



Workington Town Council

Annual Report 2025-26

For the Annual Town Meeting
Wednesday 29th April 2026

Councillor David Farrar

Mayor of Workington

Workington Town Council

Membership – From May 2025- April 2026

Name	Ward
Cllr David Farrar (Mayor)	St Michaels
Cllr Sue Fryer (Deputy Mayor)	St Johns
Cllr Hilary Harrington	Harrington
Cllr Paul Larkin	Harrington
Cllr Billy Miskelly	Harrington
Cllr Stephen Stoddart	Moorclose
Cllr Lynda Williams	Moorclose
Cllr Joan Wright	Moorclose
Cllr Beth Dixon	Northside
Cllr Barbara Cannon	Salterbeck
Cllr Denise Rollo	Salterbeck
Cllr Ellie Wood	Salterbeck
Cllr Michael Heaslip	St Johns
Cllr Susan Martin	St Johns
Cllr Patricia Poole	St Johns
Cllr Mike Rollo	St Johns
Cllr David Tennyson	St Johns
Cllr Mary Bainbridge	St Michaels
Cllr Allan Hodgson	St Michaels
Cllr Bernadette Jones	St Michaels
Cllr Mark Fryer	Stainburn
Cllr John Mills	Stainburn
Cllr Sean Melton	Westfield
Cllr Kate Schofield	Westfield
Cllr Neil Schofield	Westfield

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Annual Report 2025-26

Dear Residents of Workington,

It has been a privilege to serve as Mayor of Workington during the 2025–2026 municipal year. This past year has been one of renewed civic pride, strong community engagement, and tangible progress that aligns closely with the Council's Five-Year Plan: to create a healthier, greener, more connected and more resilient Workington for current and future generations.

This report sets out the key achievements of the year, celebrating what has been delivered together with volunteers, partners, council officers, community groups and residents.

Strengthening Health, Wellbeing and Active Lifestyles

Promoting physical and mental health remains a central pillar of the Council's long-term vision. This year saw the official opening of the refurbished Tennis Courts, alongside the introduction of free park tennis every Saturday, removing barriers to sport and encouraging participation for all ages.

The Council, alongside Cumberland Athletics Club also successfully delivered the Festival of Running, bringing together local clubs, schools and visitors, and reinforcing our town's growing reputation as a welcoming destination for inclusive sporting events.

Building a Vibrant Programme of Events and Culture

A major achievement of 2025–2026 has been the delivery of a comprehensive annual events programme, strengthening our town centre, encouraging footfall and creating memorable shared experiences.

Highlights included:

- Party in the Park, enjoyed by families and visitors from across the town
- Live music performances, including Liberty X, bringing nationally recognised acts to Workington
- Oddsocks Theatre Company, offering accessible, family-friendly outdoor performance
- A lively and well-supported Halloween programme
- A festive and inclusive Christmas Festival, lighting up the town and supporting local businesses
- Funding anchor organisations in the town to support vital services, including; Cumbria Pride, Always Another Way, Anti Racist Cumbria, Blue Sky, Every Life Matters and Freedom Project.

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These events demonstrate our commitment to culture, creativity and community cohesion as part of a thriving place strategy.

Community, Inclusion and Outreach

Supporting our most vulnerable residents and promoting social connection remains a priority. The Reach Out event continued its vital work, offering support, companionship and access to services for those who need help.

The Council also reaffirmed its commitment to civic inclusion and international friendship through continued support for the Twinning Association, maintaining strong links with our partner towns overseas.

Visitors from Val de Reuill participated in the Council's Festival of Running event in August; an accolade for our visitors when Ishah from their delegation won the 5K race!

Honouring Service, Heritage and Civic Pride

Workington showed its gratitude and respect for service and sacrifice through several landmark events. We proudly supported Armed Forces Day and hosted a moving Freedom Parade led by the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, marking Workington's enduring bond with the Armed Forces.

The year also celebrated important milestones in our town's history:

- 100 years of Vulcan Park, marking a century of green space enjoyed by generations
- 100 years of the bus station, commemorated with a community event and the donation of a commemorative clock
- The official opening of the Park End Shelter, preserving a historically important building and creating a new welcoming space for the community

These moments reinforced pride in Workington's past while investing in its future.

Enhancing Parks, Green Spaces and Environmental Responsibility

Environmental sustainability and community safety are key goals within the Five-Year Plan. This year we installed solar and wind-powered defibrillators at Bareport and Siddick, combining life-saving equipment with renewable energy innovation; the first ones in West Cumbria.

Significant progress was also made with the repair of the wall at Brewery House, protecting a valued green open space and ensuring it remains accessible and secure for generations to come.

Our environmental efforts were recognised externally through the achievement of Cumbria in Bloom Silver and Britain in Bloom Silver, reflecting the dedication of volunteers, officers and community groups.

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Modernising the Council and Improving Governance

To better serve residents and improve efficiency, the Council invested in IT development, including the rollout of tablets for councillors and individual councillor email addresses. These improvements enhance transparency, communication and responsiveness—key foundations of effective local governance.

Conclusion

The achievements of 2025–2026 reflect a town that is confident, compassionate and forward-looking. From culture and sport to digital innovation, heritage preservation and environmental stewardship, Workington continues to progress in line with the Council’s long-term ambitions.

I extend my sincere thanks to council officers, fellow councillors, volunteers, community organisations and, most importantly, the residents of Workington. Your involvement, pride and commitment make these achievements possible.

Together, we have laid strong foundations for the years ahead.

Yours faithfully,

The Mayor of Workington

Municipal Year 2025–2026

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An overview of the Town Council's Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2026.

The council collected £1,070.744 from council taxpayers in 2025-26.

Additionally, it received income and funding from several sources, which included:

- £76,487.98 funding from Lawn Tennis Association and £20,000 from Cumberland Council for Vulcan Park Tennis Courts.
- £9,000 events income including £2,000 from Washington Square Shopping Centre for the Christmas Festival and Lights Switch On.
- £1,500 from Grow Well CIC for Park End Shelter development.
- £350 sponsorship from New Balance for Festival of Running.
- £300 funding from Cumberland Council for the Halloween event

The council's staff consists of eleven posts (seven full time and four part time):

- Chief Officer/RFO
- Finance Officer/DPO
- Projects Officer
- Business Support
- Admin & Events Assistant (temporary post)
- Estates Team Leader
- Five Estates Team members

The council also continues to fund the Workington Nature Partnership in conjunction with Cumberland Council, which supports two part time members of staff.

The council's brief year end income and expenditure (unaudited).

Income

Precept	1,070,744
Grants/sponsorship	100,284
Dividends	6,613
Rents and other fees	29,896
Total	1,207,537

Expenditure **1,154,654**

These figures are unaudited. Full audit accounts will be available for inspection by the public on 1 July 2026.

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A view on the year ahead - 2026-27

As we look ahead to the 2026–27-year, Workington Town Council remains firmly committed to serving the people of our town with integrity, openness and ambition.

The year ahead presents both challenges and opportunities, and the Council's focus will be on delivering practical outcomes that support community wellbeing, strengthen local pride and ensure Workington continues to be a place where people want to live, work and visit.

At the heart of our plans is a continued commitment to our communities. The Council will work to support local initiatives, voluntary groups and events that bring people together and help build resilience at neighbourhood level. We recognise the important role that community facilities and public spaces play in everyday life, and maintaining, improving and advocating for these will remain a priority throughout the year.

Improving the local environment is another key ambition for 2026–27. The Council will continue to champion cleaner, greener and safer streets, while supporting initiatives that enhance biodiversity and promote environmental responsibility. We will look for opportunities to work in partnership with other local authorities and organisations to ensure that Workington plays its part in addressing wider environmental challenges, while delivering visible improvements locally.

The Council also recognises the importance of a vibrant town centre to Workington's economic health and community identity. During the year ahead, we will engage with residents, businesses and partners to support efforts that encourage footfall, celebrate local heritage and foster a welcoming and inclusive high street. While regeneration requires collaboration across multiple organisations, the Town Council will continue to advocate strongly for Workington's interests and future potential.

Listening to residents will remain central to how the Council operates. In 2026–27 we will seek to improve how we communicate with electors, ensuring information about Council decisions, services and opportunities to get involved is clear and accessible.

Engagement with young people, hard-to-reach groups and new residents will be particularly important as we strive to ensure that the Council reflects the full diversity of our town.

Sound financial management will continue to underpin all of the Council's work. In a time of ongoing financial pressures, we remain committed to setting a responsible budget that delivers value for money while protecting essential services and activities. Decisions taken during the year will be guided by careful scrutiny and a focus on long-term sustainability.

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Finally, the year ahead will be shaped by partnership working. The Town Council will continue to work constructively with Cumberland Council, public services, community organisations and neighbouring towns to ensure that Workington's voice is heard and that local priorities are reflected in wider decision-making.

As always, the Council is guided by the views and needs of the people it serves. We thank residents for their continued interest and involvement, and we look forward to working together during 2026–27 to support a confident, caring and forward-looking Workington.

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