

Notes to accompany 2025-26 Draft Budget

Introduction

The Finance Committee and Staffing Committee have met in November, December and January to consider the budget codes as agreed under resolution 786/24. Draft minutes from these meetings have been previously circulated with the exception of the Finance Committee meeting held on 17.1.25.

Outlined below are the recommendations from both committees for the Full Council to consider in relation to the budget headings accompanying the draft budget.

Finance Committee Recommendations

Item	2025-2026 Budget notes
EXPENDITURE	Recreation and Assets considered at the Finance Committee meeting on 6.12.24
Public Lighting Committee Recommendation	The Public Lighting Budget is set at £57,700 to include an allocation of £5000 from reserves
Burial Ground Committee Recommendation	To set the Burial Ground Budget at £25,550 with an allocation of £13,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund to cover cost of hedge removal and fence installation.
Allotments Committee Recommendation	To set the Allotments Budget at £1500.
Recreation Committee Recommendation	To set the Recreation Budget at £40,300.
Toilets Committee Recommendation	This cost centre has been changed to incorporate the costs of the toilet on the recreation ground. To set the Public Toilets budget at £22,800.
Bus Shelters Committee Recommendation	To set the Bus Shelters budget at £1800.
Floral Planters Committee Recommendation	To set the floral planters budget at £6000.
CCTV Committee Recommendation	To set the CCTV budget at £6000.
Committee Recommendation	A Recreation and Assets Budget of £161,650 is set.
Administration Committee Recommendation	Considered at the Finance Committee meeting on 6.12.24 and 17.1.25 That the Administration budget is set at £48,185.

Clerks notes	<p>Maintain liner allocation of £3000 in the budget to build up sufficient funds to replace the liner in 15 years time.</p> <p>An increase is also recommended for the repairs budget to £10,000. This increase is needed to reflect the age of the building and the need to undertake repairs to plant and equipment under the terms of the lease.</p> <p>The annual contribution request received from WSLC is to be considered under agenda item 4. For indicative purposes the Swimming Pool budget has been set at £73,300.</p>
Msc Wem Town Hall	Working Party recommendation relating to the funding agreement is to be considered under agenda item 5
Markets	Maintain at £1000 for the management of the outdoor market and development of markets generally.
Town Improvement Projects	This budget code is to be used for enhancement to the town e.g erection of bunting in Summer months and other improvements/ projects in the town. Allocation £5000
Clerks Notes	The outcome of this budget will be subject to Council decision made under agenda item 5. For indicative purposes a budget figure of £20,000 has been allocated for the miscellaneous projects budget
Expenditure Budget	Proposed 2025-26 Expenditure budget £492,315.
Income	
Clerks recommendation	The Finance Committee's recommendation was that £32500 be allocated in the income budget for Cemetery, Allotments, Toilets, Administration codes. However, on closer consideration it is the Clerk's recommendation that some of these figures are increased and the new figures are based on actual income received in the current financial year as at 31.12.24 (by setting the income budget based on these figures this can allow for some fluctuation should number of burials fall in 25-26 and reduction in interest rates). With the addition of £3000 for market income the overall budget for non precepted income should be set at £42,700
Income Budget not including precept	£42,700
Contribution from reserves	<p>Column replacement £5,000</p> <p>Christmas Lights year 3 £5000</p> <p>Neighbourhood fund £13,000 (for Cemetery improvement works)</p> <p>Event Infrastructure £1000</p> <p>Tablet Purchase £2000</p> <p>Total £26,000</p>