

Green Group budget amendment 2026

To reduce the General Fund surplus by £255,000 the Council's already agreed minimum of £3.1m.

To fund:

1. Securing Community Assets - a Community Asset Transfer programme:

As part of the Local Government Reorganisation programme undertake a review of Council assets (property and land) to identify property which has previously been, currently is in or suitable for community ownership and community benefit.

To ensure that community assets can be protected and improved by the Council and communities ahead of LGR, to enable a programme of Community Asset Transfer, (CAT) upon request and in line with the [Councils CAT policy](#) (adopted 2022), to support local (appropriately constituted) community organisations take on assets in Exeter's neighbourhoods and secure them for the long term as community owned and run assets.

The programme would provide revenue funds for capacity building for the organisations and funding expertise (e.g. Surveyors, business planning); and small capital grants to act as 'first funder in' to underpin and attract external capital funding for the project or fund the Council to undertake essential and urgent repairs to the building before disposal.

Disposal may include all the methods that the Council has used to date, including: freehold sale at less than best consideration (allowed under government guidance), long leases at less than best consideration or peppercorn.

Note: It is noted that the approach might generate some capital receipts - which can be used to continue the programme (revenue or capital).

The programme will be funded as follows:

Revenue grants: £155,000 reduction to General Fund min reserves levels

Capital funding: An amount, allocated from the non-neighbourhood portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy, to be decided by the Executive once the review has been complete.

2. Nature Towns and Cities Accreditation:

The Accreditation demonstrates a *“commitment to transforming green infrastructure to benefit people, place and nature. By achieving the award, you’ll have shown that you have good leadership, are involving and engaging communities and building effective partnerships. Together, you will have developed ambitious plans to improve the natural infrastructure of your town or city. You will also have considered how to secure funding and developed new ways to deliver with communities and partners.”*

This budget amendment will help support the proposal to seek accreditation and address feedback in the budget consultation for more support for parks and greens spaces.

The proposal is to fund infrastructure (beyond play equipment which has separate budget), support gardening (vs ‘maintenance’), planting (for plants - noting the separate tree budget), and fund community groups that are, or wish to, get involved in the accreditation to undertake this work.

Revenue funding £50,000 from a reduction to the General Fund minimum reserves level.

3. Adapting to our changing climate:

To develop an adaptation and resilience action plan for the City of Exeter (not just Council services) which involves communities and partners in practical action.

This will sit alongside the Net Zero 2030 City Council’s Carbon Action Plan being developed by the Net Zero Project Board and help partners and communities really consider the impacts of the changing climate on communities. The Council attends Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Climate Impacts Group ([Climate Impacts Group - Devon Climate Emergency](#)) meetings, which discuss climate resilience and adaptation.

The work will facilitate the co-development of a resilience and adaptation action plan and access to technical expertise to identify risks and how they can be reduced or managed. There needs to be a big emphasis on working with communities for this work to be effective. Community engagement can, in part, be covered by some of the £120k budget already identified in the budget book.

Funded by £50,000 adjustment to General Fund minimum reserves level.