

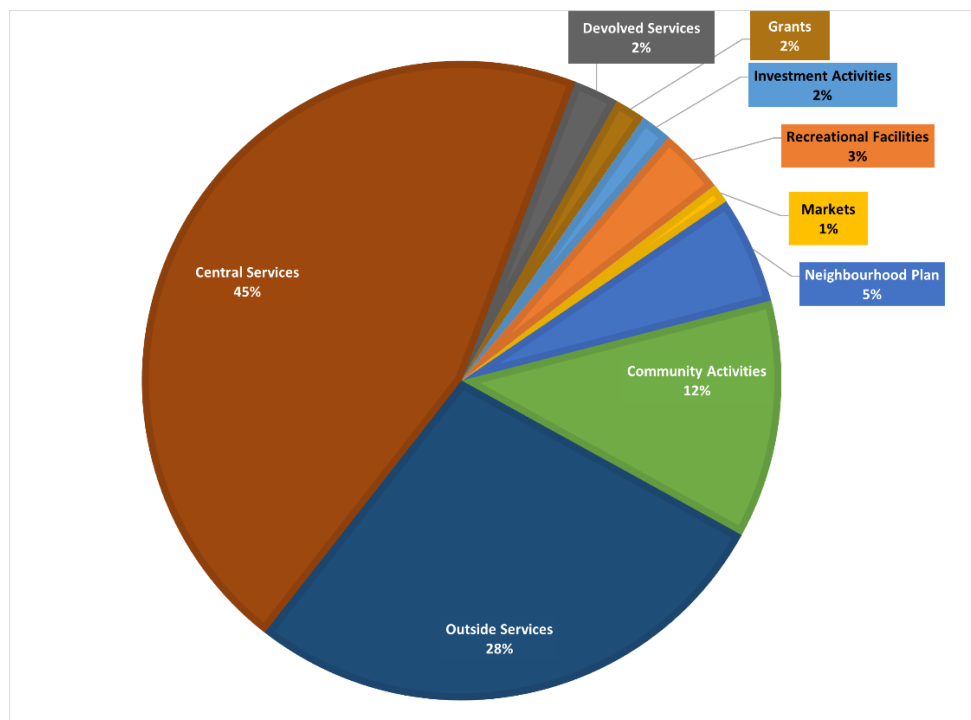
The precept explained

Thame Town Council provides public services to the residents of Thame and Moreton. We are responsible for local issues in the parish. To deliver services we raise our own form of council tax which is known as a precept. This is collected on our behalf by South Oxfordshire District Council and is included in your council tax bill. For this year, the average whole household (i.e. Band D) will contribute towards Thame Town Council £178.36 per annum (equivalent to £3.43 per week). This is a 5.5% increase on last year and goes directly into the funding of projects, functions and services that Thame Town Council provide for the community and includes:

- organising and supporting a wide variety of public events
- providing financial support for the town centre CCTV system for community safety
- supporting environmental projects through the Thame Green Living plan
- funding contributions to partners and agencies who provide additional services (through grant allocation)
- maintaining the public assets of the town including its playgrounds, open spaces, and buildings
- running the information centre at the Town Hall as a daily customer service reception for local residents and visitors
- delivering the Thame Neighbourhood Plan

Precept breakdown

The pie chart shows the breakdown of the total precept raised for 2023/4, as expenditure towards the Town Council’s activities and services:



Key

Central services: Town Hall staff, office equipment costs, insurance, contractors & building maintenance, utilities, democratic services, civic support, professional fees & Information centre

Outside services: Maintenance warehouse & staff, vehicles, town & park maintenance works, equipment, insurance, utilities

Devolved services: Financial support to Thame Senior Friendship Centre, Red Kite Family Centre & Thame Youth Projects

A summary of what we delivered in 2022/2023

Thame Town Council were directly involved in, or supported many projects and functions in 2022/3.

Community events: Thame hosted a wide variety of community events which included celebrations, festivals and traditional markets. The year however, was marked by the sad news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

We played a pivotal role in engaging with organisers, facilitating and supporting events to run smoothly, while providing venues or wider services to suit the requirements for specific events.

Examples of some of the events & markets held in Thame in 2022 were:

Themed Markets - Taste of Thame - Art Crawl - Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Freedom parade - Music festival - Street Fairs - Remembrance parade

Town awards - Weekly markets - Christmas lights switch on

Environmental projects: in 2022 we appointed a dedicated Environmental Project Officer. The focus of the role is to both coordinate the implementation of the Thame Green Living plan, as well as bring together different groups who are all working towards a sustainable future for Thame.

We established a regular environmental forum and monthly environmental newsletter, to support the work of these groups.

We supported the planting of trees in some of the green and open spaces we manage.

Health and Wellbeing: we budget for an annual amount of grant funding and make it available for allocation. The grant fund is available to charitable or non-profit making organisations with worthy causes. This year we allocated £7,800 of grant funds.

We provided a free meeting venue and wider support for Ukrainian families displaced by the tragic events from the war in Ukraine.

We worked with Thame's Masonic Hall and local churches to highlight and deliver dedicated 'warm space' areas. These were available for people to use as a warm and safe place to visit over the winter months (and get a hot drink and light refreshment).

Maintenance services: there are several open space areas within the town's footprint to oversee. Core duties include grass cutting, tree maintenance and supporting biodiversity by the generation of new wild flower areas. There are 7 play and recreational spaces in the town, which include the skate park and memorial gardens. We maintained and managed the safety of any play equipment, tree management, and completed grass cutting and litter picking.

Information centre: this is based in the reception area of the Town Hall and staffed from Monday to Friday. The main aims are to support residents and visitors and help deal with enquiries, be a source of information about local services, while helping troubleshoot issues. If we are unable to initially assist, we endeavour to make direct referrals to wider agencies (including SODC and OCC).

Other responsibilities included the administration of the Thame Good Neighbour Scheme and being a box office for Thame Players theatre.

Neighbourhood plan: we employ a dedicated resource, a Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Officer. This is to oversee all aspects of the plan and provide key liaison, advice and support to the council and interested parties, while representing the best interests of Thame. Thame is in the process of reviewing its Neighbourhood Plan (TNP). We continue to make progress towards the adoption of the revised TNP. There are still lots of stages before the plan can be brought to referendum, but there will be many opportunities provided for consultation.