



Summary (Decisions) of the Finance Meeting of Blaenavon Town Council held on **Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2026 at 6:30 pm** on a hybrid basis in the Council Chamber at **101, High Street, Blaenavon** and remotely in accordance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

The full minutes of the meeting are subject to confirmation at the Council Finance Meeting to be held on Wednesday the **11<sup>th</sup> of February 2026**.

**In attendance:**

Councillors in attendance: A. Lewis (In the Chair), I. Parfitt, M. Wheeler, A. Beavan, S. Maslen, J. Davies, L. Cowles, J. Hunt (18:36 hrs), N. Matthews,

Absent: Cllr T. Porter.

Youth Representatives: Boyd Paynter, Daniel Morse.

Officers: Kevin Warren (Chief Officer, CO), Kerry Jones (Assistant Chief Officer, ACO).

Visitors: None present

Members of public: None present

The finance meeting was opened at 6:30pm by the Deputy Mayor Councillor Lewis who welcomed everyone and expressed thanks for attendance.

**1. To receive any questions from the public.**

None received.

**2. To receive and accept apologies.**

The Chief Officer informed the chairperson that the following apologies had been received.

- Cllr Griffin
- Cllr Evans

It was proposed by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Beavan that the apologies be accepted.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Apologies accepted.

### **3. Declarations of Interest.**

None received.

### **4. Council Meetings: To confirm the minutes of the Council Finance Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2025.**

Minutes were displayed on screen and read for accuracy with no amendments.

It was proposed by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Maslen that the minutes be accepted.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Minutes approved as a true and accurate record.

### **5. To receive, consider and note the Interim Internal Audit Report (April - September 2025).**

The Chief Officer forwarded to members a copy of the interim internal audit report and associated documents prior to the meeting.

Members were invited to ask any questions in relation to the information presented.

Members were happy with the information presented.

**Resolved:** Interim Internal Audit Report noted and accepted by members.

### **6. To receive, consider and approve the Council Tax Base for Blaenavon as per the calculations received from Torfaen County Borough Council on the 10th of December 2025.**

The Chief Officer forwarded to all members a copy of the council tax base calculation for 2026/27 prior to the meeting.

The Council Tax Base figure has been set at 1,958 for Blaenavon.

It was proposed by Cllr Beavan and seconded by Cllr Cowles to accept and approve the council tax base figure of 1,958.

**Resolved:** Council tax base figure noted and accepted by members.

### **7. Responsible Finance Officer's Update: To receive and consider the November and December 2025 financial updates.**

Mr Warren (RFO) forwarded to members the November and December 2025 financial reports electronically in advance of the meeting which detailed the following areas:

- Income and Expenditure
- Credit Card Payments
- Cheque Payments
- Bacs Payments
- Cash Book Transactions

- Bank Reconciliation (Bank Statements 192 – 194)
- Project Expenditure
- Budget
- VAT
- Petty Cash

Mr Warren presented to members each of the above areas of finance for November and December 2025 and highlighted any relevant information.

Members were invited to ask any questions in relation to the information presented.

Members were happy with the presentation.

It was proposed by Cllr Cowles and seconded by Cllr Maslen that the financial reports for November and December 2025 be accepted.

**Resolved:** Financial update for November and December 2025 accepted by members.

**8. To receive, consider and make any relevant determinations in relation to Blaenavon Town Council's Draft Budget for 2026/27.**

The Draft Budget and associated documents for 2026/27 had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting for their consideration.

The Chief Officer provided an update on the budget setting process to date.

A Budget Working Group, comprising of Cllrs Evans, Cowles, Matthews, Wheeler, Lewis and Maslen, had been appointed by members and met on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2025.

The working group considered all aspects of the budget in detail. The recommended budget and all supporting documentation were forwarded to all members ahead of the meeting.

Cllr Matthews reported that the Working Group had undertaken a thorough review of the budget, including legal duties, contractual obligations and staffing. It was agreed that current staffing levels are necessary to deliver the Council's services.

The Working Group also considered projected reserves, potential projects, activities and services, partnership working, grant funding and feedback received from members of the public.

As part of this process, a supporting document "The Precept Explained" was developed. This document clearly sets out what the precept is, how it is calculated, what residents actually pay, and how the funding supports local services and activities.

Members considered the draft budget and precept, including the most effective ways to communicate this information clearly to residents and demonstrate the Council's work and impact.

It was proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Hunt that the Mayor, Cllr Lewis Evans, record a video explaining the precept, proposed increase and demonstrating the Council's work and impact, alongside Youth Representatives B. Paynter and D. Morse.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** Mayor, Cllr Lewis Evans to record a video explaining the precept, proposed increase and demonstrating the Council's work and impact, alongside Youth Representatives B. Paynter and D. Morse.

Following discussions by members it was proposed by Cllr Davies that the precept for 2026/27 be set at £235,000. This was seconded by Cllr Hunt.

All members in agreement.

**Resolved:** The recommended draft budget and precept will be presented in the January 2026 Full Council meeting for final ratification.

Meeting ended at 19.23 hrs.