

Q4 Budget Monitoring Report – Summary 2025/26

Overall position

- Total income received: £85,613.60
- Total expenditure: £78,019.70
- Net position: Income exceeded expenditure by £7,593.90, mainly due to late grant payments received in this financial year.
- The Council remains in a stable financial position, with overspends largely linked to one-off projects or items funded from reserves.

Income (Receipts)

- Precept and allotment income were received in full and are exactly on budget.
- Grant income is significantly above budget:
 - £15,440 UKSPF grant for 2024/25 was paid late by Teignbridge District Council and received in 2025/26.
 - £900 National Lottery grant was received for the VE Day memorial bench.
- Interest income totalled £990.61. No interest had been budgeted for.
- Cemetery income reached 112.5% of budget, reflecting normal year-end variation.
- VAT reclaimed (£4,273.44) is higher than budgeted due to increased project and capital expenditure in 2024/25.
- Other income includes VE Day fundraising, a utility refund, and £50 received in error.
- Christmas stall income totalled £160 (16 stalls at £10 each).

Total income is 128.3% of the annual budget, driven primarily by the timing of grant payments rather than ongoing increases in routine income.

Expenditure (Payments)

- Staffing costs ended the year at 112.9% of budget. This reflects the Clerk's move to SCP 28 after the budget was set, the 3.2% national pay award implemented in August and increased HMRC liabilities.
- Phone and broadband costs exceeded budget due to the EE mobile contract.

- Office costs were significantly over budget due to the purchase of a new laptop and printer. £1,000 of this was funded from reserves, reducing the impact on the revenue budget.
- Open spaces expenditure was slightly over budget and included:
 - TDC bin emptying
 - Court Street hanging baskets
 - New noticeboard
 - Replacement fence
 - Hedge cutting and other maintenance
- Allotments expenditure appears heavily overspent due to the major hedge cut. £4,840 of this was funded from reserves, so it does not affect the day-to-day budget.
- Insurance costs were higher than expected, but the Council has entered a new three-year long-term agreement.
- Website maintenance is over budget due to the cost of the new website.
- Cemetery maintenance and interments were both above budget, reflecting higher activity and the cost of memorial inspections. The churchyard welcome sign (£822) was funded from reserves.
- Christmas expenditure ended the year at 155.4% of budget, including replacement lights and a gazebo.
- VE Day expenditure exceeded budget, but the overspend was covered by grant funding.
- Several headings remain underspent, including:
 - Training
 - Lengthsman (removed for 2026/27)
 - Election costs (moved to reserves for 2027)

Total expenditure is 116.9% of the annual budget, with the majority of overspends linked to one-off projects or items funded from reserves.

Key points for councillors

- The Council remains in a sound financial position at year-end.
- Higher-than-budgeted income is mainly due to late grant payments, not increased routine income.

- Overspends are largely planned, one-off, or reserve-funded, and do not indicate structural budget pressures.
- Cemetery and interment income/expenditure reflect normal year-end variation.
- The Christmas budget is overspent for the year, as expected once the installation invoice was received in Q4.
- No immediate financial concerns have been identified going into 2026/27.