Liberal Democrat Budget 2026/27

A landmark year of delivering a better city for the people of Hull.

In May 2022, the people of Hull elected a Liberal Democrat council, wanting to see a change from the approach under the previous administration. In the last 4 years, the Lib Dem administration has had one core mission - turning Hull City Council into one that listens to local people and gets the basics right.

This year is a landmark year for delivering a better city for the people of Hull. We will see investment to fix more potholes, clean more streets and better tackle crime. We will also see the completion of major projects inherited from the previous Labour administration. We will see investment to support people across the city who deserve a Council that cares for them. This year's Liberal Democrat budget is about one thing and one thing only: Making Hull Better. Every pound of this budget does just that.

Getting the basics right - A cleaner and safer Hull

Getting the basics right means delivering the everyday services that residents rely on to feel proud of where they live. We are focused on making Hull cleaner, safer and welcoming. This budget sees huge investments to make that a reality. When people open their front doors under a Lib Dem Council, they'll see a Love Your Neighbourhood team cleaning their streets, a park invested in, or a crime safety scheme signed off by our Crime Prevention Fund. This Council is focused on delivering the basics and doing so in a cost-effective way.

We will continue our Love Your Neighbourhood scheme to deliver targeted street-by-street cleansing, fly-tipping removal and litter enforcement across the city.

This proven approach is being strengthened through three dedicated neighbourhood teams, allowing us to maintain a proactive, locally focused service. This financial year alone, over 170 different sites have been visited by the team, with more to come. Since its creation, over 1,320 sites have benefited from the Love Your Neighbourhood scheme. By continuing to invest in the scheme, we can clean even more streets across the city.

Over the coming year, we will continue to invest in our dedicated tree management and gully cleansing teams, recognising the vital role they play on our streets. From leaf clearing to responding to storms, this team is focused on delivering a cleaner city.

We will maintain our free bulky waste collection service, supporting residents to dispose of household items responsibly, reducing fly tipping to keep our neighbourhoods clean and safe. Our Bulky Item Collection Programme means that 5 items are free, and we're continuing the reduced rates for items after these first 5 per household. Our additional funding into the service this year has meant that should demand have increased, we were able to still meet our collection time targets, helping to keep rubbish off the streets of Hull. In Hull, due to the funding that bulky waste collection receives, this council has collected over 6,000 tonnes of waste from homes since the Lib Dems set our first budget of this administration.

We have also invested in delivering more Bring Out Your Rubbish days. This Lib Dem administration delivered new investment for Councillors to spend in their local areas to keep this popular and well-used activity going.

After over 150 projects have seen investment from our flagship Crime Prevention Fund, we are announcing our continuation of the fund for future years. This Lib Dem Crime Prevention Fund has supported thousands of people, businesses and charities right across the city with one single aim - making our city safer.

Feeling safe is something residents contact us about on a regular basis. This is why we are investing a further £300,000 into CCTV cameras in the city and another £200,000 into road safety cameras.

Safety cameras at schools have been rolled out this year, demonstrating our commitment to the safety of our young people. As a responsible council, we know it isn't logical to put cameras up everywhere at once. We need to target our safety measures where we have evidence to say there is a safety concern, which doesn't exist everywhere. By targeting our programme at hot spots, we can make sure that we get the system right, use the feedback and evidence we have so that our scheme does what it's meant to where it's needed, rather than spending taxpayer money on equipment that might never be used or fail to meet its objectives.

On the environment, parks and public spaces we are continuing to make the city greener, with a common-sense approach. We are continuing to deliver Pocket Parks right across the city and have almost £1million to improve Hull's parks in every corner of Hull. The Lib Dems are also developing a budget to make sure that public conveniences across the city are to a standard we deserve. Making sure that whether you're in Pearson Park, East Park or the city centre, if you need to go, you can go in clean and comfortable surroundings. We are delivering the programme of investment into the electric vehicle charging network in Hull. We have seen a move towards electric vehicles in the council, such as cars, vans and bin lorries, but also in the buses that serve the city. We're also working hard to save the taxpayer money by decarbonising our council

buildings, council homes and cultural assets. With energy efficiency investment, insulation, solar panels and the district heat system, we aim to drive down the costs of heating bills in the city.

Action to fix Hull's broken infrastructure and regenerate Hull

For too long, Hull's residents have had to grapple with the chaos and impact of the decaying bridges, roads and footpaths in this city. This Lib Dem budget is one that works to fix them.

Last year, this council's budget made clear our duty to maintain our statues and fountains. Whether it's the Half-Tide basin in Victoria dock or on Westbourne Avenue, we will continue to keep the future of our fountains safe and secure. The coming months will see the cleaning and careful maintenance of King Billy statue on Lowgate, the cenotaph on Ferensway and other sites across the city.

We have a plan to fix our city's infrastructure, one bridge at a time.

It is clear that Drypool Bridge, Hessle Road Flyover, Sutton Road Bridge and Flyover are all in desperate need of repair. This is why we are funding the largest ever bridge repair programme this city has ever seen.

We cannot allow our infrastructure to slip back to the levels of decay of the past. Businesses and residents need to know that we will keep the highways to a good standard to make their lives better. We're making a start on bringing them back to the standards needed.

This financial year, the council is set to deliver over 37,400m2 of new footpaths in the city, making the city safer for pedestrians and improving the look of our communities.

This administration remains committed to getting this city moving again. This coming year will see the 'Freetown Way project' get under way to return to two lanes of traffic in both directions, whilst providing safe cycling and walking routes. Work is currently underway on this project and we are full speed ahead to bring this scheme to completion.

It is clear in this budget that this council won't just take the "easy fix" but will continue to take a common-sense approach to projects to ensure the best outcome for local residents.

A commitment of funding to develop Calvert Lane is also clear in this budget. We are making a clear promise to put the money in place to get this route moving, making life easier for those in West Hull to go about their lives.

We know the appearance of roads and pavements matter to local residents. While there are limitations on what government funding allows us to do, we want to go above and beyond to fix our roads and footpaths. That is why we're announcing a new £250,000 per year fund, working alongside the Love Your Neighbourhood scheme, so that they can address the decay of our roads and advance broader improvements to the look and feel of our neighbourhoods.

You said Hull's infrastructure feels broken - this budget starts to fix it.

This year will see the completion of several complex projects across the city, including the Maritime Museum and Queens Gardens. We know these projects have been complicated to deliver, with delays from day one, but we have pushed hard to get them over the line. The ambition to move the city forward will move at pace. This Lib Dem budget will help move forward the next stages of the Western Docklands Regeneration plan, Albion Square and East Bank urban village developments. Pushing Hull forward and developing the communities, culture and economy of Hull will bring benefits to the residents and businesses of Hull.

The major development on Humber Dock Street and Princes Dock Street will make the area more accessible and pedestrian friendly. As this completes in the coming months, it will allow the businesses in the area to use the frontage of their premises to expand their offer and trade, keeping the area thriving and active, generating income and jobs for those in the area. Doing all we can to help our small businesses should be a key aspect of this council, to help these businesses employ the people of Hull and keep jobs in the city.

We are committed to honouring the heritage of the city. That is why Victoria Pier sees investment in this budget. We know the Pier holds a special place in the hearts of so many residents across Hull. The history that this cultural icon holds for many needs to be honoured by this council. Yet again, it is something that has been left to fall apart and is nothing compared to what it used to be. This coming year, we're funding a programme on the pier so that it doesn't pose a risk to river traffic or the area. We are ready to consult on the options presented to residents on how to move forward with the future of this icon and have put money into this budget to deliver. As a listening council, we must get the views of the city on what they want to see with the pier and what option we should take forward.

Once we have received the feedback from this full and extensive consultation, we have budgeted for a development project so that we can preserve this historic feature for future generations.

This year is going to be a landmark year of delivery for regeneration and infrastructure, and this administration has a plan that delivers on the priorities of the people of Hull.

A caring Hull - delivering for our local people and local communities

The Lib Dem council is one that cares. Cares about the welfare and lives of all of Hull's residents in every community and every neighbourhood.

We know having a loved one diagnosed with a terminal illness can be heartbreaking. The pain families go through, the stress of arrangements that need to be made, and the feeling of loss hits families across Hull hard. We also know so many people rely on loved ones to provide care. We want to help. This year, we are committing to removing council tax for those with less than a year to live, due to a terminal illness. This is a flagship policy and will see Hull become one of the few pioneers in doing so.

Likewise, support for residents and families won't just stop there. When we say we want Hull City Council to be one that cares for local people, we mean it. Alongside our commitment to exempt terminally ill residents from Council tax, we are announcing a new fund to provide a discount to our care leavers. Reducing their council tax will help these young people get the best start to life possible.

As well as supporting care leavers and those suffering from terminal illness, we're continuing our commitment to those affected by domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse Partnership, which provides critical support, safety planning and accommodation for victims and survivors of domestic abuse, aligns with our Domestic Abuse Strategy to strengthen prevention over the coming years.

This budget also sees support for those struggling with their mental health and homelessness. As part of our effort to support those who need it, we're announcing new funding to make a mental health hub a reality and a new fund to support homeless people across Hull.

Over the last year, the Lib Dem administration carefully used its household support funding to help people of all ages in the city. This council took the decision to support food vouchers for our children and free school meals and this fund was also used to support grants to help parents with the costs of school uniforms. While there is uncertainty over the future funding, we remain committed to supporting those most in need here in Hull, making use of the Crisis Resilience Grant as far as it is possible.

and our community facilities are for residents. This budget sees the Council investing in making our highstreets, community centres and culture better.

This budget will continue to invest in the Community Highstreet Fund, benefiting local high streets like Chanterlands Avenue, Endike Lane, as well as areas Holderness Road plus many more like them in the years to come.

We recognise the cultural, social and economic value that our assets can provide communities across the city. From well-maintained libraries to outstanding performance and teaching venues such as the Albermarle Music Centre. The value that these spaces bring is more than just an income. Being able to access council services in a library or learn a skill like music brings health and welfare benefits for our residents.

Our Lib Dem capital budget includes funds to develop these facilities across the city. Ensuring that our residents reap the benefits of properly maintained and accessible buildings provides so much good to the communities of Hull.

This administration realises that culture and community are based on people as well as buildings. We are developing a "Community volunteer support fund". This brand-new fund is set up to support cultural offers in every corner and community in Hull. By supporting voluntary work that happens in the community, we can bring people together, getting residents connected to their communities. Focusing on supporting community cohesion and care will allow the residents of Hull to flourish and achieve more than ever before.

A Council that delivers for Hull - a fair deal on health, education and housing

Since the Lib Dems came to power in 2022, we have worked hard to push the case for Hull. Sadly, despite all the fanfare, in our opinion, the Government has not delivered a fair funding deal for the city. Despite the challenging funding situation, the Council has, with careful management of the finances at our disposal, deliver a balanced budget.

The Lib Dems have worked hard to make sure that the council's finances remain secure and that every pound of council taxpayer money is spent on residents' priorities.

This year sees another responsible budget that will continue to deliver innovative ideas for Hull and requires every pound to be used correctly. Although there is now a 3-year settlement from the government, they reserve the right to review our funding every year.

Labour-run Westminster council, Wandsworth council and Hammersmith and Fulham have all had to have permission from the Labour Government to raise their council tax even higher than the rules allow. Their residents face a super-tax rise from their Labour councillors. Here in Hull, this is not the case.

For months, the Labour government has been working on the basis that all councils in England will have to put their council tax up by 4.99%. Recent governments, of all colours, should be ashamed of their approach to local government. It is clear to me that funding of local councils is based on maximum council tax rises for residents and leaving little wiggle room for local leaders to make different decisions.

Regardless of the challenging funding situation and the consequences for Hull City Council, which have been made clear to government we are committed to giving every child, every family, and every resident a fair deal in life. That means access to safe, warm and well-maintained homes, high-quality education, and strong health and well-being support, no matter their circumstances.

We are determined to provide homes that tenants deserve by continuing our capital investment programme to invest in and maintain the decent homes our tenants rely on, while investing and delivering new, high-quality, energy-efficient homes for the future and increasing the Council's housing stock to help tackle the housing crisis. At the same time, we will ensure the Council complies with, and where possible exceeds, the rigorous standards of the Regulator of Social Housing, while continuing to deliver the highest building safety standards. By doing so, we are protecting families, supporting stability, and building stronger communities across the city.

With the government pushing the private regulation back to 2035, this council is meeting its targets of providing the best housing it can to tenants. We recognise that tenants will shoulder some of the burden of modernising the homes. However, we're moving towards a fairer scheme with better housing for more people.

This administration is actively and proudly seeking to improve private rental standards for our residents. The council engages with landlords through mandatory large HMO licensing and aims to ensure safe, well-maintained housing for our residents. Bringing more housing online in the city, can only benefit residents but we need to make sure that this housing is of a high standard and tackle hazards in all homes, not just council housing.

For children and young people, particularly those in care, we are focused on providing stability, educational support, and helping people deal with their emotional well-being. Investment across Learning and Skills, Early Help, and Improvement; initiatives such as the Virtual School, Early Help, the SEND improvement programme and our targeted Youth Services, all aim to remove barriers and create opportunities for the children and young people of Hull. This investment ensures we are a city where vulnerable children and young people receive the right help at the right time, supporting them to reach their full potential.

SEND funding to Hull and across the UK remains too low and has an unclear future. Nationally, SEND funding is a huge issue and leaves councils like Hull and our schools dealing with this pressure causing uncertainty and anxiety in our city. We need simple, clear and well-funded SEND policy from central government or we could rapidly face a funding crisis in this area. We need a clear and well-planned policies, with proper funding, from central government to fix this broken system.

We are also committed to ensuring adults in Hull receive the support they need. We are prioritising prevention, independence, and joined-up care right across Adult Social Care

and Public Health. This year, we are strengthening services that help residents remain independent at home to support mental health and wellbeing and integrating health and social care to provide the best support we can. Our focus on workforce development, backed by significant investment, ensures that care professionals are well trained, supported and empowered to deliver high-quality services. Alongside safeguarding vulnerable adults, these efforts make Hull a city where residents can access safe, effective and compassionate support when they need it most.

In order to meet our requirements in Adult Social Care we are putting and extra £1.5m into this service. This means we can move forward with building our occupational therapist team, so that they can deliver more for the people of Hull. We recognise the feedback that recent CQC reports have provided to our team in the city. We are committed to a £1.5m transformation programme of this sector of the council, based on feedback, so that our residents get the service they require. There are immediate challenges and we are taking action.

As part of forming the vision to move the city forward, we're also setting aside funding to create a Hull innovation fund. This will allow the council flexibility to seed fund projects throughout the year as and when the opportunity arises, recognising that not all good schemes come forward at budget time. This new Innovation Fund will be used to fund projects in the financial year that the administration thinks will benefit people across the city.

A vision to move Hull forward

2026 is set to be a landmark year for Hull. This administration is committed to making Hull a better city, and this budget does just that.

That means getting the basics right for local people. Maintaining our pavements, roads and bridges has to be at the core of our council's plans. Businesses and residents should have the confidence in us to get these basics right so that they know they can invest in the city, know they can get to work and know that their pavements will be safe to walk on.

That means completing the projects that were left behind by the previous Labour administration. From supporting our annual events like Freedom Festival or Sesh, so that residents can explore the culture and arts that our city has to offer, through to seeing new homes being built and lived in at Kingswood or Dane Park. We will see a year of growth for Hull.

That means giving residents right across Hull the fair deal they deserve and caring for those who need it most. Giving residents a clean city, that reduces litter and fly-tipping is important as this has a clear impact on physical and mental health. Getting to grips with our neglected area means improving the quality of life across the city can only hold benefits for us all.

Getting the funding and delivery of our cultural events right, means that the people of Hull can make the most of life and enjoy all that we can offer. With the offer of the cultural tides events, the opportunities provided by Back to Ours or even investing in the South Blockhouse – making life better for Hull comes in all forms.

Being a cleaner city, with great events and locations, that are easy and safe to access is what we want to achieve. A Hull that is welcoming to all and gives ambition and opportunity to everyone that calls it home. That is the Hull we want to be and that it the Hull we'll deliver.