

# **Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council**

## **Full Council Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

### **Draft Budget and Precept Requirement 2026/27**

#### **Overview**

Full Council resolved to set up a finance committee in May 2025. The committee's responsibilities under terms of reference (3) and (7) include: "recommend the annual budget and precept to Full Council".

The budget proposed results from consideration by the committee at its meetings held in November and December 2025, and January 2026.

The proposed budget will fund a wide range of local services, facilities, community events, and improvement projects.

This includes the provision and maintenance of parks and recreation grounds, play areas, allotments, public toilets, school crossing patrols, youth provision, community grants, major community events, and targeted improvement schemes across the area.

#### **Financial Impact of the Budget and Precept**

The budget, as set out in this report, would result in an increase to the Council Tax precept for a Band D property of 86 pence per week.

The Council notes that the majority of properties in Newport and Carisbrooke fall within lower Council Tax bands and will therefore pay a lower additional amount per week.

#### **Community Cohesion, Community Resilience, and Civic Pride**

The budget includes provision for community events and civic activities that promote community cohesion, resilience, and civic pride.

This includes a total of £74,500 for Christmas and festive lights, the Day of Christmas event, and the Summer Fayre.

A sum of £20,000 is proposed to support initiatives arising from the Shaping Newport project.

The council remains concerned about the number of residents facing significant financial challenges. The budget therefore sets aside £10,000 towards alleviating poverty, alongside ensuring that community events continue to be free and accessible to all. The council will also provide an increased amount of £2,000 to the Pan Together money management advice service.

In response to flooding following extreme weather events, the Council has established a Flooding Working Group, and a new Flooding & Resilience Fund is proposed to support work to reduce flood risk and impact.

Many initiatives that bring communities together are delivered by other organisations. In support of this, the budget includes grants to Newport Carnival, the Children's Story Festival, Riverfest, the Dance and Drama Festival, and Gunville Community Association.

### **Young people**

Consultations with residents consistently identify the need for greater provision for young people across the area.

The budget will continue to provide for the maintenance of play areas at:

- Victoria recreation ground
- Downside
- Clatterford
- Nine Acres

It also includes provision for additional play equipment at Hookes Way.

The budget also provides for:

- A continuing grant to IW Youth Trust (£10,000)
- An increased grant to Newport Youth Café (£20,000)
- Support for the Port Project (£10,000)

An earmarked reserve of £8,000 for youth provision is proposed for future use.

A sum of £1,000 is also set aside to begin investigating the feasibility of a skate park.

### **Environment, recreation and community services and facilities**

A budget provision of approximately £120,000 will continue to support the maintenance of Clatterford Recreation Ground, Downside Recreation Ground, Nine Acres Recreation Ground, Victoria Recreation Ground and Pavilion, and Vectis Field. Provision is also included towards initial improvements at Simeon Green.

The council has identified the need for significant improvements at Victoria Recreation Ground, including road surfacing, with £50,000 proposed for this work.

Oversight of these and other open spaces will be delivered through a refocused Parks and Environment Service (£36,500), with an emphasis on community engagement.

The Council will continue to invest in the public realm, with:

- £10,000 for summer flowers
- £13,500 to ensure bins are provided across the area

- Approximately £103,000 to provide public toilets

The budget will also continue to support:

- The No. 39 bus (£17,500)
- A network of public noticeboards
- School crossing patrols (£13,500)
- Allotments across the area

### **Administration and Governance**

The budget sets aside over £400,000 to ensure that it can deliver its services and projects, meeting the legal and governance requirements, and statutory responsibilities of a public body.

Over time, Newport & Carisbrooke Community Council has expanded the services and projects it delivers for the community. We are grateful to our dedicated team of staff who ensure that the council's work is carried out.

The council also intends to recruit an apprentice, representing an investment in an emerging career, while strengthening our capacity to deliver services.

The council is proud to own premises in the centre of Newport, which is increasingly used by community organisations. As well as providing office space for our staff team.

### **Conclusion**

Approval of the budget will ensure that valued local services, facilities, and community support can continue to be delivered. The increase represents a desire by the council to invest in the services it currently provides and to extend those for the benefit of all who live, work and visit our area.

**Cllr Andrew Garratt**

**Chair of the Finance Committee**

**February 2026**