

LAVERSTOCK & FORD PARISH COUNCIL

Report for Agenda Item FGP25.060 Review of 2026/2027 Budget

Subject: Report on Third Draft Budget and Precept 2026/2027
Date: 29 November 2025
Author: Andrew Prince, RFO

1. Report Summary.

- 1.1 This report presents a draft Budget and Precept requirement for FY 2026/2027 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 Tuesday 20th January 2026.
- 2.2 The draft Tax Base for Laverstock and Ford Parish has just been published. For 2026-2027 it is **4021.87**. This is a 1.06% increase on 2025/26. 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 third draft Budget and Precept requirement is attached at Annex 1 to this report. The second draft was discussed at the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 4th November and several changes were recommended. Following cancellation of the November Council meeting this is the first opportunity to present a third draft,
- 3.2 Revenue Expenditure is increased in this third draft budget by 14.35%. A full explanation is given in the Notes attached at Annex 2.
- 3.3 Revenue Income is expected to fall by 14.95% due to anticipated reduced yields on treasury deposits.
- 3.4 This third draft Budget will result in a Precept Requirement of £441,207 which is an increase of 18.94% on 2025-2026. Band D tax will rise to £109.70 from £93.21. A rise of 17.69% or £16.49 per Band D household per year.

4. Recommendation.

- 4.1 That the Finance and General Purposes Committee review the third draft of the 2026-2027 Budget and Precept and make recommendations for consideration and approval by Full Council on 15th December 2025.

Annex 1

Budget & Precept 2026-2027 Draft v3.xlsx

BUDGET & PRECEPT 2026-2027 3rd draft				
Highlighted lines are those with large increases in excess of inflation. See Explanatory Notes.				
	REVENUE EXPENDITURE		REVENUE INCOME	
	ADMINISTRATION			
1	Salaries Gross	243,000	Lease/Rentals	5,790
2	Mileage	2,850	Insurance Rent	3,500
3	Office Sundries & Expenses	5,750	Newsletter Advertising	5,000
4	Equipment inc IT	1,000	Interest & Dividends	54,000
5	Professional Fees	12,000		
6	Subscriptions	2,500	TOTAL INCOME	D 68,290
7	Insurance	7,300		
8	Grants	10,000		
9	Newsletter	8,800	FROM RESERVES	
10	Community Engagement	4,900	S106 Maintenance Reserves	E 56,342
11	Training	1,500		
12	Councillor & Chairs Allowance	5,000	TOTAL REVENUE INCOME (D+E)	F 124,632
13	Business Support	6,400		
14	Youth Support	12,000	NET REVENUE BUDGET (C-F)	G 341,318
15	Venues Support	30,000		
16	Age Support	5,000	TO RESERVES	
17	PWLB Loan	5,000	Capital Asset Replacement	H 99,889
A	Total Administration	363,000		
	ENVIRONMENT		CAPITAL BUDGET (=H)	I 99,889
18	Bins & Litter	14,100		
19	Public Open Space Maintenance	41,600	PRECEPT	
20	Trees	26,000		
21	Infrastructure maintenance	1,000	Precept Requirement 2025-2026 (G+I)	J 441,207
22	Play Parks-Maint. & Insp.	9,900		
23	Highways & SIDs	5,000	TAX BASE 2025-2026	K 4021.87
24	Salisbury City Cemetery	5,350		
			BAND D (J/K)	£109.70
B	Total Environment	102,950	CHANGE ON 2025-26	
			2025-26 Precept £370,951	+ 18.94%
C	Total Revenue Expenditure (A+B)	465,950	2025-26 Band D £93.21	+ 17.69%

Annex 2 - Explanatory Notes

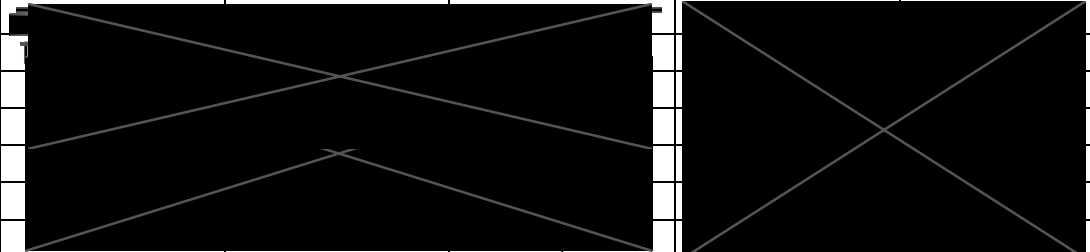
BUDGET & PRECEPT 2026-2027

Explanatory Notes on Draft Budget 2026-2027 v3

General: An inflation rate of 4% has been applied to all calculations except for salaries. The salary pay award is estimated at 3.5%. **Highlighted entries** are those with increases well in excess of inflation.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE - ADMINISTRATION

1. **Salaries. £243,000.** A 15.17% increase on 2025-26. The SCP rates have increased in line with the Council's increased budget and responsibilities. The budget allows for a 3.5% pay award for 2026-27 and a 5% contingency to cover extra work by employees and any other employment issues.

Role	Hrs/week	Gross Salary on 1 st April 2026	Cost inc NI & Pension & Pay Lifts	Cost after 3.5% Pay Award
				

Total Cost	£231,634
Contingency	£11,582
Total Budget	£243,216

2. Mileage. **£2,850.** Unchanged.
3. Office Sundries & Expenses. **£5,750.** Increased by inflation. Includes Operations Sundries.
4. Equipment inc IT. **£1,000.** Unchanged
5. **Professional Fees. £12,000.** 20% increase. £3,500 for HR & H&E advice. £2,500 for audit & payroll. £2,000 for charity & venue support. £3,000 for leases and land acquisition. £1,000 contingency.
6. Subscriptions. **£2,500.** 13.6% increase. To correct current overspend, NALC/WALC subscription linked to electors.
7. Insurance. **£7,300.** 5.8% increase due to imposed reinstatement cost increase on buildings by Zurich.
8. Grants. **£10,000** unchanged.
9. Newsletter. **£8,800.** 10% increase. A change of print supplier plus inflation.

10. **Community Engagement, £4,900.** Increased by £3,900. £1,500 to pay for publicity and advertising for new Councillors. £2,400 for a new Communication App requested by Communication Working Group.
11. Training. **£1,500.** Unchanged.
12. **Councillor & Chairs Allowance. £5,000.** A provisional estimate of the cost of introducing Councillor allowances.
13. Business Support. **£6,400.** Increased by inflation and a £400 increase in Scribe.
14. **Youth Support. £12,000.** Increased by £2,000 to compensate for absence of Area Board grant.
15. Venues Support. (previously Community Facility Support). **£30,000.** Restored to 2024/25 level.
16. **Age Support. £5,000.** A speculative new provision based on an Area Board initiative. (In 2025/26 this budget line was for Elections and would have been zero for 2026/27.)
17. PWLB Loan. **£5,000.** Unchanged.
- A. Total Administration Revenue Expenditure £363,000.** This is a 15.9% increase on 2025/25 (£313,200).

REVENUE EXPENDITURE – ENVIRONMENT

18. Bins and Litter. **£14,100.** Increased by inflation.
19. Public Open Space Maintenance. **£41,600.** Increased by inflation.
20. **Trees. £26,000. A 30% increase.** Option 2 as recommended by Operations officer.
21. Infrastructure maintenance. **£1,000.** Reduced by £500.
22. Play Parks Maintenance & Inspection. **£9,900.** Increased by inflation.
23. Highways & SIDs. **£5,000.** Underspent this year due to erratic and slow invoicing by Wiltshire Council. Any underspend will be returned to the General Reserve and used to support overspend next year.
24. Salisbury City Cemetery. **£5,350.** Increased by inflation. This is a maintenance contribution in return for discounted fees for Laverstock & Ford residents.
- B. Total Environment Revenue Expenditure £102,950.** An increase. of 8.6% on 2025/26 (£94,800)
- C. TOTAL REVENUE EXPENDITURE £466,550.** An increase of 14.35% on 2025/26 (£408,000)

REVENUE INCOME

Lease/Rentals	£5,790 Unchanged
Insurance Rent	£3,500. Reduced by £1,000. From OSCC only. No contribution from HP Pavilion. Building reinstatement Insurance increased by 5%.
Newsletter Advertising	£5,000. Fixed by HMRC unless we register for vat.
Interest & Dividends	£54,000. Reduced by £11,000. Based on having an average of £1,770,000 on deposit. Split 80/20 between CCLA & Lloyds. Forecast rate for CCLA 3.25%, Lloyds 2%.

D. TOTAL INCOME £68,290. A reduction of 14.95% due to anticipated fall in yield on treasury deposits.

CONTRIBUTION FROM RESERVES

In accordance with the Council's Reserves Policy, Earmarked Maintenance Reserves shall be written down annually by 5% and these funds shall be allocated to the Revenue Budget to support the Precept and cover routine maintenance operations.

FROM RESERVES.

E. £56,342. The same as the current year. In the next FY (2027/28) this contribution will fall as the first maintenance contribution received in 2012 is spent.

TO RESERVES

H. Capital Asset Replacement

£99,889. A provision very similar to last year in spite of many deletions and additions to assets. The total value of assets for which provision has been made is £2.521m. The greatest provision is for play areas, which are given an expected life of 25 years and have a replacement cost at current values of £2,079,164.