

**Subject:** 2026/27 Budget and Precept Demand Notes  
**Date:** 9 January 2025  
**Author:** Annette Thom (Clerk & RFO)

### 1. Forecast 2025/26 Year-end (FYE) Financial Position

Brought Forward	59,656.54
25/26 FYE Payments	39,074.58
25/26 FYE Receipts	34,784.79
25/26 Net	-4,289.79
Carry Forward	55,366.75

#### Reserves Balance

1/4/25 £49,325  
 Forecast Reserves 31/3/25 £38,307

#### General Fund

Forecast 31/3/26 £17,059.83

Please note that the forecast year end (FYE) values are estimates.

### 2. 25/26 Comments

Scribe has calculated a payments budget overspend of -10,731.33. This is primarily due to reserves spent.

#### Reserves Spend

198.00 Defibrillator	
4,235.46 Village Hall Grant	
1,500.00 Business Units	In 25/26 FYE but not yet spent
285.10 IT Equipment	
1,000.00 New noticeboard	
2,886.20 Churchyard Trees	In 25/26 FYE but not yet spent
784.04 Churchyard Wall	
<b>10,690.80</b>	

#### Lengthsman

Payments include 24/25	1,012
25/26 Balance available	744

#### Staff costs v Budget FYE

	FYE	FYE 25/26		Budget	Variance
		March 25	less March 25		
Salary	12,017	644	11,373	10,662	-712
pension BPC	1,498	25	1,473	1,683	210
pension employee	495	33	462	561	99
HMRC	2,418	175	2,244	3,618	1,374
	16,429	877	15,553	16,524	971

### 3. Precept Calculation

To calculate the 26/27 Precept demand BPC works out the funds it requires in 26/27, and reviews the adequacy and appropriateness of its reserves (transfer in or out).

Funds required minus income=precept demand.

#### **4. Reserves Allocations**

Councils hold between 3 and 12 months worth of un-earmarked general fund reserves. A larger council may be closer to 3 months, a smaller council closer to 12 months.

Purpose of earmarked reserves - scheduled replacement, irregular work

Purpose of unearmarked reserves - cash flow/unexpected expenditure.

A carry forward unearmarked reserves balance of more than twice the precept requires explanation to the External Auditor. The appropriateness of reserves must be justified.

#### **5. 26/27 Budget Calculations**

Base assumption of 4% inflation on regular expenditure<sup>1, 2</sup>

##### **Salary**

I have used the 15 hours per week recommended by the March Personnel Committee meeting. This is an increase from 11 hours per week core hours and the similar to 25/26. Core hours of 13 per week would reduce the costs by £2,459.

##### **Churchyard**

BPC has a current project to maintain the churchyard gates. Total cost £20,000. Grants are being sought. If possible I propose to do the work in two stages costing about £10,000 each.

BPC is planning repairs to the churchyard wall. I have requested quotes and expect to have responses in time to inform a final budget later in January. In the interim I have drafted a budget by increasing the cost of repairing the Cemetery wall in 2024.

Subject agreement I will use the existing SHDC tree grant (£502) to pay to replant trees in the Churchyard – the trees chosen support habitat so this seems acceptable. I haven't done that yet.

Salary costs and Churchyard maintenance (timing of works to gates and total cost of wall maintenance) are the two main factors which will affect the final precept demand.

---

<sup>1</sup><https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy-report/2025/august-2025>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/bulletins/consumerpriceinflation/october2025>