Decision Report

Meeting: Community Development Committee

Date of Meeting: 24 November 2026

Subject: Budget 2027/2028

Recommendation

Committee to consider the Officers' budget proposals for 2027/28, for recommendation to the Governance Committee.

Ward

Not ward specific.

Risk Management

To consider budget proposals which are in line with Council objectives, for submission to the Governance Committee, as within the budget process for 2027/28.

Crime Prevention

None at this stage.

Public Sector Equality Duty

None at this stage.

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 commitments from the current year and any agreed changes for next year. Within these budget proposals, e.g. events, are those that have been discussed

in a previous committee meeting. An inflation rate of 4.2% has been used where appropriate.

Of late the Council have undertaken a consultation exercise and although this has not been completed, a summary of the feedback to date shows

- 83% of respondents said that events and activities as important or really important.
- 68% wanted better feedback and clearer updates on local issues and Council decisions.
- 65% feel that markets, independent businesses and community enterprise are factors in encouraging people to spend time in Blyth and
- There were positive views overall.

These initial thoughts may subsequently have a bearing upon next year's budget setting. Also on the agenda for this meeting are new initiatives which will be discussed prior to this report which may affect the committee's proposals to be considered by the Governance Committee.

Shown on Appendix 1 are the items included within the Committee's responsibility, by budget heading. It should be noted that the revised budget for this year 2026/27 is £441k, which includes £27k carried forward from the previous financial year regarding community grants. Therefore, on a like for like basis the proposed budget, for 2027/28, is £399k compared to £414k, 2026/27, with no reduction in service provision.

Malcolm Wilkinson
Town Clerk
17 November 2026