

LAVERSTOCK & FORD PARISH COUNCIL

Report for Agenda Item 24.142 (2) Budget & Precept 2025/26

Subject: Report on Second Draft Budget and Precept 2025/26.
Date: 18 November 2024
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1. Report Summary.

- 1.1 This report presents a draft forecast of the Budget and Precept requirement for FY 2025/26 with an explanation of changes to the current budget.

2. Background.

- 2.1 The Council is required to set a budget and precept requirement and deliver it to Wiltshire Council before their deadline of 20th January 2025.
- 2.2 The Tax Base for Laverstock and Ford Parish for 2025-26 is 3979.67. This is a 0.7% increase on 2024/25. The Tax Base records the equivalent number of Band D dwellings in the Parish and determines the amount that each household will be charged annually to provide the Parish precept.

3. Report

- 3.1 A second draft Budget and Precept is attached at Annex 1 to this report. The first draft was discussed at the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 12th November.
- 3.2 Revenue Expenditure has been increased by 12.27%. The reasons are indicated below.
 - i. Salaries increased from £180k to £193k to allow for a pay review and the increase in employers NI.
 - ii. Professional Fees increased from £2940 to £5000.
 - iii. Community Buildings retitled Community Facility Support and increased from £10k to £35k. This follows from a meeting with Old Sarum trustees and a report on their finances. It includes a recharge back to the Council for insurance rent to OSCC and the Pavilion.
 - iv. A new budget line for Election costs which are now being recharged by Wiltshire Council. The £3k budget will pay for an uncontested election in May 2025 in our three wards. If contested the charge will be £13k.
 - v. A new budget line for a Public Works Loan Board loan for financing part of the Parish Office construction project.
 - vi. Grass Cutting and POS Maintenance renamed as Public Open Space Maintenance and increased from £35k to £40k.
 - vii. Tree budget increased from £15k to £20k due partly to an increase in Ash dieback.
 - viii. Infrastructure reduced to £1k for bus shelter repairs & maintenance.
 - ix. Community Farm Support, which consisted of preferential grant funding of £10k removed pending resolution of the current problems.

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- 3.3 The Capital Asset Replacement budget has increased from £95,581 to £99,583 due the increase in asset numbers and values.
- 3.4 Income from interest and fund dividends has been increased from £50k to £65k. Based on £650k at Lloyds yielding 3% and £1.1375m at CCLA yielding 4%.
- 3.5 The contribution from earmarked maintenance reserves has increased from £53,698 to £56,342 due to new receipts.
- 3.6 No allowance has been made for land and assets at Longhedge that are still awaiting completion and transfer.

4. Recommendation.

- 4.1 This second draft budget requires a 8.53% increase in Precept and a 7.77% increase in Band D tax to £87.60 per year. The mean Band D for all parishes and towns in England for 2024/25 is £85.88. The mean band D of the 18 largest towns and parishes in Wiltshire is £211.83.
- 4.2 That the Council notes the content of the second draft budget and offers its views on the proposed changes and increases. The current intention is to present a third draft to FGP on 3rd December and for the Budget and Precept to be approved by full Council on 16th December.

	SECOND DRAFT: BUDGET & PRECEPT 2025-2026				
	Significant amend				
	Increased by 2.5%				
	Reduced				
	REVENUE EXPENDITURE		REVENUE INCOME		
	ADMINISTRATION				
	Salaries Gross	193000	Lease/Rentals		5790
	Mileage	2850	Insurance Rent		4500
	Office Sundries & Expenses	5500	Newsletter Advertising		5000
	Equipment inc IT	1000	Interest & Dividends		65000
	Professional Fees	5000	TOTAL INCOME	D	80290
	Subscriptions	2000			
	Insurance	6900	FROM RESERVES		
	Grants	10000	S106 Maintenance Reserves	E	56342
	Newsletter	8000			
	Community Engagement	1500	TOTAL REVENUE INCOME (D+E)	F	136632
	Training	1500			
	Cllr Expenses & Chair Allowance	500	REVENUE BUDGET (C-F)	G	249018
	Business Support	5250			
	Youth Support	5000	TO RESERVES		
	Community Facility Support	35000	Capital Asset Replacement	H	99583
	Elections	3000			
	PWLB Loan	5000			
	Total Administration	291000			
	ENVIRONMENT		CAPITAL BUDGET (=H)	I	99583
	Bins & Litter	12800			
	Public Open Space Maintenance	40000	PRECEPT		
	Trees	20000			
	Infrastructure	1000	Precept Requirement 2024-25 (G+I)	J	348601
	Play Parks-Maint. & Insp.	10750			
	Highways & SIDs	5000	TAX BASE 2024-2025	K	3979.67
	Salisbury City Cemetery	5100			
	Community Farm Support	0	BAND D (J/K)		£87.60
	Total Environment	94650	CHANGE ON 2024-25		
			2024-25 Precept £321,204	+	8.53%
C	Total Revenue Expenditure (A+B)	385650	2024-25 Band D £81.28	+	7.77%