

2027/28 Budget Timetable and Budget Process

1. The budget for 2027/28 and the MTFP should be seen in the context of a rolling, evolving process structured to enable the ongoing proactive management and prioritisation of the council's resources.
2. As a sector local authorities have been grappling with sustained financial pressures since 2010. Recently councils have had to become more efficient in navigating the uncertainty and volatility caused by global macro-economic factors, the legacy and long-term consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, alongside those caused by the recent cost-of-living crisis, and changes in public policy.
3. The key dates in the 2027/28 budget setting process can be set out as follows.

June 2026	Cabinet - MTFP update report (including financial strategy).
June 2026	Cabinet - Financial Outturn 2025/26.
July-August 2026	STAR Chambers
September 2026	Cabinet - Quarter 1 - 2026/27 budget monitoring.
October 2026	Cabinet - MTFP update report
October 2026	Budget Consultation Exercise Opens
November 2026	Budget Consultation Exercise Closes
November 2026	All Members – Draft developing 2027/28 Budget Presentation
December 2026	Cabinet - Quarter 2 – 2026/27 budget monitoring
December 2026	Cabinet - MTFP update report
January 2027	Cabinet – Council Tax 2027/28 taxbase report
January 2027	Audit & Governance Committee (Treasury Management Strategy)
January 2027	All Member – Final proposed 2027/28 Budget Presentation
January 2027	Presentation to representatives from Commerce and Industry
February 2027	Cabinet – Quarter 3 – 2026/27 budget monitoring
February 2027	Cabinet – 2027/28 proposed budget and MTFP
February 2027	Council – 2027/28 proposed budget and MTFP

BCP Council - Budget Process 2027/28

Month		Decisions	Cabinet	Public Engagement	Budget Holders	Finance	Strategic Planning Cycle
Feb	Scrutiny	Council Budget Meeting					Budget 26/27 approved + MTFP to 31 March 2029
March							
April							
May							
June						Calculate initial savings targets	
June	Scrutiny	Cabinet MTFP Update Report	Based on a proposed scenario Portfolio Holders engagement with budget holders to develop proposals for balancing the 2027/28 budget. Conversations part of the Bi-weekly informal Corporate Management Board/Cabinet strategic planning session meetings		Services prepare savings, efficiency, additional income and service rationalisation proposals to enable the 2027/28 budget to be balanced	Draft progress update report	
July	STAR Chambers						
Aug						Fundamental refresh of the MTFP baseline	
Sept				Budget Public Engagement Exercise - 6 weeks		Refine savings targets	
Oct	Scrutiny	Cabinet MTFP Update Report			Services present proposals to Bi-weekly CMB/Cabinet strategic planning meetings	Draft Cabinet report on savings proposals	
Nov	Budget Workshop					Draft progress update report	
Dec	Scrutiny	Cabinet MTFP Update Report	Cabinet members finalise 2027/28 budget proposals		Service refine budget proposals in light of outcomes of public engagement exercise	Update MTFP and draft Cabinet report on final budget proposals	Finalisation of budget proposal for 2027/28 and MTFP for Cabinet and Council consideration
Jan	Budget Workshop						
Feb	Scrutiny	Council Budget Meeting		Statutory Consultation Commerce & Industry			Budget 26/27 approved + MTFP to 31 March 2029

Key Financial Reports & Events - 26/27 Budget Monitoring & 27/28 Budget Timeline

Date	Event	Report Title / Action	Detail
June 2026	Cabinet	Medium Term Financial Plan (Update)	To include. • Update on MTFP. • Proposed financial strategy. • Budget process.
June 2026	Budget Proposals	Corporate Directors, Service Directors and Budget Holders working with Portfolio Holders	Start of period for preparation of proposals for delivering a balanced 2027/28 budget.
June 2026	Cabinet	Financial Outturn Report	Summary report covering the financial outturn for 2025/26.
August 2026	Budget Refresh	Corporate Directors & Service Directors	Deadline to produce a refresh of the MTFP baseline financial resource requirements for each service for the three-year period to the 31 March 2030
September 2026	Cabinet	Quarter One Budget Monitoring Report	First quarter (April to June) budget monitoring for 2026/27.
September 2026	Budget Proposals	Corporate Directors, Service Directors and Budget Holders working with Portfolio Holders	Close of initial period for preparation of proposals for delivering a balanced 2027/28 budget.
October 2026	Audit & Governance	2025/26 Statement of Accounts	Report presents the 2025/26 statement of accounts for BCP Council including the Annual Governance Statement.

Date	Event	Report Title / Action	Detail
October 2026	Cabinet	Medium Term Financial Plan (Update)	To include. - fundamental refresh of the MTFP. - progress towards delivering a balanced budget for 2027/28
October 2026	Budget Proposals	Budget Engagement Exercise	4 or 6-week consultation opens
November 2026	Budget Proposals	Budget Engagement Exercise	Consultation closes (assuming 4 week) 18 October if 6 weeks exercise.
November 2026	Budget Proposals	Budget Presentation	All Councillor Seminar
December 2026	Cabinet	Quarter Two Budget Monitoring Report	Second quarter (July to September) in-year budget monitoring for 2026/27
December 2026	Cabinet	Medium Term Financial Plan (Update)	Progress towards delivering a balanced budget for 2027/28
January 2027	Cabinet	Council Tax - Taxbase Report	2027/28 Council Tax Taxbase

Date	Event	Report Title / Action	Detail
January 2027	Audit & Governance	Treasury Management Strategy 2027/28	Seek approval for 2027/28 treasury management strategy
January 2027	Budget Proposals	Budget Presentation	All Councillor Seminar
January 2027	Budget Proposals	Presentation to representatives from Commerce & Industry	Statutory consultation on 2027/28 Budget & MTFP
February 2027	Cabinet	Quarter Three Budget Monitoring	Third quarter (October to December) budget monitoring for 2026/27.
February 2027	Cabinet	2027/28 Budget & MTFP Update	To include. • 2027/28 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. • 2027/28 Budget Proposal. • 2027/28 Council Tax Resolution.
February 2027	Cabinet	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 2027/28 Budget Setting	Seeks approval for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) which is the separate account that ring-fences the income and expenditure associated with BCP Council's housing stock. Includes rents, service charges and other charges to tenants.

Date	Event	Report Title / Action	Detail
February 2027	Cabinet	Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and Early Years Funding Formula 2027/28	Setting the 2027/28 funding formulae for early education and childcare for eligible 2-year-olds and all 3- and 4-years olds, mainstream schools for pupils in reception to year 11.
February 2027	Council	2027/28 Budget & MTFP Update Report	Formal approval of the following. • General fund 2027/28 budget and council tax. • Education and childcare funding formula. • Housing Revenue Account 2027/28 budget and tenant charges.
March 2027	n/a	n/a	Publish 2027/28 Budget Book
June 2027	Cabinet	Financial Outturn Report	Summary report covering the financial outturn for the financial year 2026/27.

Subject to determination

- Scrutiny arrangements associated with the 2027/28 budget process.
- Dates of the precept meetings for the Town, Parish and Neighbourhood Councils.