

AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Members of the Committee: Cllrs. Farrow (Presiding Chair), plus all serving members of the FULL Council until further notice.

The Guildhall,
Axminster,
Devon.

18 December 2025

Dear Councillors,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Strategy & Finance Committee which will take place at the Axminster Guildhall at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 5th January 2026

This meeting will be recorded, and recordings will be held for one year by the town council. If members of the public make a representation to the meeting, they will be deemed to have consented to being audio recorded.

If you wish to speak, please raise your hand and you will be invited to speak by the Chair. Voting will also take place by show of hands and the Chair will indicate the votes have been noted.

Members and the public are reminded that remarks must be addressed through the Chair.

Members are reminded:

- a) Of their obligation to **declare the existence and nature of any personal interests** they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting and to **withdraw if it is a pecuniary** one.
- b) That in reaching decisions they should take into consideration the Town Council's decision to reduce its carbon footprint in the light of the **climate/environment emergency**.
- c) To ensure that their discussions include full consideration of the points set out in the Town Council's **risk management** strategy.

Public Forum Session (limited to 15 minutes or as otherwise agreed by presiding Chair).

SF26/001

To note members of this committee present:

SF26/002

To receive and, if thought fit, approve apologies for absence (and reasons therefore):

LGA 1972 S.85 (1)

SF26/003

To note members of the committee not otherwise present and to receive any other apologies for absence:

SF26/004

To receive any declarations of interest from members of the committee in relation to items of business on this agenda and to note any dispensations previously afforded.

This does not preclude the need for members to declare any additional interests that may arise during the meeting.

Continued Overleaf

SF26/005

To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the minutes of the Strategy & Finance Committee meeting held 29th September 2025 and to consider any matters arising from those minutes.

SF26/006

To consider and, if thought fit, to approve the minutes of the Strategy & Finance Committee meeting held 1st December 2025 and to consider any matters arising from those minutes.

SF26/007

To consider any matters listed on this agenda that Councillors consider should be dealt with as confidential business as per the provisions of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 [other than SF26/016 and 017(IC) as shown below]

Strategy & Finance Business to be considered:

SF26/008

Committee to receive most recent monthly Bank Reconciliation, Balance Sheet and Summary (Budget) Monitor (Q3) report (financial information) as per recommendation of FULL Council.

SF26/009

To consider any updates/developments with regards to Local Government Reorganisation and/or MCHLG Devolution programme that may impact upon the Town Councils FY26-27 financial stability, fiscal planning and the subsequent budget and precept considerations.

SF26/010

To consider matters pertaining to the Guildhall Venue financial and operational forward plan; Cllr. Price and RFO to present report to members.

SF26/011

To consider matters pertaining to sponsorship opportunities and agreements relating to Town Council assets and facilities.

SF26/012

To consider matters pertaining to Town Council's Investment and Borrowing Strategy & Policy; to receive a report from RFO on revisions to maximise/increase credit interest earnings.

SF26/013

To consider any matters considered as urgent by Presiding Chair or Proper Officer for discussion/notation only.

SF26/014

To note the date of future scheduled meetings of this committee;

23rd February 2026

27th April 2026

Additional meetings may be required if other matters of urgent business need to be considered.

SF26/015

Recommendation: that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Parag. 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act namely, the financial affairs or business affairs or employment affairs of the Town Council by virtue of the fact that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Continued Overleaf

Committee business to be considered in Part Two:

SF26/016 (IC)

To consider update report on matters pertaining to The Old Courthouse.

RFO to present report.

As this agenda item relates to commercially sensitive business, this item will be considered as a Part Two confidential matter.

SF26/017 (IC)

To receive update report on matters pertaining to Axminster Municipal Cemetery works

Clerk/RFO to present report.

As this agenda item relates to commercially sensitive business, this item will be considered as a Part Two confidential matter.

With no further business to attend to, the presiding Chair will bring the meeting to an end.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Hayward

Town Clerk/RFO

18th December 2025