



Chard Town Council Budget Statement 2024/2025

At the Extraordinary Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th February 2024 Chard Town Council set its budget for 2024/2025, which was unanimously agreed.

The budget is split into 2 sections:

1. The sum of £901,765 to enable the Town Council to continue providing all of its present services and facilities for the next 12 months.

This figure equates to a 13.7% rise on a Band D council tax charge.

2. The sum of £250,000 for the expected devolution of services from Somerset Council due to its announced financial emergency and need to reduce the services it will provide across the county, including in Chard.

This equates to a further 31.52% rise on the Band D council tax charge.

Together this results in an overall increase of 45.22% on the D Band charge (from £173.09 to £251.37), which is an increase of £78.28 per annum (or £1.51 per week), resulting in a precept of £1,151,765 for 2024/2025.

The Town Council will place the additional £250,000 in an earmarked reserve that can only be used for services devolved by Somerset Council and only once a business case for using any of this money is presented by Officers and Councillors, and agreed at a Full Council meeting.

Chard Town Council, like all town and parish councils in Somerset, would not have made this decision if Somerset Council was not in a financial emergency and seeking to cut non-statutory services.

However, by making this decision to set aside these funds, the Town Council hopes to be able to continue to provide the residents of Chard with some services in Chard that will be reduced or removed completely after 1st April 2024, once the devolution of services begins.