

Borough Councillor Report

Cllr Maureen Flood and Cllr Susanne Hasselmann

March 2026

Council approves balanced budget for 2026/27

Following a council meeting on 27 February 2026, TVBC approved a balanced budget for 2026/27.

The budget sets the Band D council tax at £173.91 for an entire year of TVBC services, a 2.96% (below inflation) increase from 2025/26. TVBC's council charge is still the fourth lowest in Hampshire and is in the lowest quartile in England, and some £45 (20%) lower than the average charge in England.

The budget includes funding to support regeneration in Andover and Romsey, investment in rural communities, progress in Corporate Plan priority projects across the borough, as well as preparing for the ongoing process of local government reorganisation. The council will implement the approved budget from April 2026.

Councillors also approved the continuation of the council tax support scheme, which helps households who struggle to pay their council tax bill.

Test Valley nominated for award for transformational Andover Health Hub partnership

Test Valley Borough Council has been nominated for an award for its work with the NHS to create the innovative Andover Health Hub.

Andover Health Hub, located diagonally opposite Boswell's Café in the Chantry Centre, started out as a covid vaccination centre back in 2021. But the council and its partners, including Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight and Andover Primary Care Network (PCN), saw the opportunity to create a permanent presence in the town centre and offer more joined-up community-based healthcare. And since opening in 2023 it's gone from strength to strength.

The LGC Awards ceremony will take place on 10 June 2026.

Man fined after failing to cooperate with fly tipping investigation in Andover

A man has been ordered to pay more than £1,400 after failing to comply with a legal notice linked to a fly tipping investigation in Andover.

On 23 June 2025, a quantity of waste was discovered unlawfully dumped on Watery Lane. Information within the fly-tip led officers to Oliver Poulton, from Andover. Poulton was invited to attend an interview under caution but failed to do so. Officers then served a formal Notice under Section 108 of the Environment Act 1995, requiring him to attend a further interview. Despite being properly served and given reasonable opportunity to attend, Poulton again failed to engage and did not offer any explanation or request a new date.

Appearing at Basingstoke Magistrates Court on 10 February 2026, Poulton pleaded guilty and was given a £500 fine, along with a £200 victim surcharge and £736 in costs, bringing the total to £1,436.

Residents can report fly tipping online at www.testvalley.gov.uk/fly-tipping.

Postal Vote Reapplications – Important Information

Under the Elections Act 2022, postal voters who have not reapplied since the new rules were introduced in October 2023 had to reapply by 31 January 2026. If they didn't, their postal vote was cancelled.

Test Valley Borough Council has contacted approximately 15,000 postal voters in Test Valley to advise them of the need to reapply, contacting electors by email where this was held. Further notices were sent in the post in late October and additional reminder notices went out after Christmas, which included a paper application form and a pre-paid reply envelope.

Electors who have not re-registered and who wish to continue to vote by post can reapply at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote. If they cannot use the online application form, they can request a paper form by contacting Test Valley Borough Council, Tel: 01264 368000.

Completed paper forms can be returned by:

- Email: Scan and send to postal.voting@testvalley.gov.uk
- In Person: At Beech Hurst, where assistance is available

If none of these options are possible, electors - or someone acting on their behalf - should contact TVBC for tailored support.

For further details contact Electoral Services: elecereg@testvalley.gov.uk | 01264 368000

Test Valley Community Resilience Forum

The Test Valley Community Resilience Forum is in its twelfth year, since its inception in 2014, and continues to be a space for community representatives to come together to share knowledge and build relationships with other local partners and groups. As we look ahead to changes in Local Government over the coming years, strengthening communities remains one of our key priorities. Building resilient communities will play an important role in shaping the future ways of working for the new authority. We want to do this in partnership with you and your communities, supporting local priorities and needs

At the upcoming forum, we welcome Lucy Easthope, one of the UK's leading experts in emergency planning, resilience and recovery. Lucy will be delivering a session on the importance of prevention, preparedness, and recovery. Lucy brings a wealth of experience and inspiring stories to the forum, and we hope you and your communities will be able to make it.

For more information about Lucy, visit her website here - [*About – Whatever next*](#)

The session takes place on **Friday 27 March at Crosfield Hall, Romsey** and the networking breakfast will be available **from 9.45am**. The session will aim to end around midday.

Please RSVP to gbloss@testvalley.gov.uk with any dietary requirements.

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Useful contacts:

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