

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

Statement of Accounts

2025 – 2026

1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

Folkestone Town Council

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Folkestone Town Council

Council Information

(2025/26)

Town Mayor

Cllr Lucy McGirr

Councillors

Cllr A Akuffo-Kelly
Cllr Chalie Bain Smith
Cllr Laura Davison
Cllr John Renshaw
Cllr Bridget Chapman
Cllr Peter Gane
Cllr Jane Darling
Cllr Liz McShane
Cllr Adrian Lockwood
Cllr Nicola Keen
Cllr Lucy McGirr
Cllr Christine Dickinson
Cllr Connor McConville
Cllr Jackie Meade
Cllr Tim Prater
Cllr Belinda Walker
Cllr Kieran Leigh
Cllr Roger West

Clerk to the Council

Mrs Toni Brenchley (Town Clerk)

External Auditors

Mazars LLP

Internal Auditor

Mulberry Local Authority Services Ltd

Internal Auditor's Report to the Council on the Accounts for the Year ended 31 March 2026

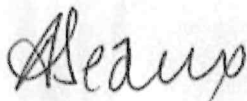
I certify that I have examined the Statement of Accounts and associated accounting notes on pages 4 to 13 of Folkestone Town Council, which have been prepared by the Financial Officer in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 and CIPFA Accounting Guidance Notes for Local Councils.

I have carried out an examination in accordance with relevant auditing standards, and my agreed audit programme. I had had due regard to the internal audit obligations and responsibilities as set out in the council's annual return.

The audit included examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the Statement of Accounts, sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

In my opinion, the Statement of Accounts present fairly the financial position of Folkestone Town Council as at 31st March 2026 and its Income and Expenditure for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 and CIPFA Accounting Guidance Notes for Local Councils.

Signature:



Andy Beams (Director)

**Eastgate House
Dogflud Way
Farnham
Surrey
GU9 7UD**

Date: 29th May 2026

Income and Expenditure Account
for the Period ended 31 March 2026

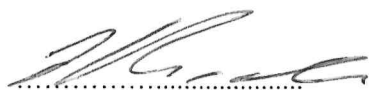
| | 2025/26 | 2024/25 |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| INCOME | | |
| Precept on District Council | 1,082,720 | 1,000,590 |
| Bank and Investment Interest | 25,083 | 27,488 |
| Allotments | 9,685 | 9,147 |
| Rental Receipts | 13,504 | 27,002 |
| Museum/Heritage Sales | 15,055 | 10,742 |
| Play Areas Funding | - | 2,352 |
| Community Infrastructure Levy | 9,362 | 16,227 |
| CCTV Grant | - | 29,190 |
| Other | 12,762 | 26,600 |
| | <hr/> 1,168,171 <hr/> | <hr/> 1,149,338 <hr/> |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Employees/Administration | 638,537 | 576,572 |
| Democratic Costs | 430 | 520 |
| Civic and Ceremonial | 20,908 | 21,638 |
| Premises | 144,712 | 150,976 |
| Services | 272,118 | 297,595 |
| Fees | 9,687 | 10,465 |
| Museum/Heritage | 109,818 | 21,893 |
| | <hr/> 1,196,210 <hr/> | <hr/> 1,079,659 <hr/> |

| GENERAL FUND | 2025/26 | 2024/25 |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Balance as at 1 April | 285,143 | 310,725 |
| Add: Total Income | 1,168,171 | 1,149,338 |
| Deduct: Total Expenditure | 1,196,210 | 1,079,659 |
| | 257,104 | 380,404 |
| Transfer (to)/from Reserves and Provisions: | | |
| Tree Planting | (14,205) | (24,891) |
| Museum/Heritage | 59,157 | 0 |
| Tourism | 0 | 0 |
| Bus Shelters | 0 | 0 |
| Ward Grants | (6,928) | (18,753) |
| Town Grants | 1 | 267 |
| FTC Elections | (12,000) | (11,100) |
| Armed Forces Day | 0 | 0 |
| Anti-Litter Campaign | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Benches | 100 | 100 |
| Play Areas | 0 | 0 |
| CCTV Maintenance | 13,524 | (21,307) |
| Christmas Events (Cheriton) | 0 | 1,369 |
| Neighbourhood Fund (CIL) | 19,771 | (11,783) |
| Christmas Gifts for Children | 0 | 0 |
| Community Transport | 3,785 | 3,785 |
| Guildhall Umbrella Project | 0 | 0 |
| Allotment Deposits | (750) | (1,100) |
| Friends of Folkestone Museum | 304 | 2,074 |
| Christmas Lights | (9,568) | (15,923) |
| Outstanding Invoices | 0 | 0 |
| | 49,306 | (95,261) |
| General Reserve Balance at 31 March | 306,410 | 285,143 |

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2026

| Fixed Assets | 2025/26 | | 2024/25 | |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | £ | | £ | |
| Freehold Land and Buildings | 700,000 | | 700,000 | |
| Vehicles and Equipment | 677,698 | | 617,652 | |
| Community Assets | 2,336,562 | 3,714,260 | 2,399,504 | 3,717,156 |
| | | | | |
| Current Assets | | | | |
| Sundry Debtors | 1,951 | | 4,526 | |
| HM Revenue & Customs - VAT | 20,640 | | 17,163 | |
| Prepayments | 24,182 | | 13,358 | |
| Stock Balance (Museum Merchandise) | 2,031 | | 2,966 | |
| Primary Current Bank Account | 82,948 | | 54,918 | |
| Secondary Current Bank Account | 44,189 | | 74,263 | |
| Deposit Bank Account | 18,579 | | 24,554 | |
| Short Term Investments | 240,000 | | 240,000 | |
| Receipts Account | 15,950 | | 4,842 | |
| Council Saver Account | 83,149 | | 81,558 | |
| CCLA PSDF Account | 240,000 | | 240,000 | |
| Museum Shop Float | 100 | | 100 | |
| Corporate Credit Card | 888 | 774,607 | 804 | 759,052 |
| | | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | | |
| Sundry Creditors | 0 | | 0 | |
| Receipts in Advance | 13,876 | | 7,823 | |
| Accruals | 38,949 | 52,825 | 1,407 | 9,231 |
| | | | | |
| Net Current Assets | | 721,782 | | 749,821 |
| | | | | |
| Long Term Liabilities | | | | |
| PWLB Outstanding Loan for Office Building | 172,697 | 172,697 | 202,552 | 202,552 |
| | | | | |
| Net Assets | | 4,263,345 | | 4,264,425 |

| | 2025/26 | 2024/25 |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Represented by: | | |
| Fixed Asset Restatement Account | 3,714,260 | 3,717,156 |
| PWLB Outstanding Loan for Office Building | - 172,697 | - 202,552 |
| Capital Receipts Reserve | 0 | 0 |
| Earmarked Reserves and Provisions: - | | |
| Tree Planting | 59,096 | 44,891 |
| Museum/Heritage | 92,645 | 151,802 |
| Tourism | 4,735 | 4,735 |
| Bus Shelters | 3,500 | 3,500 |
| Ward Grants | 25,680 | 18,753 |
| Town Grants | 0 | 1 |
| FTC Elections | 23,100 | 11,100 |
| Armed Forces Day | 0 | 0 |
| Salt Bins | 6,168 | 6,168 |
| Anti-Litter Campaign | 0 | 0 |
| Benches | 0 | 0 |
| Play Areas | 12,903 | 12,903 |
| CCTV Maintenance | 23,607 | 37,131 |
| Christmas Events (Cheriton) | 0 | 0 |
| Neighbourhood Fund (CIL) | 131,890 | 151,661 |
| Christmas Gifts for Children | 2,217 | 2,217 |
| Community Transport | 1,840 | 1,840 |
| Allotment Deposits | 2,500 | 1,740 |
| Friends of Folkestone Museum | 0 | 304 |
| Christmas Lights | 25,491 | 15,923 |
| General Reserves | 306,410 | 285,143 |
| | 4,263,345 | 4,264,425 |



**Town Mayor
(Chair of Full Council)**

Date... 11/6/26.....



Responsible Financial Officer

Date... 11/6/26.....

Notes to the Accounts

31 March 2026

1. Statement of Accounting Policies

These accounts cover the Town Council's full year of operations for the period 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026.

i) Accounting Convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Guidance Notes for Local Councils (the Guide) issued by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) as applicable to a medium sized local Council. Consequently, the latest accounting policies, as set out in the Guide and, so far as they apply to this Council, have been adopted for the Council's Statement of Accounts.

ii) Fixed Assets

Assets in the balance sheet for 2025/26 are valued on the following basis:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Town Hall | purchase price (June 2011) |
| Statutory Allotments | actual cost |
| Parks Land | actual cost |
| Civic Regalia | Professional valuation 2006 |
| Statue and Memorial | insurance valuation 2013 |
| Folkestone Collection | insurance valuation 2013 |
| Other | Purchase price where known (or estimated value) |

iii) Capital Receipts

Capital receipts arising from the disposal of fixed assets are taken to the Capital Receipts Reserve until such times as they are used to finance new capital expenditure.

iv) Debtors and Creditors

The revenue accounts of the Council are maintained on an accruals basis in accordance with the guide. That is, sums due to or from the Council during the year are included whether or not the cash has actually been received or paid in the year.

v) PWLB Loan

In March 2011, the Council borrowed £500,000 from the Public Works Loan Board for the purchase of permanent office accommodation. Repayments of £39,301 (including interest) were made in 2025/26. The current outstanding capital amount is £172,697.

vi) Leases

The Council has committed a three-year fixed lease for the mayoral car from year 2024. Rentals payable under operating leases or contract hire agreements are charged to revenue on an accruals basis.

vii) Reserves and Provisions

The Council has arranged for appropriate reserves and provisions as shown below.

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| General Reserve | £306,410 | For unforeseen expenditure and emergencies |
| Tree Planting | £59,096 | For tree planting |
| Museum/Heritage | £92,645 | Lottery funding, internal and external contributions towards the development of the Museum/Heritage Centre |
| Tourism | £4,735 | For the development of a tourism service |
| Bus Shelter | £3,500 | For new bus shelters |
| FTC Elections Reserve | £23,100 | For use on election year |
| Salt Bins | £6,168 | For additional salt bins in Folkestone |
| Play Areas | £12,903 | For the maintenance of play areas |
| CCTV Maintenance | £23,607 | For new installations of CCTV |
| Neighbourhood Fund (CIL) | £131,891 | For the provision of infrastructure required to support growth within the town |
| Christmas Gifts for Children | £2,217 | For the provision of Christmas gifts for children |
| Community Transport | £1,840 | For the provision of community transport in Folkestone and surrounding areas |
| Allotment Deposits | £2,500 | Deposit held from allotment tenants |
| Ward Grants | £25,681 | For awarding grants funds to local organisations |
| Christmas Lights | £25,491 | Purchase and maintenance of Christmas Lights |

viii) Investment Income

Investment income/bank interest for 2025/26 was £25,083.

2. Agency Work

During the year, the Council undertook no agency work on behalf of other authorities. During the year, the Council commissioned no agency work to be performed by other authorities.

3. Tenancies

During the year, the following tenancies were held:

Council as Landlord

| Tenant | Property | Rent | Repairing/ Non-Repairing |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Silver Screen Cinema | The Town Hall | £15,000 | Non-Repairing |

Council as Tenant

| Landlord | Property | Rent | Repairing/ Non Repairing |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Martello Plastics Ltd | Storage | £15,996 | Non-Repairing |
| Strank's Removals & Storage Ltd | Storage | £523 | Non-Repairing |

4. Publicity

| | 2025/26 | 2024/25 |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Recruitment Advertising | 347 | 496 |
| Publicity | 1426 | 3,186 |
| Other | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 1,773 | 3,682 |

5. Pensions

For the year of account, the Council's contributions equal to 21.6% of employees' pensionable pay. These contributions are likely to change in future years as a result of the Actuary's regular pension reviews and any Government changes.

The employer's pension costs are charged to the Kent Superannuation Fund accounts in respect of qualifying employees and are equal to the contributions paid to the scheme for these employees.

Contributions to the Kent Superannuation Fund are determined by the fund's actuary and are set to meet 100% of the liabilities of that fund, in accordance with relevant Government regulations.

6. Fixed Assets

At 31 March, the following assets were held:

| | 2026 | | 2025 | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| | £ | | £ | |
| <u>Freehold Land and Buildings</u> | | | | |
| The Old Town Hall, Folkestone | 700,000 | 700,000 | 700,000 | 700,000 |
| <u>Vehicles and Equipment</u> | | | | |
| Computer and Office Equipment | 38,905 | | 38,610 | |
| Office Machinery | 3,848 | | 3,848 | |
| Office Furniture | 52,882 | | 52,672 | |
| Furniture (Council Chambers) | 28,300 | | 28,300 | |
| Screen/Sound Equipment (Council Chambers) | 24,900 | | 24,900 | |
| Street Furniture | 26,752 | | 26,752 | |
| Bus Shelters | 27,500 | | 27,500 | |
| Speed Watch Equipment | 2,251 | | 2,251 | |
| CCTV Equipment | 166,981 | | 175,375 | |
| Christmas Lights | 83,890 | | 88,890 | |
| Play Equipment | 152,833 | | 150,294 | |
| Other | 64,856 | 673,898 | 64,856 | 679,248 |
| <u>Community Assets</u> | | | | |
| Allotment Land (2 sites) | 2 | | 2 | |
| Parks Land (8 sites) | 1 | | 1 | |
| Council Regalia and Artefacts | 96,347 | | 95,893 | |
| William Harvey Statue | 124,833 | | 124,833 | |
| War Memorial | 59,073 | | 59,073 | |
| Gurkha Memorial | 30,000 | | 30,000 | |
| Power Columns 11x (Cheriton High Street) | 4,400 | | 4,400 | |
| The Folkestone Collection (Museum/Heritage) | 2,025,706 | 2,340,362 | 2,023,706 | 2,337,908 |
| TOTAL FIXED ASSETS | | 3,714,260 | | 3,717,156 |

The basis of valuation of the above assets is set out in the Accounting Policies (Note 1). The contra-entry is reflected in a Fixed Asset Restatement Account.

7. Fixed Assets – Disposals

During the year, £14,109 of fixed assets were disposed of, including CCTV equipment (purchase value £8,285) and a touch screen TV (purchase value £4,990).

8. Creditors and accrued expenses **2025/26**

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Trade Creditors | £38,949 |
| Deferred Income | £13,876 |
| Prepayments | £24,182 |

9. Charitable Funds

The Town Mayor of Folkestone raises funds for charitable purposes during the Mayor's term of office. The funds are held by the Council in separate accounts and disbursed at the Mayor's discretion.

| | Balance at 01/04/2025 £ | Contribution to fund £ | Payments £ | Balance at 31/03/2026 £ |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Mayor's Charitable Fund | 5,873 | 9,229 | 11,712 | 3,390 |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| | Balance at 01/04/2025 £ | Contribution to fund £ | Payments £ | Balance at 31/03/2026 £ |
| Town Mayor's Christmas Fund | 14,045 | 26,168 | 28,379 | 11,834 |

10. Capital Commitments

The Council was not committed to any capital expenditure at 31 March 2025.

11. Contingent Liabilities

The Council approved at a meeting of the Full Council on 21 April 2026 to proceed with the purchase of 2 Grace Hill, Folkestone, the former Library building (minute ref: 2237).

12. Democratic Costs

There were no Democratic costs in 2025/26.

