



**Lewes District Council**

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Council</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>4 March 2025</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>General Fund Revenue Budget 2025/26 and Capital Programme</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Councillor Zoe Nicholson on behalf of the Cabinet</b>

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The Council is asked to consider the minute and resolution of the Cabinet meeting held on **6 February 2025** as set out below.

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**The Council is recommended to approve:-**

- (1) The General Fund Base Budget 2025/26 and projected MTFs as set out at Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report.**
  - (2) An increase in the Council Tax for Lewes District Council of 2.99% resulting in a gross Band D charge (including Special Expenses) of £234.99 for 2025/26.**
  - (3) The revised General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2025/26 as set out at Appendix 3 to the Cabinet report.**
  - (4) The rates of Fees & Charges proposed at Appendix 6 to the Cabinet report, to apply from 1 April 2025 and to implement changes to statutory fees and charges for services shown within Appendix 6 as and when notified by Government.**
  - (5) Delegated authority to the Section 151 Officer to take account in the 2025/26 base budget of any changes to funding allocations when the Final Settlement figures are announced.**
  - (6) To note the Section 151 Officer's comments as outlined in the Cabinet report.**
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**Minute extract  
Cabinet – 6 February 2025.**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Finance and Performance, asking it to agree the General Fund Budget 2025/26, updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and the updated Capital Programme and Treasury Management position and make recommendations to Full Council.

The recommended budget was set within the context of continuing financial challenges for the council with the ongoing impact of the inflationary and cost-of-living pressures still keenly felt.

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Policy and Performance Advisory Committee (PPAC), held on 30 January 2025 considered the report and were supportive of the officer recommendations in full. Councillor Brett, Chair of PPAC, was in attendance to report on PPAC's discussion.

Councillor Gauntlett, Leader of the Opposition, commented positively on the budget setting process and was supportive of the officer recommendations.

**Recommended to Full Council (Budget and policy framework):**

(1) The General Fund Base Budget 2025/26 and projected MTFS as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

(2) An increase in the Council Tax for Lewes District Council of 2.99% resulting in a gross Band D charge (including Special Expenses) of £234.99 for 2025/26.

(3) The revised General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2025/26 as set out at Appendix 3 to the report.

(4) The rates of Fees & Charges proposed at Appendix 6 to the report, to apply from 1 April 2025 and to implement changes to statutory fees and charges for services shown within Appendix 6 as and when notified by Government.

(5) Delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer to take account in the 2025/26 base budget of any changes to funding allocations when the Final Settlement figures are announced.

(6) To note the Section 151 Officer's comments as outlined in the report.

**Reason for decisions:**

The Cabinet must recommend to Full Council the setting of a revenue budget and associated Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year by law.

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For a copy of the report please contact Democratic Services:

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A copy may be downloaded on the [Council's website](#).