

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL**Community Development Committee****Thursday 24 September 2026
Decision Report****Budget 2027/28****Recommendation**

Committee to consider the Officers' proposal for events in 2027/28, for further discussion at this committee when recommending a budget to the Governance Committee.

Ward

Not ward specific.

Risk Management

To consider proposals which are in line with Council objectives, for submission to a future Community Development Committee in order to allow further costings to be provided.

Objective

To promote the environmental, social, and economic wellbeing of the town and its community, in keeping with the Council's governance arrangements.

Report

This report covers the Officers' proposals for the 2027/28 budget. They are based upon rolling forward the programme from the current year.

Detailed below are the contents of the events including useful information to give an overview of each event.

The cost of the proposed events for 2027/28 are £162,800. A reduction of proposed costs from 2025/26 of £8,200. Savings are a combination of reduction in events costs and increased event income.

Some of the proposed summer and December events may overlap with activities being developed through the Plans for Neighbourhoods programme, or alternatively may be eligible for support from that funding stream. This will become clearer prior to the submission of budget proposals, and the information provided here should therefore be considered as indicative, offering a guide to how the overall events programme may take shape

Easter Family Fun Day
Saturday 27 March 2027 – Ridley Park

The Easter Family Fun Day is a much-loved tradition in Ridley Park, offering a vibrant mix of activities designed for all ages. Families can enjoy a packed programme including a Easter egg hunt, craft workshops, interactive “have-a-go” sessions with local community groups, and sports activities that encourage participation and fun. The park will be filled with craft stalls, food vendors, and lively entertainment, while activities like Silent Discos and cookery lessons provides attractions that appeal to children, young people, and parents alike. Increase in costs due to high attendance number increasing the need for stewards and traffic management as requested via SAG.

Attendance: Circa 4,000
Indicative Budget: £7,000
2026 Cost £6,500 (Income generated £1,420)

Blyth Harbour Day
Saturday 1 May 2027 – Quayside

Now entering its 4th year, the Blyth Quayside Festival/Harbour Day continues to grow Following themes of national significance in previous years, 2027 will continue to celebrate those located along the Quayside including Blyth RNLi Newcastle University, Blyth Tall Ship and the 10 year anniversary of Energy Central. Harbour Day will be a day full of markets, music, food, and local history where people can explore the highlights of the Quayside and enjoy one of Blyth’s most picturesque locations.

Attendance: Circa 5,000
Indicative Budget: £18,000
2026 Cost £12,000 (Income generated £1,115)

Blyth Live Music Festival
Saturday 19 June 2027 – Blyth Seafront

The Blyth Live Music Festival is firmly established as one of the region’s largest and most popular outdoor events. Returning for its 13th year, the festival transforms the seafront into a vibrant stage, showcasing a dynamic mix of headline acts and homegrown talent. With a funfair, market stalls, diverse food and drink options, and a family-friendly atmosphere, the event draws thousands to the seafront for a full day of music and entertainment.

Attendance: Circa 10,000
Indicative Budget: £62,000
2026 Cost £58,000 (Income generated £9,203)

Blyth Town Carnival

Saturday 3 July 2027 – Blyth Town Centre

Returning to the Marketplace bringing colour, music, and community spirit back to the heart of Blyth. The day features the parade, live music, performances, and activities that showcase the talent and diversity of local groups. By animating the town centre with family entertainment, the Carnival will create a memorable experience while boosting local businesses through increased footfall. Increased budget will be used to strengthen the school engagement and parade. Labour for this event is now managed through current officer provision creating more budget for event content.

Attendance: Circa 4,000

Indicative Budget: £18,000

2026 Cost: £15,000 (Income generated £660)

Blyth Sandcastle Competition

Saturday TBC July 2027 (tide dependent) – Blyth Beach

This long-standing seaside favourite celebrates creativity, family fun, and the natural beauty of Blyth's coastline. Families design and build imaginative sandcastles and sculptures, with prizes awarded for the best creations. The event offers a low-cost day out at the start of the summer holidays, encouraging children and parents to spend quality time outdoors while enjoying the beach environment. It remains an effective way to bring the community together and celebrate Blyth's coastal identity.

Attendance: Circa 300–600

Indicative Budget: £1500

2026 Cost £250 (Income generated £0)

Marketplace Summer Activities

Various days across summer holidays – Marketplace/Town Centre

Following the success of recent summer activities by continuing to animate the town centre with a series of engaging and family-friendly events. From sports demonstrations to dance workshops, the programme is designed to attract families, support local businesses, and create a lively, welcoming atmosphere for visitors and shoppers. By spreading activity across multiple days, the initiative ensures a sustained boost to footfall in the town centre throughout the summer holiday period.

Attendance: Circa 200–300 per day

Indicative Budget: £8,000

2026 Costs £10,000 (Income generated £0)

Fireworks Show

Saturday 6 November 2027 – Mermaid Car Park

Returning to our original format, and dependent on the success of this year's double show, the event will either follow previous formats or continue with a double show. This will be dependent on feedback from SAG members and emergency services. We will also feature the usual food and funfair elements.

Attendance: Circa 20,000

Indicative Budget: £35,000

2026 Budget £35,000 (Income generated 2025 £9,158)

Christmas Lights On

Saturday 20 November 2027 – Town Centre

The annual Christmas Lights Switch-On marks the official start of the festive season in Blyth, transforming the town centre into a hub of celebration. Across the day, visitors will enjoy live music, stage entertainment, market stalls, and food traders, building excitement in the lead-up to the big moment when the town's lights are illuminated. This event supports town centre businesses by encouraging footfall and extending dwell time. By animating multiple areas of the town centre, it encourages visitors to explore and shop locally during the pre-Christmas period.

Attendance: Circa 6,000

Indicative Budget: £20,000

2026 Budget £17,500 (Income generated 2025 £2,166)

Christmas Saturdays

Saturdays during December 2027 – Town Centre

Throughout December, Blyth town centre will see festive activities designed to spread Christmas cheer and support local businesses. Gentle, family-oriented attractions such as Mrs Claus craft sessions in the library, reindeer visits, festive window trails, Live music, and food markets will add atmosphere, ensuring every Saturday feels special in the run-up to Christmas. By keeping the festive activities across the month, this programme provides repeated opportunities for families and shoppers to engage with the town centre.

Attendance: Circa 3,000 across month

Indicative Budget: £10,000

2026 £10,000 (Income generated 2025 £0)

Media Day

February Half Term 2028 – Phoenix Theatre

Now in its fifth year, Media Day offers 50 local children a unique opportunity to step into the world of film, theatre, and performance. Working alongside a professional acting and film company, participants will spend the day developing a script, filming their own production, and gaining hands-on experience in every stage of the creative process. The event also includes an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the Phoenix Theatre, giving young people insight into the technical and artistic roles that bring live performance to life. Media Day inspires creativity, builds confidence, and highlights the vital role of the theatre within Blyth.

Attendance: 50

Indicative Budget: £3,300

2027 budget £3,000 (Income generated 2025 £0)

Income

The expected income for 27/28 is £20,000, generated through a combination of stall fees, food traders, sponsorship and donations across the events. This income helps offset delivery costs and demonstrates the programme's ability to attract external financial support alongside the requested budgets.

An income of £23,700 has been received in the last 12 months of events, however the forecasted amount for next year is, as always, weather dependant.

Indicative Budget £182,800

Expected Income £20,000

Total £162,800

Julie Summers

Events Coordinator

17 September 2026