



Summary Report: Informal Budget Ideas Session

A well attended informal and interactive session was held with councillors on Tuesday 30th September to discuss budget priorities and potential projects for the coming financial year. The session generated a wide range of ideas, encompassing both smaller, immediate improvements and larger, multi-year projects. For example, the phased re fencing of the Blenheim perimeter fence was highlighted as a significant project that may span multiple years but can begin budgeting for next year.

Work has already begun on compiling the budget, with a large proportion of costs being known or committed, including direct debits, utility costs, subscriptions and other recurring obligations. Some costs, however, remain uncertain, such as tree works, which will be guided by the outcomes of upcoming tree surveys.

Further discussions are required regarding staff structures and resource allocation, particularly in balancing public expectations with the realities of devolved responsibilities and the generally poor condition of many devolved areas. The approach will focus on small, steady improvements that are realistic within current resources.

At this stage, it is difficult to determine the final budget or precept, but any proposed precept should at a minimum reflect the current rate of annual inflation 4.1%¹. This ensures that the council can maintain services and cover rising costs without reducing essential functions.

The budget process will continue over the coming weeks, incorporating councillor feedback and further assessments of both known and anticipated costs to produce a balanced and sustainable financial plan.

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¹ Office for National statistics. Release Date: 17th September 2025