

Looe Town Council Accounting statements 2025-26 Variances

	Year ending		Variance £	Variance %	Notes and guidance Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.	Explanation required
	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-26				
1. Balances brought forward	610,177	560,614			Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year	
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	481,675	569,900	88,225	18%	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.	Please explain within the relevant tab
3. (+) Total other receipts	132,615	139,050	6,435	5%	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.	No explanation required
4. (-) Staff costs	380,557	432,276	51,719	14%	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.	No explanation required
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	0	0%	Total expenditure of payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).	No explanation required
6. (-) All other payments	283,296	255,983	-27,313	-10%	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).	No explanation required
7. (=) Balances carried forward	560,614	581,305			Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).	Please explain in the Reserves tab
Bal c/f checker	560,614	581,305				
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	568,796	572,414			The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March - to agree with bank reconciliation.	
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	226,953	238,643	11,690	5%	The value of all the property the authority owns - it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.	No explanation required
10. Total borrowings	0	0	0	0%	The outstanding capital balances as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).	No explanation required

Precept or rates and levies

2025 481,675 2026 569,900

Difference 88,225

% Change 18% Yes explain

	2025 £	2026 £	Difference	Explanation - summary of extra expenditure
	481,675	569,900	88,225	<i>The Town Council's expenditure budget increased by £114,476 from £565,344 in 2024-25 to £679,820 in 25-26. The primary reason for this increase was from higher staffing costs, which rose by £58,283 from £388,848 to £447,131. The main driver of the increase in staffing costs was the rise in employer National Insurance contributions following changes to contribution rates and the reduction in the earnings threshold. This resulted in costs increasing by £16,679 from £27,797 in 2024-25 to £44,476 in 2025-26. Staffing costs were also affected by annual incremental salary increases and the National Joint Council (NJC) annual pay award. In addition a new 22.5 hour per week for facilities team post was created to provide sickness and holiday cover and to enable a greater proportion of maintenance work to be undertaken inhouse. Other significant budget increases included below:</i>
Expenditure Wages	388,848	447,131	58,283	
Repairs renewals PCs	5,000	15,000	10,000	<i>Repairs and renewals to public conveniences increased by £10,000 reflecting improved maintenance schedules and the decision to fund repairs from revenue rather than reserves.</i>
Election	500	6,250	5,750	<i>Election costs increased by £5,750 to provide sufficient budget for a contested election in May 2025.</i>
PCs entry fees	0	5,906	5,906	<i>Toilet entry fee charges +£5,906 correctly reflected separately within the budget in 2025-26.</i>
Waste disposal	8,000	12,154	4,154	<i>Workplace recycling and hygiene waste charges increased by £4,154 following the introduction of workplace recycling requirements and increased hygiene waste disposal costs.</i>
Outside spaces	1,000	5,050	4,050	<i>Outside spaces maintenance increased by £4,050 due to including the devolved flowerbeds at Hannafore from CC.</i>
Hub/library supplies	2,500	6,500	4,000	<i>Library/Hub supplies increased by £4,000 following a review and more accurate allocation of departmental costs.</i>
Hub/library building repairs	1,500	5,000	3,500	<i>Library/Hub building maintenance increased by £3,500 from more accurate allocation of departmental costs.</i>
Council website	300	3,030	2,730	<i>The Council website provision increased by £2,730 to support planned improvements to the Council's website.</i>
Outside street furniture	500	2,800	2,300	<i>The Street Furniture maintenance increased by £2,300 resulting from combining two budget codes and possible bench repairs.</i>
Maintenance PCs repairs/renewals	12,000	14,265	2,265	<i>Maintenance programmes increased by £2,265 reflecting revised maintenance schedules and cost increases.</i>
Lift, Fire Security	1,500	3,476	1,976	<i>Lift/platform security maintenance increased by £1,976 providing for increased repairs and call out requirements.</i>
Civic other events	2,000	3,900	1,900	<i>Civic & other events increased by £1,900 reflecting the Councils increased involvement in events.</i>
Water PC's	18,700	20,500	1,800	<i>Water costs for public conveniences increased £1,800 due to anticipated higher usage and increased charges.</i>
Cllr training	300	2,000	1,700	<i>Councillor training increased by £1,700 to support newly elected Councillors following the May 2025 elections.</i>
Telephone mobile & internet	2,000	3,200	1,200	<i>Telephone/mobile and internet services increased by £1,200 reflecting a realistic budget provision.</i>
Van	1,200	2,245	1,045	<i>Van expenses increased by £1,045 to accommodate anticipated higher costs.</i>
other expenditure budget lines minimal changes	119,496	121,413	1,917	<i>Numerous budget headings were adjusted , either upward or downward, to establish more realistic expenditure provisions across services. See appendix A.</i>
Toilet entry income	-64,000	-88,166	-24,166	<i>The impact of the increased expenditure was partly offset by additional income generation. This was primarily from higher toilet entry fee income increased by £24,216 and an increase in anticipated bank interest receipts of £5,000.</i>
reserves	-19,669	-21,754	-2,085	<i>In addition an increase of £2,085 in use of reserves to support the budget.</i>
Precept demand	-481,675	-569,900	-88,225	<i>After allowing for these additional income sources and reserves usage, the Council's precept requirement increased by £88,225.</i>
Total	481,675	569,900	88,225	<i>The Council continues to improve its budgeting process each year by aligning financial planning with its Strategic Plan, assessing inflation pressures, reviewing service delivery requirements and ensuring adequate provision for asset maintenance. Whilst the Council actively seeks to maximise income generation opportunities, it remains heavily dependant on the annual precept, which typically accounts for between 80%-90% of total income. For 2025-26 the Council benefited from a significant increase in its Tax base +10%, largely due to the Council Tax premium on second homes. The Tax charge to residents was limited to 7.5% for 2025-26. The rise resulted in an increase of £88,225.</i>

Reserves

Box 7	581,305	Precept	569,900		
			£	£	£
Earmarked reserves:					
Ringfenced	Wheeled Sports facility		22,553		
	CCTV		20,000		
Earmarked	Business & Learning project		68,985		
	Asset replacement/addition		160,456		
	Asset vehicle replacement		25,000		
	Devolution		64,000		
Capital receipts/Grants	Community Infrastructure Levy		22,089		
	Royal British Legion- War Memorial		550		
	Coca-Cola legacy		6,500		
	Looe Food Festival		481		
				390,614	
General reserve			170,000		
	Increase of reserve after YE 31.3.26		20,691		
				190,691	
Total reserves (must agree to Box 7)					581,305

Re-allocation of Reserves will now take place after YE 31.03.26