**A blue and gold crest

Description automatically generatedBovey Tracey Town Council - Precept demand 2025/26**

**What is a Parish Precept?**

A Parish Council gets its funding by receiving a small amount of the local Council Tax. This is referred to as the Parish Precept.

**How the precept is calculated**

Each parish council forecasts how much money it is going to need the following year. This is then divided by the number of properties in the parish that fall into Band D Council Tax bands. This figure is adjusted to take account of such things as exempt properties and planned new houses to get the precept each Council Tax payer in the parish will contribute.

The main changes for the key areas for 2025/26 are further explained below:

**Income**

i) Interest Received:

Due to the Council prudently investing and spreading risk, interest on investments will increase:

**2024/25** **2025/26**

£10,000 £24,000

ii) Riverside Community Centre – Hire Fees:

Since the Riverside Community Centre has been operational, each year the number of hirers has increased, whether that’s use of the main hall or incubation offices:

**2024/25** **2025/26**

£7,980 £8,500

**Expenditure**

iii) Salaries & associated costs:

The Town Council’s employment contracts are in-line with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). NALC negotiate and agree any annual rises and are gradually restructuring pay grades to ensure all exceed the National Living Wage. Recently, the National Insurance (Employers contribution) has risen, some additional hours are being funded for office staff and the roles that support the running and management of the Riverside Community Centre are due to be fully funded by Bovey Tracey Town Council in 2025/26 (as the 4-year lottery funding for these posts will cease in 2026). The Town Council has been incrementally budgeting for these costs over recent years. For 2025/26, the Council will have budgeted for 56% of the lottery funded salaries and will budget for the remaining 44% in 2026/27.

**2024/25** **2025/26**

£147,875 £151,071

iv) Watering – Town Floral Displays:

A trial was undertaken for the first time in 2024 to water the town floral displays via an external contractor. This arrangement worked well and will continue for 2025, however the frequency of watering has been reviewed and increased as appropriate.

**2024/25 2025/26**

£4,000 £6,000

v) National Non-Domestic Rates:

Teignbridge DC have increased their rate demand notices.

**2024/25 2025/26**

£8,000 £8,800

vi) Insurance Cover:

The Town Council has undertaken an independent review of insured values. The exercise has identified several assets which are under-insured and therefore the insurance premium is likely to increase:

**2024/25** **2025/26**

£7,500 £8,000

v) Establishment Costs:

The council budgets for a number of establishment costs for the back-office functions of its service provision. These include subscriptions, stationery, software, technical support, supplies and fuel etc. In line with previous year’s actual spend, these budgets have increased. In 2025, the Town Council will consider offering electronic devices to Councillors to reduce the amount of paper and to improve efficiency and an allowance has been provided for this one-off cost.

**2024/25** **2025/26**

£6,450 £10,400

vi) Contingency:

The council has reduced its contingency budget due to the adequate level of reserves it currently holds:

**2024/25** **2025/26**

£6,500 £5,000

vii) Solicitors/Conveyance Services:

The Town Council are undergoing a number of projects which require professional services in order to draft leases and licence documents, asset transfers and charitable status advice etc and a budget allowance has been proposed accordingly:

**2024/25** **2025/26**

£0 £5,000

viii) Maintenance, vandalism and Marketing:

Maintenance costs have increased during 2024 of Town Council assets (including the Riverside Community Centre Toilets) due to multiple incidents of vandalism. Therefore, a budget line for vandalism is proposed. In addition, a small budget is proposed to assist with proactive marketing of the Riverside Community Centre to maximise use and income:

**2024/25** **2025/26**

£7,200 £12,000

ix) Grounds Maintenance Contract:

The current contract expired towards the end of 2024 and has recently been re-tendered. The budget requires an increase in line with the tender award:

**2024/25** **2025/26**

£13,000 £16,000

x) Community Grants:

Due to the demand for grant requests and an increase in support required from local community groups and organisations, the grant budget has been increased to provide widespread support:

**2024/25** **2025/26**

£12,000 £15,000

xi) Recreation Ground – Redundant Football Pavilion:

The Town Council intends to bring the building back in to use as a potential gym in 2025. Significant capital investment will be required to make the building usable, and the Council will have a responsibility to maintain the exterior of the building going forward:

**2024/25 2025/26**

£0 £1,500

xii) Most other income/expenditure remains the same with slight variations from the current year.