

Budget & Precept 2026-2027

All committees have now considered and approved their budgets to put forward to Council for approval and to be used to set the Precept for 2026/2027. These are outlined below.

Income	2025/26	2026/27
Full Council	-	-
F&GP	£27,786.00	£ 27,630.00
A&E	£10,883.99	£ 8,160.67
Staffing	-	-
Total	£38,669.99	£35,790.67

Expenditure	2025/26	2026/27
Full Council	£36,250.00	£36,740.00
F&GP	£65,868.00	£65,943.00
A&E	£94,519.00	£99,081.00
Staffing	£125,232.30	£128,826.91
Total	£321,869.30	£330,591.91

These were considered by F&GP on 13th November and the following changes were recommended:

Income	2025/26	2026/27
Full Council	-	-
F&GP	£27,786.00	£ 27,630.00
A&E	£10,883.99	£ 8,160.67
Staffing	-	-
Total	£38,669.99	£35,790.67

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Staffing	£125,232.30	£128,826.91
Total	£321,869.30	£336,591.91

Based on these figures, the Precept requirement arising from the proposed budgets is as follows. Compared to the previous year there is a proposed net increase of £17,601.

2025/26	2026/27
£283,199	£300,800

Current Position

As of 31st October 2025, the Council's income and expenditure is as follows:

Income

Budget 2025/26	Total Income	CIL Income	Net income
£321,869	£401,945.32	£88,839.42	£313,105.90

Expenditure

Budget 25/26	Total Expenditure	Use of CIL Reserves	Use of other reserves	Net expenditure
£321,869	£179,791.45	£0	£14,436.53	£165,354.92

By deducting CIL income and expenditure, and other use of reserves, the Council's revised income and expenditure is as follows (rounded to £):

	Budget 2025/26	Actual Net
Income	£321,869	£313,106
Expenditure	£321,869	£165,355

Reserve Position

As of 31st October 2025, the Council's reserves position is as follows (rounded to £):

	As of 31/10/2025
Earmarked Reserves	£158,562
CIL	£240,765
General Reserves	£289,334

Assuming the Council's income and expenditure for the remainder of the year is comparative to the existing budget, the Council's end of year general reserve position is likely to be as follows:

	Budget 2025/26	Actual Net	Impact on general reserves
Income	£321,869	£313,106	+£8,763
Expenditure	£321,869	£165,355	-£156,514

General reserves as of 31st October 2025 (£289,334) plus additional income (£8,763) minus assumed expenditure (£156,514) = **£141,583**

As Members are aware, the Council has always striven to keep general reserves at a healthy level, at around 6 months of budget expenditure. Guidance suggests it is prudent to hold between 3 to 6 months of budget expenditure. Based on the proposed expenditure budget for 2026/27 of **£336,591.91**, this general reserve figure equates to the equivalent of 5.05 months expenditure.

Although the figure has decreased from 5.6 months expenditure in 2025/26, it is important to remember that in addition to general reserves, the business rates issue is still pending. If this falls in the Council's favour, this will boost the general reserves to at least 5.4 months expenditure, assuming that at least £10,500 is reclaimed.

Recommendation

Considering all the above, the F&GP Committee recommends that the Precept request for 2026/2027 is **£300,800**.

The following assumption has been made to support this recommendation: That income and expenditure for the remainder of the year is comparative to the existing budget.

Based on this Precept figure, the impact on Band D households is as follows:

	2025/26	2026/27	Increase
Council Tax base	3,526.80	3,568.60	1.19%
Precept	£283,199	£300,800	6.22%
Cost per Band D	£80.30	£84.29	4.97%