



Wells City Council sets a balanced budget for 2026–27

Wells City Council's Full Council has agreed its budget for 2026–27, setting a precept increase of just 1.97%, reinforcing its commitment to careful financial management while continuing to protect and enhance services for the community.

The agreed precept reflects the Council's proactive approach to budgeting during a time when many organisations face rising costs. By keeping the increase below 2% and below inflation, the Council has worked hard to minimise the impact on residents while ensuring that vital local services, events, and community initiatives continue to thrive.

This balanced budget will allow the Council to:

- Maintain and support valued community services, including those inherited from Somerset Council
- Deliver popular city events, markets and civic activities
- Continue investment in local facilities and assets
- Strengthen community resilience and wellbeing initiatives
- Build additional functionality into its business reserves

Understanding your Council Tax bill

Residents often ask how the parish precept fits into the overall Council Tax bill. It may be helpful to understand that the City Council's precept forms only one part of the total amount paid. A typical Council Tax bill is made up of several elements:

- Somerset Council – The largest portion. This funds services such as social care (for adults and children),

education, highways, waste collection, housing, and planning.

- Police and Crime Commissioner – Funds local policing and community safety services across the area.
- Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority – Covers fire prevention, emergency response, and rescue services.
- Parish Council (Wells City Council) – A much smaller proportion of the overall bill. This funds highly local services and community activity within Wells itself.

In most cases, the parish or in our case the city council precept represents a relatively small percentage of the total Council Tax charge, but it has a direct and visible impact locally.

The Mayor said:

“Setting a precept of just 1.97% demonstrates our commitment to strong financial stewardship. We know households are facing ongoing pressures, and we have worked diligently to strike the right balance between affordability and maintaining the high standards our community expects. We also want residents to feel confident about how their Council Tax is structured and where their money goes.”

Wells City Council remains dedicated to transparency, accountability, and delivering positive outcomes for the city. Residents can find further information about the Council’s budget and corporate priorities on the Council’s website www.wells.gov.uk and are welcome to attend council meetings, a calendar for which is displayed at the Town Hall or via the website also.

For further information, please contact:
reception@wells.gov.uk or 01749 673091