



Civic Budget and Mayoral Allowance Policy

TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL

AGREED MARCH 2024

NEXT REVIEW MARCH 2025

Background

All Civic and Mayoral spending will be limited to the agreed budgets over the course of the financial year, therefore pre-planning of proposed events and larger commitments is essential. All major civic events should take place within the Council's financial year ending 31st March.

During the period from 1st April to 18th May a maximum spend of an amount equivalent to 1½ months of the allocated Civic Budget and Mayoral Allowance Budget for the financial year is allowed and must be agreed in advance with the Town Clerk.

Any surplus at the end of the financial year will not be carried forward.

The budgets must not be in deficit at the financial year end.

Mayoral Allowance

The Mayoral Allowance is to defray reasonable costs in order that the office holder is not out of pocket for fulfilling the role of Mayor. The Mayor can claim up to the amount of the Councillor Allowance by submitting claims to the Finance, HR and Lettings Manager.

Expenditure which can be claimed:

- Mileage to and from events
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- Donations to charities (up to £25 per event)
- Reasonable clothing allowance for Civic events
- Additional Telephone, stationery and printing

Civic Budget

Expenditure which is allowed:

a. Funding for all the formal and informal Civic events and costs associated with the role of the Mayor during the Mayoral year.

These may include:

- Mayor Choosing and reception
- The Civic Service
- Remembrance Sunday (in conjunction with the British Legion)
- The Civic Event (Community fundraising event)
- Annual town events where the Mayor is invited, such as Totnes Carnival, the annual Orange Race, the opening of the Elizabethan Market

PLEASE NOTE - Civic Funerals (as and when required) and refreshments at a wake for Honoured Citizens/Freemen will be funded from the general reserve up to a value of £1,000.

b. Civic events supported by the Council involving, but not necessarily arranged by, the Mayor, or agreed Councillors. This expenditure must be agreed in advance by the Mayor.

These may include:

- Hosting the Mayor of Vire, to include up to £25 for a gift and wrapping/cards
- Receptions for Civic visitors
- Hosting small award ceremonies (including the annual Community Awards), to include up to £25 for an award
- Hosting meetings of community groups

c. The costs of any events held or attended by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor or Councillors deputising in their place in the course of their duties in the Mayoral Year.

These may include:

- Councillors and volunteers thank you receptions
- Refreshments when organising civic or mayoral events at the Guildhall during the year
- The incidental costs of attending community and charitable events e.g. purchase of tickets for both the event and raffles
- Charity functions, and to cover any costs when attending functions e.g. the purchase of raffle tickets, collections, etc

d. Supporting the Mayor in raising money toward their chosen charity.

These may include:

- Providing facilities paid for by the Civic Budget in raising funds for the chosen charity e.g. reception in the Guildhall, hire of the Civic Hall, etc

PLEASE NOTE: All use of the Civic Hall must be paid for in full from the Civic Budget to the Paige Adams account. No free use can be granted by the Mayor.

Expenditure which is not allowed:

The Civic budget must not be used to pay for

- Gifts of monies or goods (including flowers) other than to charities. NOTE: Any requests for contributions to groups and charities outside of fundraising must be considered by Paige Adams or the Town Council Grants process.
- NOTE: The policy will allow an exception for the purchase of flowers for incoming and outgoing Mayors and their consorts plus retiring Councillors to the value of £25 per bouquet.
- Parking fines
- Social events internal to the Council.
- Items normally covered by the Mayoral and Councillor Allowance e.g. costs associated with the use of home as office, personal telephone bills, etc.
- printing fliers/leaflets/posters etc. other than for civic events covered in a. above.

Reporting and monitoring procedures

The Mayor is asked to account for their spending and to submit these expenses, along with the Mayor's monthly engagements, as a quarterly agenda item to Council Matters meetings:

- All amounts submitted for reimbursement from the Town Council will be signed off and paid according to the Town Council financial regulations.
- Amounts of £500 and over need to be agreed by the Council Matters Committee in advance of agreement. Details of the proposed expenditure will need to be submitted, to ensure contributions and events are in line with Civic function and the Town Council priorities. If agreed it can then be submitted for reimbursement/payment to the Town Council Finance Officer.

Once 85% spend of the budget is reached the Council Matters Committee must be informed and any future spend must be agreed in advance with the Town Clerk.

Any outstanding civic expenses need to be submitted by the outgoing mayor by the end of June, when the preceding mayor's budget will be closed.