

Watton Town Council

Official Statement regarding increase to Council Tax

Watton Town Council welcomes the opportunity to provide clarification regarding the Council's budget setting process for the 2026/27 financial year.

In recent years the Town Council has increased the precept by a minimal percentage which has resulted in money being drawn down from reserves. This approach is unsustainable.

The budget for 2026/27 was set at £594,370, which will include £25,000 to be allocated for the possible transfer of the car parks in the town from Breckland District Council to Watton Town Council. The £25,000 allocated for the car parks will be held in a high-interest account until such time as it is required.

An informal Car park survey was made available to residents in October 2025, which asked whether they would be willing to accept a potential £10 per year increase in Council Tax to ensure that car parks in the town remain free of charge to users. The survey results indicated that 85% of respondents were in favour of this approach.

The Town Council predicted Income for the 2026/27 financial year was estimated to be £54,950 and, as set out in the agreed four-year financial plan, £20,000 from reserves will be used to support rising staff costs including National Insurance contributions. To cover this and other expected annual expenses, the suggested 2026/27 precept request was set at £519,420.

With a tax base of 3,044.5, it was estimated that the Band D charge for a property in Watton will be £170.61. This represents an increase from the 2025/26 financial year of £19.63, or approximately 13% which equates to less than 40p a week increase.

Due to the Devolution and Local Government reorganisation it is possible the Town Council could receive open space land from the District Council which will also require funds for upkeep and maintenance.

Watton Town Council remains committed to maintaining transparency in its financial planning and ensuring that residents are kept informed of decisions affecting the community.

Watton Town Council