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Explanation of data

The following has been extracted from published ONS data for the 2025-26 period. Only individual Precepting Civil Parishes (Parish Type = "Precepting Parish") have been extracted from the larger ONS set. All other Parish Types have been filtered out such as "Non-Precepting Parishes", "Group", "Charter Trustees", "Temple". The extracted data does include "Town Councils" (eg Taunton) and "City Councils". Furthermore, data for the following four were not available or didn't make sense so were omitted: Fyfield & West Overton, Calne Without, Albrighton, Beesby with Saleby (the latter had a negative Band D value). From this data, three subsets have been extracted. The four sets have been analysed and displayed:

1. All individual (not groups) English precepting Civil Parishes (including Town and City Councils), excluding the four mentioned above.
2. English Parishes with a Tax Base within 25% of Trull's Tax Base (i.e. a similar size population). A subset of #1.
3. Parishes within Somerset Council's Local Authority. A subset of #1
4. Somerset Parishes that have a Tax Base within 25% of Trull's Tax Base. A subset of #1 (it is also a subset of #2 and #3).

Statistics deduced from these sets of data are tabulated, and the sets of data are also displayed graphically.

2025-2026 Comparison of Trull's Tax Base and Band D Precept (per household) with those of other individual precepting Parishes	**1.All individual precepting English Parishes**		**2.Individual precepting English Parishes of similar Tax Base (within + or - 25%)**		**3.All individual precepting Somerset Parishes**		**4.Individual precepting Somerset Parishes of similar Tax Base (within + or -25%)**	
	Tax Base	**Band D Precept**	**Similar Tax Base**	**Band D Precept**	**Tax Base**	**Band D Precept**	**Similar Tax Base**	**Band D Precept**
Trull only	1073.53	£41.92	1073.53	£41.92	1073.53	£41.92	1073.53	£41.92
Count of Parishes	8,631	8,631	865	865	287	287	20	20
Mean	1,030	£68	1,037	£77	725	£85	1,033	£114
Median	347	£57	1,008	£67	273	£63	1,009	£90
Maximum	37,745	£557	1,341	£335	20,187	£411	1,340	£288
Minimum	1	£0	805	£10	24	£11	824	£42
Rank of Trull (from smallest to largest)	6,657	2,741	523	189	254	63	14	1
Percentage of numbers that are smaller than Trull's	77%	32%	60.40%	22%	88%	22%	68%	0%

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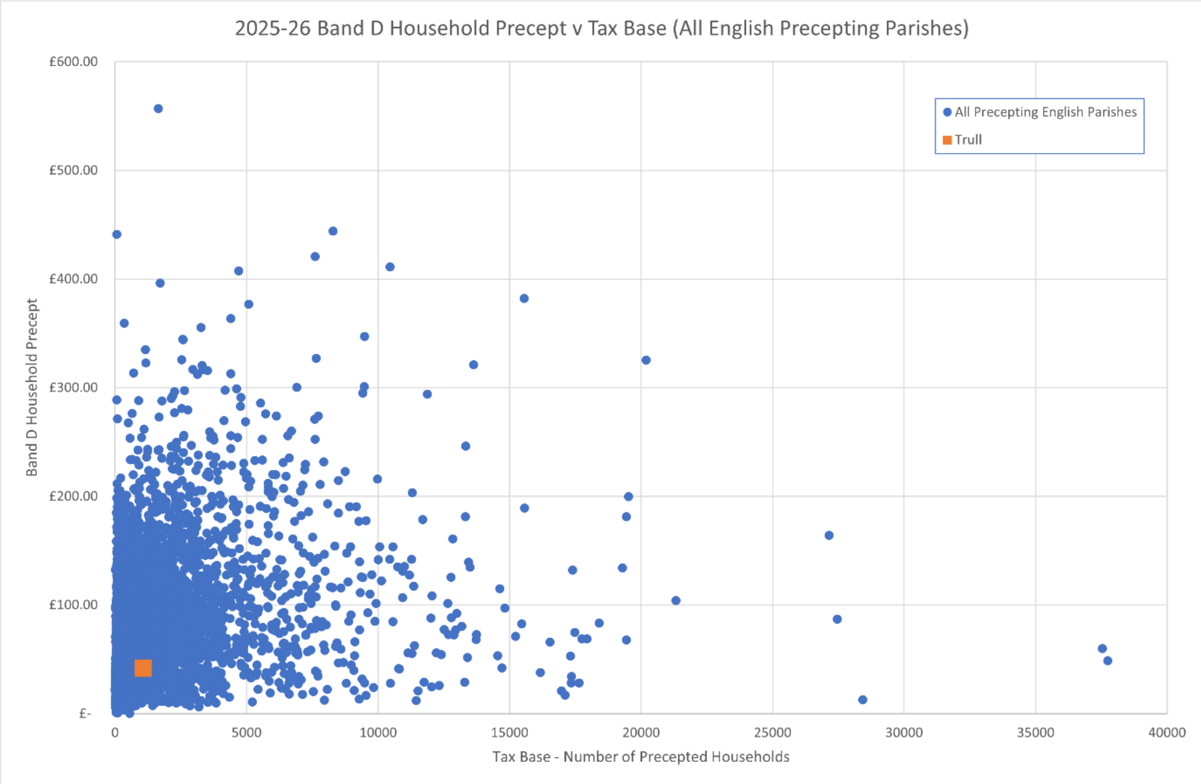

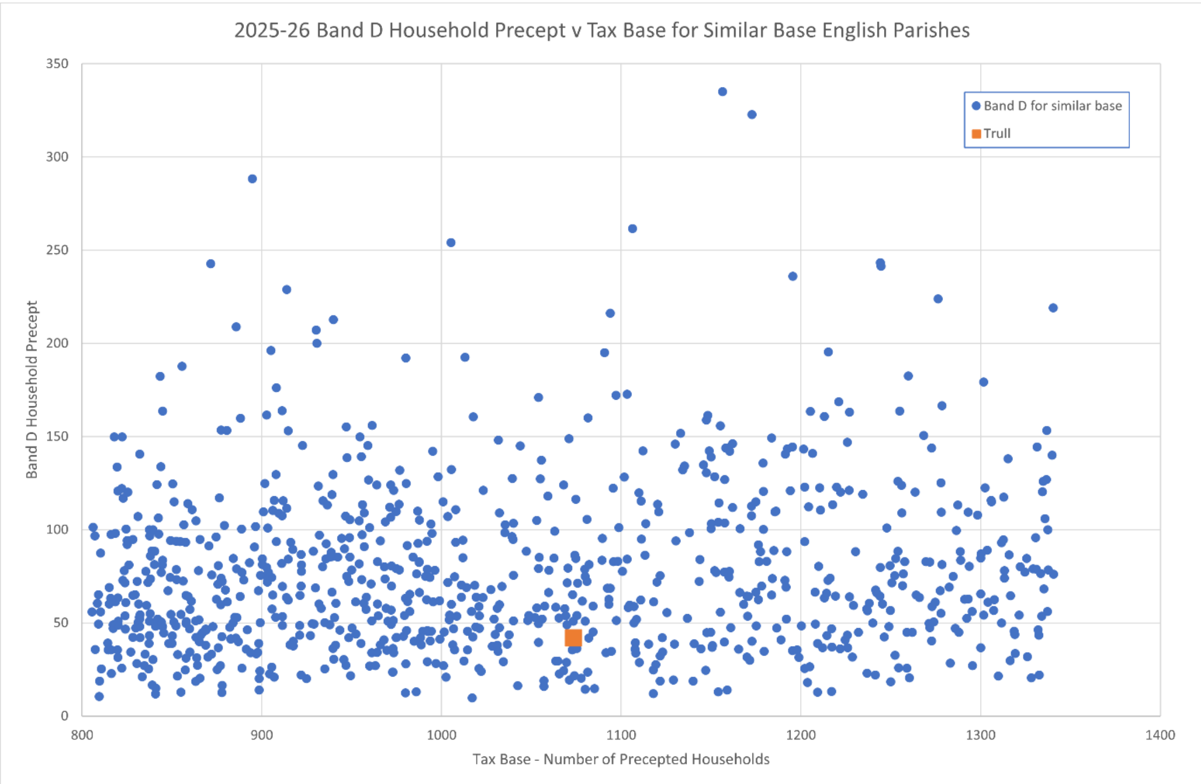

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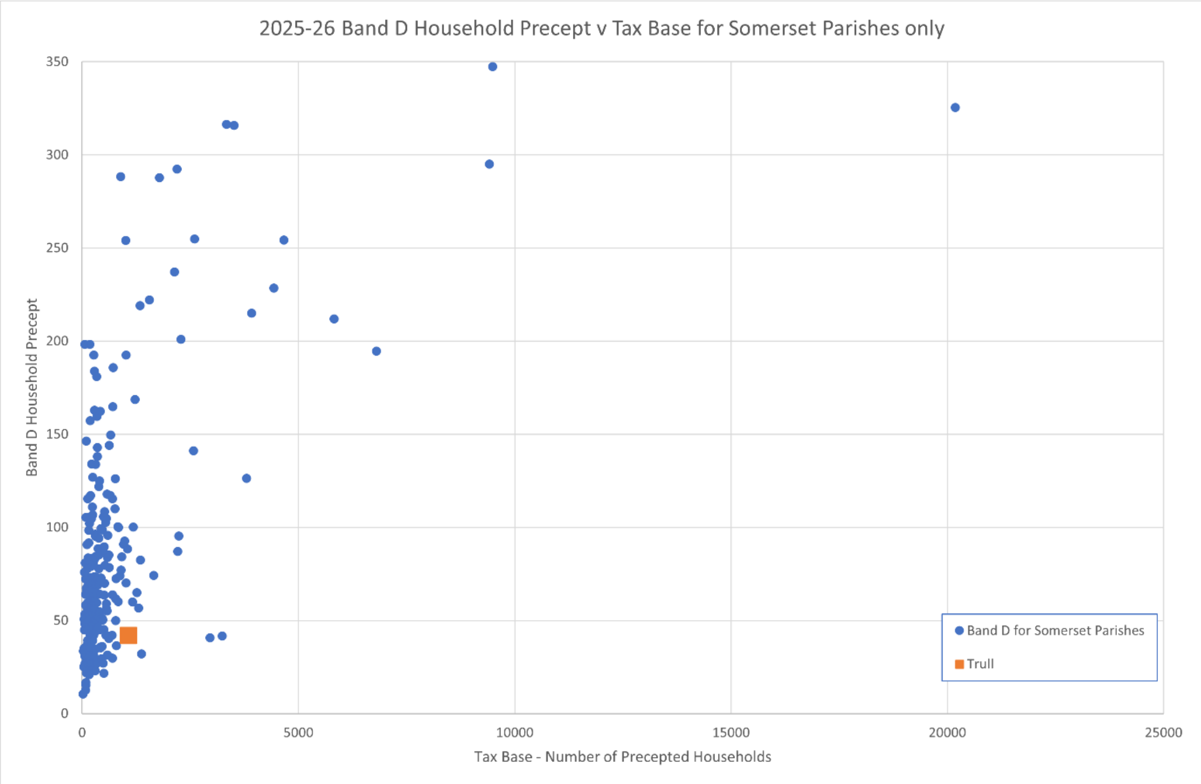

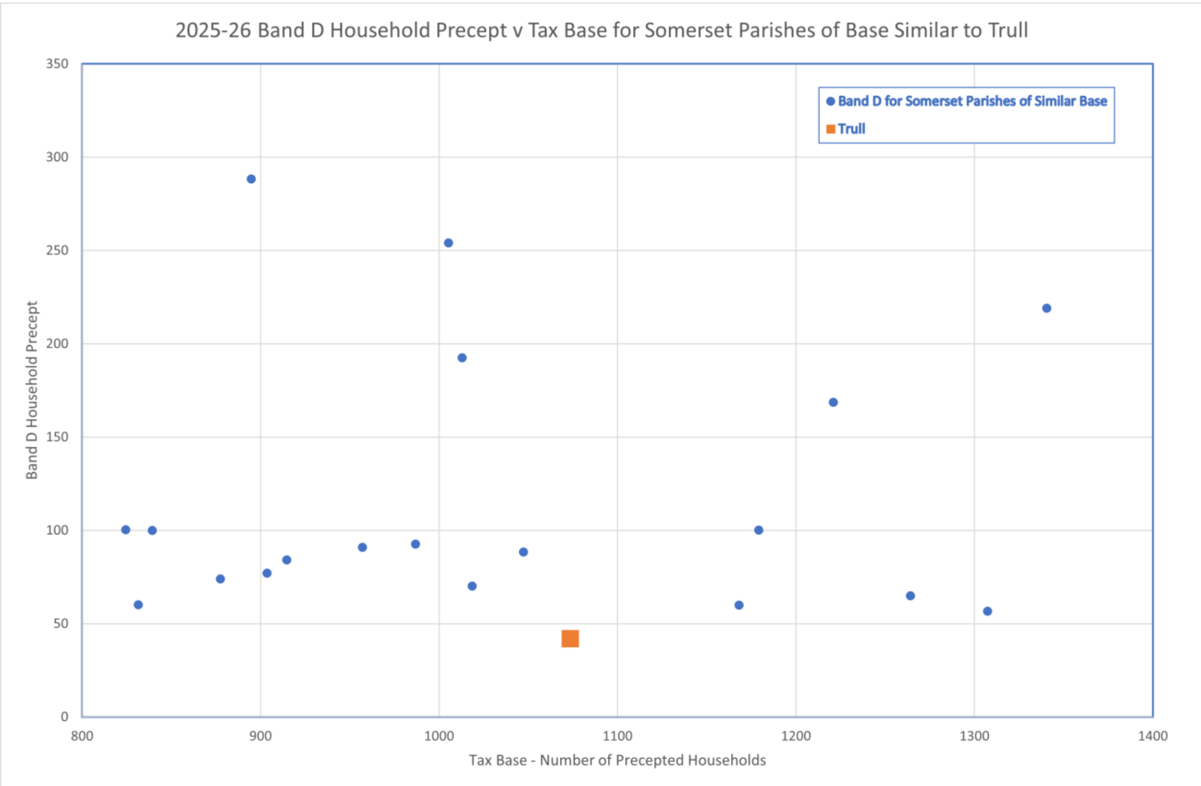

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<u>Observations</u>

Firstly, it is important to recognise that Civil Parishes (including Town and City Councils) have a vast range of sizes, populations, characteristics, challenges, demands and aspirations. Clearly, we in Trull need to do what we think is right for Trull's residents. It is nevertheless informative to compare Trull with other Parishes.

1. Comparison with the complete set of 8,631 individual precepting English Civil Parishes:

   Trull's Tax Base of 1073 is 4% larger than the mean of 1030 for the English Parishes analysed. 77% of English Parishes have a Tax Base smaller than Trull's.

   Trull's Band D precept charge of £42 is 62% that of the mean of £68. Only 32% of Parishes have a smaller precept than Trull's (68% are higher than Trull's).

2. Comparison with the subset of 865 English Civil Parishes that have a Tax Base within 25% of Trull's:

   Trull's Band D precept charge of £42 is 54% that of the mean of £77. Only 22% of Parishes in this subset have a precept smaller than Trull's (78% are higher than Trull's).

3. Comparison with the subset of 287 individual precepting Civil Parishes in Somerset.

   Trull's Tax Base of 1073 is 48% larger than the mean of 725. 88% of the Somerset Parishes Parishes have a Tax Base smaller than Trull's (only 12% have a higher Tax Base).

   Trull's Band D precept charge of £42 is 49% that of the mean of £85. Only 22% of Parishes have a smaller precept than Trull's (78% are higher than Trull's).

4. Comparison with the subset of 20 individual precepting Civil Parishes in Somerset that have Tax Bases within 25% that of Trull's (see the table below for the list of 20).

   Trull's Band D precept charge of £42 is 37% that of the mean of £114. None of the other 19 parishes in this subset have a precept smaller than Trull's (Trull's is the least expensive). The most expensive precept in this subset is £288, almost 7 times that of Trull's. 5 Parishes have precepts of more than £150, and a further 3 have precepts of more than £100.

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Somerset Parishes with Tax Base within 25% of Trull's	**Tax base for precept purposes 2025-26**	**Band D council tax (£) 2025-26**
Trull	1073.53	41.92
Bishop's Hull	1307.26	56.61
Bridgwater Without	1168.08	59.93
Cannington	831.42	60.14
Wiveliscombe	1264.09	64.87
Tatworth and Forton	1018.47	70.1
Cotford St Luke	877.4	74.08
West Coker	903.66	77.12
Chilcompton	914.63	84.19
Huish Episcopi	1047.24	88.42
Evercreech	957.03	90.91
Curry Rivel	986.9	92.71
Puriton	839.39	100.07
Creech St. Michael	1179.13	100.14
East Coker	824.47	100.28
Milborne Port	1220.99	168.58
Williton	1013.02	192.49
Watchet	1340.41	219.13
Bruton	1005.25	254.17
Castle Cary	894.74	288.25

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Trends in data

The data in the following table were compiled for Trull from data available from TPC's web site and other publicly available information (eg from the ONS).

Periods	Precept	Tax Base	Band D	Employee salary (inc NI, Pension etc)	Employee Salary as % of Precept	CIL Received	CIL Expenditure	CIL Balance
2025-26	£ 45,000.00	1073.53	£ 41.92					
2024-25	£ 36,000.00	1026.44	£ 35.07	£ 22,060.00	61%			
2023-24	£ 33,000.00	977.79	£ 33.75	£ 19,086.53	58%	£ 11,397.50	£ 180,158.26	£ 55,401.22
2022-23	£ 31,000.00	1087.58	£ 28.50	£ 13,274.00	43%	£ 191,278.96	£ 12,773.59	£ 224,161.98
2021-22	£ 31,000.00	1082.00	£ 28.65	£ 10,981.52	35%	£ 52,794.34	£ 6,500.19	£ 45,656.61
2020-21	£ 31,000.00	1048.51	£ 29.57	£ 11,479.05	37%	£ -	£ 151.99	-£ 637.54
2019-20	£ 30,000.00	1073.70	£ 27.94	£ 10,760.91	36%	£ -	£ -	-£ 485.55
2018-19	£ 29,000.00	1060.12	£ 27.36	£ 11,380.76	39%	£ -	£ 8,500.00	-£ 485.55
2017-18	£ 29,000.00	1068.96	£ 27.13	£ 9,936.00	34%			£ 8,014.45
2016-17	£ 27,000.00	1000.80	£ 26.98	£ 9,680.00	36%	£ 9,384.45	£ 3,470.00	£ 8,014.45
2015-16	£ 22,000.00			£ 7,449.84		£ 2,100.00	£ -	
2014-15				£ 7,025.23				

Observations

1. In 2023 two areas that were within the Civil Parish of Trull were transferred to create a new Taunton Town Council. One effect of this was to reduce the apparent population of Trull together with its Tax Base. Trull's 2025-2026 Tax Base is still smaller than that of 2021-2022. The costs borne by TPC on behalf of its residents were predominantly associated with the area of Trull that had not been changed and its population. Hence, the net effect in 2023-24 was to have an increased precept and reduced Tax Base resulting in an increase in Band D charge from £28.50 to £33.75 (+18.4%).

2. The amount of salary, including NI and pension, paid to employees increased from £10,981 in 2021-22 to £22,060 in 2024-25 (i.e. it doubled in a period of 3 years). In 2021-22 this expenditure was equivalent to 35% of the amount of precept received. By 2024-25 this fraction had grown to 61%.

3. For at least 3 years (2018-2021) TPC received no CIL funds. The Orchard Grove development resulted in very significant (most or possibly all) contributions to CIL funds received in the period 2021-2024, £255,471 in total. It is understood that no CIL funds were received since then, but this needs to be verified. This seems to indicate that CIL funds cannot be relied on as a steady income.

4. TPC has income from sources other than the precept and CIL funds, and it would be informative to summarise those in a similar format, together with some analysis of expenditure.

5. Last year the precept was increased by 25% from £36,000 to £45,000 for 2025-26. The Tax Base increased from 1,026 to 1,073 (+4.6%) resulting in a Band D charge increase of 19.5% (from £35.07 to £41.92).

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Trends that are increasing workloads and costs

The following comments are not specific to Trull's PC.

I have an impression that the regulatory demands placed on PCs have been increasing. My impression is based on anecdotes. Is there any evidence for this?

The change of UK Government and subsequent changes in policies have led to a surge in speculative planning applications (some of them for large numbers of dwellings). PCs provide their views to the LA.

Our Local Authority is financially stressed and Parish Councils, in conjunction with it, are assuming responsibilities that were previously the sole responsibility of the LA.

Our Local Authority has undergone major change and continues to do so as a result of it being financially stressed, forming a Unitary Authority, dealing with the changes in policies and regulations arising from the present UK Government, and timing in relation to the cycle for creation of Local Plans. This has created circumstances in which Parish Councils have to undertake additional work in order to represent their residents effectively. Similar comments could be made about other authorities such as the Police (eg "Community Speedwatch").

Inflation has been high in recent years and, though inflation has decreased more recently, it is still a significant factor increasing costs.

The amount of grant-funding available has been decreasing, and the requirement to contribute Parish funds to access grants is very common. For example, grants specifically for the creation and updating of Neighbourhood Plans are no longer available. Community Health & Wellbeing grants have required on-going commitments from PCs.

Suggestions regarding specific budget items

A budget of £10,000 for each of the coming two years (£20,000 in total) set aside as a contingency in order to enable a formal review and update of our Neighbourhood Plan should that be required. If not required, the funds could be released for other uses.

An annual budget of £5,000 to be maintained to provide for access to legal advice and services as required.

A budget to cover an increase in pay for employees.

A realistic estimate is needed for the cost of maintaining assets for which TPC is responsible. This should include the building up of funds to enable the replacement of existing assets such as park equipment. A budget specifically identified to cover an estimate of costs associated with a permanent repair of the leakage problem with the Leat/Waterfall (assuming a physical solution can be identified).

A non-specific contingency budget, the balance of which can be carried over to the following year if not fully used.

A budget to enable a modern team-supporting IT infrastructure to be implemented.