

Lowestoft Town Council Annual Report 2025–2026



The past year has been one of significant progress, renewal, and ambition for Lowestoft. Lowestoft Town Council continues to strengthen its role as a champion for residents, an enabler of community wellbeing, and a steward of the town's heritage, culture, and green spaces.

From major capital projects to everyday frontline services, the Council has focused on improving quality of life for all, delivering excellent value, and planning strategically for Lowestoft's future.

Highlights of 2025–2026

A Year of Community Pride and Civic Engagement

Lowestoft proudly hosted **Suffolk Day**, welcoming dignitaries and representatives from across the county. This was a major opportunity to showcase our town and the Council's work, spotlighting local heritage, civic pride, and community spirit.



Engagement has grown substantially, with residents participating in Council meetings, events, consultations, and sports sessions. 2025 saw us launch our new website to highlight the services that we offer. Our commitment remains clear: *to be a Council that listens, involves, and responds*.

Town Hall Regeneration Moves Forward



One of the most transformative projects underway is the **full regeneration of Lowestoft Town Hall**, which began construction in early 2025.

Once complete, the Town Hall will serve as:

- A new home for Lowestoft Town Council
- A Suffolk Registrars' base
- A community hub and civic events venue
- A heritage asset restored for future generations

Guided tours and engagement opportunities will continue through 2026, ensuring residents can follow the project's progress and shape its future uses.

Improvement of Parks, Play Areas & Open Spaces

Our parks and open spaces remain at the heart of community life. Over the past year the Council has delivered:

- **Refurbished and improved play areas** at Pakefield Green, Britten Road, and Thirlmere Walk
- **New wildflower areas** across multiple parks
- **Re-thatching of the Belle Vue Cottage**
- Continued delivery of the **Triangle Market Project**



These investments support ecological diversity, community recreation, and local pride.

Expanded Sports Provision and Free Access to Facilities



The Council significantly increased access to sport and exercise, offering:

- **150+ free Tennis & Pickleball sessions**
- **80+ free Circuit Training sessions**
- **28 free Summer Sports Activities**, reaching around **800 participants**
- Year-round **free access** to sports facilities including tennis courts, outdoor gyms, bowling greens, and the putting green

This reflects our commitment to health, wellbeing, and inclusivity for all ages.

Bulky Waste Collection – Now a Permanent Free Service

Following positive results and strong community demand, the **free-to-access Bulky Waste Collection Scheme** is now a permanent service delivered in partnership with a local contractor.

This initiative continues to reduce fly-tipping and keep neighbourhoods clean.



Cultural Investment: Supporting the Marina Theatre

The Council funded critical improvements at the **Marina Theatre**, including:

- Repairs to the stage (delivered by the in-house Building Maintenance Team)
- Purchase of a new projector to expand film programming

This was on top of the major project works on the Marina Theatre to improve accessibility and the visitor experience to the theatre, funded through Towns Fund. These investments help sustain a strong cultural offer for the town.

Events, Grants & Community Support

During 2025–2026 the Council delivered:

- **25+ public events**, from Remembrance Sunday and Heritage Plaque ceremonies to Pride, VE-Day and the Planet Positive Festival
- **£115,000 in Grants, Food & Social Relief Funding, and Sponsorship**, supporting local projects, charities, and organisations
- Continued expansion of partnerships with local clubs, groups, and cultural organisations



This investment strengthens community cohesion, addresses social need, and helps build a resilient, connected town.

Strategic Leadership and Good Governance

In October 2025, the Council adopted its **Business Plan (2025–2029)**, setting out key priorities for the next four years.

These include:

1. **Maintaining and improving assets sustainably**, aligned with the climate and ecological emergency
2. **Strengthening community wellbeing**, events, grants, and social support
3. **Ensuring strong governance, staff investment, and financial responsibility**

The Council continues to achieve clean internal and external audits, underlining its commitment to transparency and value for money.



Looking Ahead to 2026–2027

Investment in Parks & Facilities

The upcoming year includes budget provision for:

- Further **refurbishment of play equipment** at Bentley Drive, Britten Road, Fen Park and Rosedale Park
- Continued development of **public conveniences** at Belle Vue Park and Sparrows Nest Gardens
- Construction of a **new Pump Track** at Normanston Park

Continuing Major Project Delivery

Plans for the next year include:

- Ongoing Town Hall construction and community engagement
- Advancement of heritage and greenspace restoration
- Increased community outreach, events, and engagement

Council Tax & Budget Overview

For 2026–2027 the Council’s **precept will be £2,664,909**, equivalent to **£199.17 per year for a Band D property**—a weekly cost of **£3.82**. This represents a **9.9% increase** compared to 2025–2026.



This income allows the Council to deliver:

- Free bulky waste collections
- Grants and social relief funding
- Maintenance and enhancement of parks and open spaces
- Free sports programmes and facility access
- A full programme of community events

Each pound invested contributes directly to improving life across Lowestoft.

Conclusion

2025–2026 has been a year of tangible progress, community pride, and strategic investment. Lowestoft Town Council has strengthened essential services, expanded opportunities for residents, restored key heritage assets, and continued to place climate, wellbeing, and inclusion at the heart of its work.

With major projects underway, ambitious plans for our parks and community spaces, and a clear four-year Business Plan guiding our direction, the future of Lowestoft is full of possibility.

The Council remains committed to working with residents, partners, businesses, and community groups to build a greener, healthier, more vibrant, and more connected town—together.