 5,091.98, the estimated Band D charge would be £119.34 per year. This is an increase of approximately £18.56 per year, or approximately £0.36 per week, compared with 2026–2027.

13. The percentage and Band D figures are indicative at this stage. If the confirmed tax base increases, the charge per Band D equivalent property will be lower; if it decreases, the charge will be higher. The cash precept requirement will remain the figure determined by Full Council.

Use Of Earmarked Reserves

14. The draft uses £36,000 from existing earmarked reserves to reduce the amount that would otherwise need to be raised through the precept:

Earmarked reserve	Proposed use
Grant phasing reserve	£11,000
Staffing reserve	£10,000
Elections reserve	£15,000
Total	£36,000

15. Use of reserves reduces the immediate precept requirement but does not remove the underlying cost. In particular, the grant phasing reserve will be exhausted and will not be available to support the budget in future years.

Discretionary Expenditure

16. A significant part of the budget relates to core operational commitments, including staffing, elections and the running costs of Council assets. The draft also contains areas of discretionary expenditure which Members may amend if they wish to reduce the proposed precept requirement.

Discretionary grant provision	2027–2028
Town Centre Security / PCSOs	£54,751
Donations and Grants	£12,750
Town Hall Hire Grants	£5,000
Bandstand Hire Grants	£2,500
Education non-LA	£3,000
Events Grants	£10,000
Tourism – Todmorden Information Centre	£8,225
Entertainment, Arts and Recreation	£10,000

Discretionary grant provision	2027–2028
Community Rights of Way Service (CROWS)	£2,250
Foodbank Support	£10,000
Todmorden in Bloom Support	£10,000
Climate Small Grants	£7,500
Total	**£135,976**

17. The total shown above is £135,976, equivalent to approximately 26.5% of the current precept. These provisions support the Council's role in enabling community activity, but they remain policy choices for Members.

18. The proposed grant to Todmorden Information Centre under budget code 4430 (Tourism) is £8,225. This represents a 20% reduction on the previous year's grant, in line with the Council's grants policy for returning applicants.

19. The proposed grant to CROWS remains at £2,250. This was increased from £1,500 in the previous year at Members' request. Members may retain the higher amount or return the provision to £1,500.

Three-Year Forecast

20. The projections for 2028–2029 and 2029–2030 are planning estimates based on the assumptions shown in the supporting budget papers. They are intended to indicate the possible direction of future costs and do not commit the Council to those budgets or precept levels. The projections will change as staffing, contracts, income, inflation, service decisions and the tax base become clearer.

Financial Considerations

21. The draft is an initial position and may be amended by Resources Committee before it is presented to Full Council. The final Band D impact cannot be confirmed until the 2027–2028 tax base is received from Calderdale MBC.

22. A proposed 18% increase may not be acceptable to all Members. The report therefore identifies the principal cost pressures and discretionary provisions so that any proposed reduction is made transparently and with an understanding of the service or provision affected.

Recommendation

23. That Members consider the initial draft budget for 2027–2028 and the indicative forecasts for 2028–2029 and 2029–2030.

24. That Members note that the current draft produces an indicative precept requirement of £607,663, an increase of approximately 18% on the current precept.

25. That Members consider whether any amendments are required, including changes to discretionary expenditure, and agree the basis on which the next iteration of the draft budget should be prepared.

Reasons For Recommendation

26. Resources Committee is responsible for reviewing the annual budget and making recommendations to Full Council. Full Council is responsible for determining the budget and precept for the ensuing financial year.

Policy Implications

27. The proposed Tourism grant reduction has been calculated in accordance with the Council's grants policy for returning applicants. Other policy implications will depend on any amendments agreed by Members.

Details Of Consultation

28. Consultations with suitable contractors for future costings.

Climate Change

29. The draft includes £12,000 for Climate Emergency activity, including £7,500 for Climate Small Grants.

Impact Equality Assessment

30. No direct equality implications arise from considering the initial draft. Any proposed service or grant reductions should be considered for equality impacts before a final decision is made.

Supporting Papers

Appendix 1 – Three-year budget summary.

Appendix 2 – Three-year budget detail.

Further Information, Please Contact: Nicola Croome, Responsible Financial Officer