

Budget Summary

The Budget for 2026/2027 was approved by the Parish Council at its meeting on 15 January 2026.

A summary is set out below alongside the 2025/2026 figures.

Description	2025/2026 Budget	2026/2027 Budget	Comments
Precept	161,729	171,433	Raised by Council Tax
Cemetery Fees	10,636	11,125	Burials, cremations & memorials
Fairground Fees	5,045	5,649	Hire fees & tennis courts
Bank interest and Wayleave	24,243	12,417	
Parish Council Operating Income	201,653	200,624	
Administration Operating Costs	118,560	123,317	Personnel, office rent / costs, meetings, training, subscriptions
Grants to other bodies	18,489	1,500	Regular grants
Community Committee	14,651	13,730	Newsletter & website costs, community projects
Estate Management Committee	44,203	41,076	Grass cutting, maintenance, rent, improvement projects
Planning and Highways Committee	5,750	21,000	Maintenance & improvements, Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Steering Group spend.
Parish Council Operating Costs	201,653	200,624	
Parish Council Operating income less Operating Costs	0	0	Potential budget deficit covered by reserves if needed

Community Infrastructure, Projects & Reserve Spend			
Community Infrastructure Levy income	87,022	88,068	CIL income from Tower House Farm & other builds
Community Projects spend	531,912	332,778	Predicted spend for projects: cycleway, cemetery extension, Neighbourhood Plan, CIL expenditure, Community Grant
Community Infrastructure Income less spending / funds held for projects	(444,890)	(244,710)	Budget deficit covered by CIL reserves & earmarked reserves.

Summary			
Total Operating Income	186,244	200,624	Regular Council income
Community Infrastructure Levy & loan Income	95,520	88,068	Predicted CIL income
Total Income	281,764	288,692	
Total Operating Costs	186,244	200,624	Regular Council costs
Community Infrastructure Levy & Reserve spending	254,127	332,778	Project costs
Transfer from Reserves	(158,607)	(244,710)	
Total Spending	281,764	288,692	

The Budget

The Council is legally required to set a balanced budget each year. This ensures sufficient funding is available to deliver services, maintain assets, and meet the Council's strategic objectives. It also forms the basis for setting the Parish Precept.

Funding the Council

The Precept is the Council's primary source of income. It is collected as part of Council Tax by West Berkshire Council and redistributed to the Parish Council.

For 2026/2027, the Precept has increased from **£161,729 to £171,433**, representing an increase of approximately **6.0%**.

This increase reflects the need to maintain service levels while responding to changing financial pressures and reduced non-precept income.

Two particular areas have contributed to the increase – first, a need to increase our Operating Reserve by **£10,000** in keeping with our financial rules; and second, the setting aside of **£50,000** in a reserve against costs associated with the Basingstoke and Deane West End Farm proposal (as anticipated at the Parish Meeting in October 2025).

The Band D equivalent charge is expected to increase from **£89.09 to £95.57**, an increase of approximately **7.3%**. This reflects both the Precept rise and changes in the tax base.

Operating Costs

The Council anticipates an increase in core operating costs, driven by:

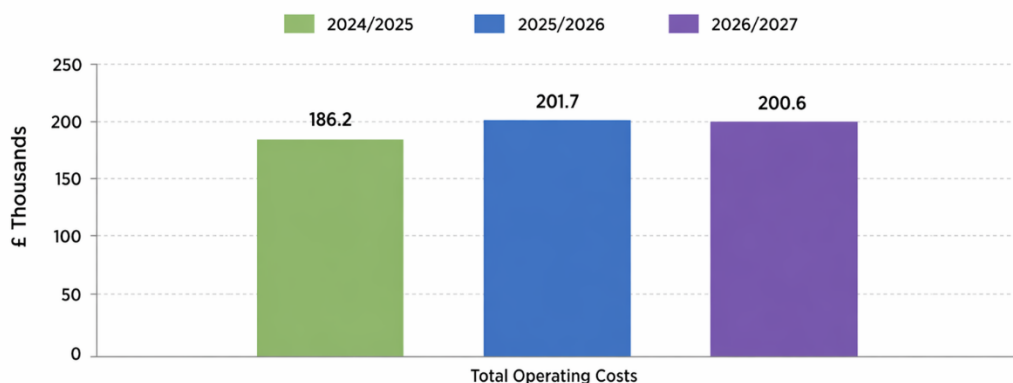
- Increased staffing costs, particularly employer National Insurance contributions;
- Reduced bank interest income as reserves are utilised for capital projects;
- *Additional funding requirements for the **Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Steering Group**;
- Continued investment in community engagement and events.

A significant change in 2026/2027 is the reallocation of expenditure, particularly:

- A **reduction in grant funding**, reflecting a shift towards direct project delivery
- A **substantial increase in Planning & Highways costs**, primarily due to strategic planning activity

Parish Council Operating Costs

2024/25 – 2026/27



Operating Income

The Precept remains the Council's principal income stream. Other income sources—including cemetery fees and fairground hire—are expected to remain stable with modest increases.

Bank interest income is projected to fall significantly due to the planned use of reserves to fund major capital projects.

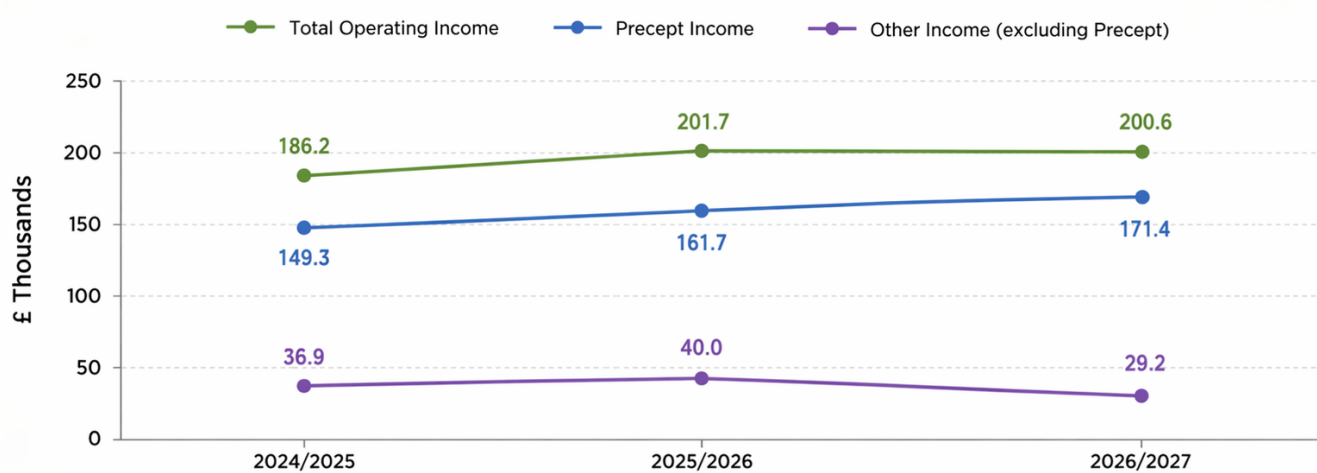
The Council will also continue to receive **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** funding via West Berkshire Council.

- **2025/2026 CIL received:** £87,022
- **2026/2027 forecast:** £88,068

CIL funding is restricted to capital expenditure on infrastructure and cannot be used for day-to-day operational costs.

Parish Council Operating Income

2024/25 - 2026/27



How we are investing in the Community?

The Council continues to make significant investments in local infrastructure using a combination of CIL funding and accumulated reserves.

During 2026/2027, key priorities include:

- Completion of Phase 1 and 2 of the **Mortimer to Burghfield Footpath and Cycleway**;
- Finalisation of the **Cemetery Extension project**;
- Continued delivery of the **Community Grant Scheme**;
- Ongoing work of the **Community Committee** supporting local initiatives;
- Allocation of **£50,000** to support the **Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Steering Group**, enabling access to professional and legal advice.

Although anticipated capital expenditure has reduced compared to 2025/2026, it remains substantial at **£332,778**, reflecting the continuation and completion of major projects already underway.