TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Resources Committee
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Date	14th October 2026
Subject	Second Draft Budget Consideration 2027-28 to 2029-30

Purpose Of Report

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

2. To explain that the second draft produces an indicative precept requirement of £574,926, representing an increase of approximately 12% on the current precept. This compares with the 18% increase presented in the first draft.

3. Following the September meeting, the second draft budget was circulated to Members of the Resources Committee for informal review. No further amendments were requested by Members, and the revised draft is therefore presented to the Committee for formal consideration.

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. Expenditure Reductions

The table below highlights where reductions in expenditure have been made between the first and second drafts.

Budget line	First draft	Second draft	Reduction
Advertising	£250	£200	£50
Photocopier/printer	£3,500	£3,000	£500
Books and publications	£500	£250	£250
Insurance	£10,700	£10,500	£200
Other admin fees	£1,000	£750	£250
Admin miscellaneous/contingency	£2,500	£2,000	£500
Lobb Mill	£6,966	£6,965	£1
Walsden Cricket Ground	£263	£250	£13
Defibrillator	£2,060	£1,000	£1,060
Community Development (code 4660)	£10,000	£0	£10,000
Donations and grants	£12,750	£12,000	£750
Tourism	£8,225	£8,000	£225
Publicity (code 4450)	£250	£200	£50
Events TTC	£5,000	£4,125	£875
Environment Projects	£4,000	£0	£4,000

9. Amended EMR Use

The table below sets out the amendments made to the proposed use of EMRs to reduce the precept requirement.

EMR	First draft	Second draft
Grant phasing	£11,000	£11,000
Staffing	£10,000	£10,000
Elections	£15,000	£20,000
Emergency flood repairs	—	£5,000
Benches	—	£1,000
Centre Vale property maintenance	—	£1,801
Defibrillators	—	£1,425
Total	**£36,000**	**£50,226**

Draft Budget Position

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

Draft Budget Summary	
Income	-£517,847
Expenditure	£629,862
Net increase in budget	£112,015
Use of EMR	-£50,226

Increase after use of EMR	£61,789
Indicative new Precept	£574,926
Approximate % Increase in Precept required	12%
Band D Charge	£112.91
Weekly increase in Band D	£0.23
Annual increase	£12.13

11. The budget requirement is £61,789 above the current precept. This produces an indicative precept requirement of £574,926.

12. If the tax base remains at 5,091.98, the estimated Band D charge would be £112.91 per year. This is an increase of approximately £12.13 per year, or approximately £0.23 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 first draft budget used £36,000 from existing earmarked reserves to reduce the amount that would otherwise need to be raised through the precept. The second draft increases the proposed use of earmarked reserves to £50,226, as set out in the table above.

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. The table below highlights the expenditure that members may wish to consider.

Summary of Discretionary Grant Spend 27/28	
Heading	**Amount**
Town Centre /Security/PCSO's	£54,751
Donations and Grants	£12,000
TH Hire Refund Grants	£5,000
Education non L/A	£3,000
Events grants	£10,000
Bandstand Hire Grants	£2,500

Tourism (TIC)	£8,000*
Entertainment Arts & Recs	£10,000
CROWS	£2,250
Foodbank Support	£10,000
Tod in Bloom Support	£10,000
Climate Grants	£7,500
Total	**£135,001**

17. The total shown above is £135,001, equivalent to approximately 26.3% of the current precept. These provisions support the Council's role in enabling community activity, but they remain policy choices for Members.

18. * The £8,000 provision under budget code 4430 (Tourism) relates to the grant to Todmorden Information Centre, which was formally approved by Full Council on 30 September 2026.

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 second draft position may still 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. At its September meeting, the Committee requested that officers review the first draft with the aim of reducing the indicative precept increase to between 11% and 13%. The amendments set out in this report have reduced the indicative increase from approximately 18% to approximately 12%.

Recommendation

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

24. That Members note that the second draft produces an indicative precept requirement of £574,926, representing an increase of approximately 12% on the current precept.

25. That Members agree any further amendments required and the basis on which the final draft budget should be prepared for presentation to the Resources Committee in November 2026.

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. Policy implications will depend on any amendments agreed by Members.

Details Of Consultation

28. Following the September Resources Committee meeting, the second draft budget was circulated to Members of the Committee for informal review.

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 second 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