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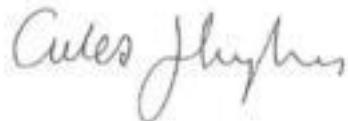


Tuesday, 20 January 2026

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COUNCIL

You are summoned to a meeting of the Council which will be held in Council Chamber, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 1NB on **Wednesday, 28 January 2026 at 2.00 pm.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Giles Hughes".

Giles Hughes
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Council

Councillors: Andrew Coles (Chair), Carl Rylett (Vice-Chair), Joy Aitman, Lidia Arciszewska, Thomas Ashby, Hugo Ashton, Mike Baggaley, Andrew Beaney, Michael Brooker, Adam Clements, David Cooper, Julian Cooper, Sandra Cosier, Steve Cosier, Rachel Crouch, Jane Doughty, Genny Early, Duncan Enright, Roger Faulkner, Phil Godfrey, Andy Goodwin, Andy Graham, David Jackson, Edward James, Natalie King, Liz Leffman, Nick Leverton, Dan Levy, Andrew Lyon, Paul Marsh, Martin McBride, Stuart McCarroll, Michele Mead, David Melvin, Rosie Pearson, Elizabeth Poskitt, Andrew Prosser, Nigel Ridpath, Geoff Saul, Sandra Simpson, Alaric Smith, Ruth Smith, Tim Sumner, Sarah Veasey, Liam Walker, Mark Walker, Adrian Walsh, Alex Wilson and Alistair Wray

Recording of Proceedings – The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Executive, and Committee Meetings to be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted. By participating in this meeting, you are consenting to be filmed.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Democratic Services officers know prior to the start of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations from Members of Council on any items to be considered at the meeting.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 9 - 18)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2025.

4. Receipt of Announcements

To receive any announcements from The Chair, Leader, Members of the Executive, Head of Paid Service, Director of Finance or Director of Governance.

5. Changes to Councils Working Groups

Purpose:

To report the change in membership on the Constitution Working Group from Councillor Andrew Coles to Councillor Duncan Enright (agreed under delegated authority).

Recommendation:

That Council resolves to:

- I. Ratify and note the change in the Constitution Working Group membership from Councillor Andrew Coles to Councillor Duncan Enright.

6. Participation of the Public

To receive any submissions from members of the public, in accordance with the Council's [Public Participation Rules](#).

The deadline for submission is 2.00pm, two clear working days before the meeting.

7. Questions by Members

The following questions have been submitted by Members of Council to Members of the Executive, in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules (Constitution Part 5A, Rule 12).

Written responses will be circulated to Members and published on the Council's website at least one working day prior to the meeting. A Member submitting a question is entitled to ask one supplementary question at the meeting which must arise directly from the question or the response to it.

The supplementary questions and answers will be detailed in the minutes of the meeting.

Question 1: From Councillor Thomas Ashby to Councillor Andrew Prosser, Executive Member for Climate Action and Nature Recovery:

I am aware that WODC had won a £2.2m grant from the UK Govt (via a wholly owned organisation called Salix) for a project at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre. This funding

was awarded under PSDS4 Grant (Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme 4) for the replacement of gas boilers with Air Source Heat Pumps. A requirement of the grant was that the gas boilers be classed as end of life or coming to the end of life.

My understanding is that WODC have written to the UK Govt to hand money back, shortly after being awarded it last year. I may be wrong, but I do have it on very good authority that the Council has made this decision and are about to write to the government if they haven't already.

The grant funding has now been cancelled by central government and no longer exists, with no intent for anything to replace it - therefore, this is no future funding for this type of work.

Given Local Government review, as far as I am aware, there has not been an approach to the County Council to discuss the reasons for the money being handed back to the government. I am of the understanding OCC would have supported WODC with resourcing if required. What is the reason for the decision making? It would seem prudent that all avenues are explored before deciding to hand so much money back.

I am of the understanding that the decision meeting itself occurred between directors and the Chief Executive, were any Executive Members involved? Were Officers involved? If so, who? I would also like to know when the meeting took place, and for a copy of the minutes to be distributed to members.

Additionally, there is a second PSDS project proceeding at Windrush Leisure Centre, and it is unclear as to why Chipping Norton has been cancelled, and Witney is proceeding.

Leisure services are a statutory service and will continue beyond LGR in the same building. Therefore, given that the boilers in Chipping Norton are at end of life, the costs for replacements will now need to be picked up directly by WODC or a successor authority.

One requirement of LGR is for all Councils to conduct a building condition survey to help inform quicker decision making on properties and budgets post LGR. I am suspecting that recent investment into the leisure centres may be shown by the condition surveys as requiring investment. I would appreciate some further information on these condition surveys and potentially an opportunity to meet with officers to discuss these further, if the decision behind this investment is from the surveys.

Therefore, please can the Executive Member explain why £2.2million was handed back to the UK Government?

Question 2: From Councillor Thomas Ashby to Councillor Alaric Smith, Executive Member for Finance:

How much has West Oxfordshire District Council spent on legal fees in settlement of subsidence claims in Deer Park since 2000? Please split this response by year and cost.

Question 3: From Councillor Thomas Ashby to Councillor Lidia Arciszewska, Executive Member for Environment:

A few years ago, West Oxfordshire District Council removed a significant number of public bins across our towns, villages, and hamlets. Considering the ongoing impact on local cleanliness and amenity, will the Executive Member for Environment commit to a district-wide review of bin locations? Furthermore, will the Council guarantee that Town and Parish Councils, who hold the most granular knowledge of their residents' needs, are formally consulted at the very beginning of this process to ensure infrastructure is placed where it is most needed?

Question 4: From Councillor Thomas Ashby to Councillor Tim Sumner, Executive Member for Leisure and Carterton Area Strategy:

Please can you provide a detailed update on the progress for the adventure play area at Windrush Place?

Question 5: From Councillor Thomas Ashby to Councillor Tim Sumner, Executive Member for Leisure and Carterton Area Strategy:

Please can you confirm the progress on the delivery of the new 3G Pitch at West Witney Sports and Social Club?

Question 6: From Councillor Michele Mead to Councillor Tim Sumner, Executive Member for Leisure and Carterton Area Strategy:

The WODC Voice magazine has recently been sent out to all residents page 9 is all about the Carterton Area Strategy, a working group was set up to work on this strategy but in the last nine months they have only met once so please can you tell me when they are meeting again to progress this strategy?

8. Additional Committee Meeting

Purpose:

To consider an addition to the programme of Committee meetings.

Recommendations:

Council resolves to:

- I. Agree an additional Audit and Governance Committee meeting to be held on 18 March 2027 as this was an omitted from the programme of meetings for 2026/27 agreed at Council on 3 December 2025.

Recommendations from the Executive and the Council's Committees

9. Draft Budget 2026/27 (Pages 19 - 46)

Purpose:

This report provides an update on the developing budget for 2026/27 following the provisional government funding settlement announcement on 17 December 2025

Recommendations:

The Executive resolved on 14 January 2026 to recommend to Council to:

1. Approve the Council Tax Base shown in Annex C, calculated as 49,561.59 for the year 2026/27.
2. Authorise the Director of Finance to submit the National Non-Domestic Rates Return 1 (NNDR1) to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government by the submission date of 31 January 2026.

Motions on Notice

10. Motion A: Mobile phone reception in rural areas - Proposed by Councillor Lidia Arciszewska, Seconded by Councillor Steve Cosier

Proposed by: Councillor Lidia Arciszewska

Seconded by: Councillor Steve Cosier

Mobile phone reception is very patchy in West Oxfordshire. There are many areas with no mobile signal, extending over significant parts of villages and occasionally encompassing entire settlements. This has been a major frustration for residents, farmers and businesses, whether at home, work, or out and about; for example, when cycling and walking to work or school, or when they are outdoors for sports or recreation. People have been complaining about this for years.

Moreover, there is a new growing concern among the public related to the lack of mobile phone reception, as traditional BT copper phone lines are being phased out and customers are being moved to Voice over Internet Protocol, VoIP, which is delivered over a broadband connection and dependent on electricity supply. Therefore, during any power outages, residents and businesses in areas with no mobile signal have no means to communicate with the outside world. While telephone companies have an obligation to protect vulnerable customers, every household in a non-signal area is at risk. Although switching to digital services is a great step forward, its implementation provides another powerful case for the need to provide rural areas in Oxfordshire with full mobile signal coverage.

The Council resolves to ask the Leader to write to Rt Hon Ian Murray, the Minister of State for Culture, Media and Sport, to ask what the government's strategy is to ensure full mobile signal coverage in rural areas.

11. **Motion B: Local Governance Review: Parish and Town Boundary Review for West Oxfordshire - Proposed by Councillor Michele Mead, Seconded by Councillor Liam Walker**

Proposed by: Councillor Michele Mead
Seconded by: Councillor Liam Walker

This Council notes:

That parish and town councils form the most local tier of democratic governance and play a vital role in representing community identity, delivering services, and fostering civic pride across West Oxfordshire.

That West Oxfordshire has experienced changes in population, housing development, settlement patterns, and community usage in recent years, including significant growth on the edges of existing parishes and towns.

That in some areas current parish and town boundaries no longer accurately reflect community identities, patterns of service use, or the expectations of residents.

That the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides district councils with the power to conduct Local Governance Reviews to ensure parish and town arrangements remain effective and representative.

This Council believes:

That parish and town boundaries should be logical, clearly understood, and reflective of established and emerging communities.

That regular review of governance arrangements is good practice and supports strong local democracy.

That any review should be locally driven, evidence-based, and involve meaningful engagement with residents, parish and town councils, and other stakeholders.

This Council resolves:

That council officers undertake a Community Governance Review focused specifically on parish and town boundary arrangements across West Oxfordshire.

That the review should:

Assess whether existing boundaries remain appropriate considering housing growth, demographic change, and community identity.

Consider requests or representations from parish and town councils and residents. Seek to ensure boundaries promote effective governance, community cohesion, and clarity for residents.

To require that the review includes a full programme of public consultation with affected parish and town councils, ward members, and local communities.

To request that officers bring forward a detailed scope, timetable, and consultation plan for approval by Executive and Council prior to the commencement of the review.

That no changes to boundaries will be implemented without full consultation and formal approval by Council.

12. **Motion C: Review and Improve the Fast Track Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG): Proposed by Councillor Genny Early, Seconded by Councillor Andrew Prosser**
Proposed by: Councillor Genny Early
Seconded by: Councillor Andrew Prosser

Motor neurone disease (MND) is a rapidly progressing condition – a third of people die within a year of diagnosis and half within two years. As the disease progresses, symptoms worsen and needs increase, often unpredictably. People living with progressive or terminal conditions like MND deserve to live in safe, accessible homes. They have the right to independence and quality of life in the time they have left.

Council notes:

- It is our council's role to ensure that local people living with MND are supported to access the home adaptations they need in a timely manner. The current system can be too slow to respond to the rapidly changing needs of people with MND. Without timely support, people face becoming trapped in unsuitable and unsafe homes. This risks significant negative impacts on their health and well-being, including increased risk of avoidable hospital admissions and early entry into care.
- The MND Association has proposed a set of recommendations and highlighted examples of good practice in their recent report, *A Lifeline Not a Luxury*.
- One such recommendation is to speed up applications for the funding and installation of home adaptations. This would be hugely beneficial for people living with MND, who could live safely at home for longer, maintain their health and wellbeing for as long as possible, and remain engaged with their communities, family and friends. People living with MND do not have time to wait – every day is critical.
- This council recognises that people with progressive conditions should be able to apply for adaptations as early as possible following diagnosis, so that their future needs can be anticipated rather than responded to in crisis. This council also recognises that early interventions can save taxpayer money by enabling people to manage their condition more effectively and reducing the need for critical interventions at a later stage.

Council resolves to:

1. Request officers to review the fast-track process for delivering home adaptations for people with progressive or terminal conditions such as MND, and taking all necessary steps to ensure that target timeframes of 55 days for simple adaptations and 130 days for complex adaptations are adhered to. These timelines are based on the national guidance set out by Foundations on Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) delivery standards.
2. With that in mind, the council recognises that 55 days (almost two months) should be seen as a maximum, and that this timeframe is not appropriate for smaller adaptations such as ramps or stairlifts. The goal is to ensure these smaller adaptations are completed much faster.

(END)

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Agenda Item 3

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council

Held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 1NB
at 2.00 pm on **Wednesday, 3 December 2025**

PRESENT

Councillors: Andrew Coles (Chair), Carl Rylett (Vice-Chair), Elizabeth Poskitt, Lidia Arciszewska, Thomas Ashby, Hugo Ashton, Mike Baggaley, Andrew Beaney, Michael Brooker, Julian Cooper, Steve Cosier, Rachel Crouch, Jane Doughty, Genny Early, Duncan Enright, Roger Faulkner, Andy Goodwin, Andy Graham, David Jackson, Edward James, Natalie King, Liz Leffman, Nick Leverton, Dan Levy, Andrew Lyon, Paul Marsh, Martin McBride, Stuart McCarroll, David Melvin, Andrew Prosser, Nigel Ridpath, Geoff Saul, Sandra Simpson, Alaric Smith, Ruth Smith, Tim Sumner, Sarah Veasey, Liam Walker, Alex Wilson and Alistair Wray

Officers: Giles Hughes (Chief Executive Officer), Andrea McCaskie (Director of Governance and Regulatory Services), Andrew Brown (Head of Democratic and Electoral Services), Maria Harper (Democratic Services Assistant), Ana Prelici (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and Mathew Taylor (Democratic Services Officer)

Other Councillors in attendance:

CL.51 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Michelle Mead
- Joy Aitman
- Rosie Pearson
- Adam Clements
- Sandra Cosier
- Adrian Walsh
- Mark Walker
- David Cooper

CL.52 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of Interest were received as follows:

In relation to the appointment of an independent person onto the Audit and Governance Committee:

Councillor Jane Doughty declared that she knew Victoria Field well in a professional capacity, and that she would be leaving the room for the item.

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In relation to Motion A:

Councillor Dan Levy declared that he was an Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Member.

Councillor Liz Leffman declared that she was the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council.

Councillor Michael Brooker declared that he was employed by Oxfordshire County Council as a firefighter.

The Chair explained that in January 2023 Council agreed to grant a general dispensation to all members on setting a local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which is valid until January 2027. This meant that all members could participate in and vote on the Council Tax Support Scheme even if they had a financial interest.

Any members in receipt of Council Tax support did not need to make a declaration.

CL.53 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2025 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 12 November 2025 were considered separately.

In turn, Councillor Andy Graham proposed accepting the minutes of the meeting held on 1 October followed by the minutes on 12 November. In both cases this was seconded by Councillor Duncan Enright.

They were both agreed unanimously.

Resolved: To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 1 October 2025 and 12 November 2025.

CL.54 Receipt of Announcements

Under his announcements, the Chair highlighted his civic engagements as follows;

- Thanked those who had attended his civic dinner, and explained that generous donations had raised over £900 for the Chair's charities.
- The Chair had invited Members to the civic Carol Service at St. Bartholomew's Church in Ducklington.

Councillor Andy Graham, the Leader, made the following announcements:

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- Letters in response to the motions on illegal e-bikes and the planning and infrastructure bills had been received and distributed to members.
- The submission of the Council's Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) proposal had been acknowledged.

Councillor Duncan Enright, the Deputy Leader, made the following announcement:

- Reports from the Christmas markets on Marriotts Walk had shown that footfall and Car Park usage had both increased, as had revenue and social media engagement from the event.

Councillor Rachel Crouch, Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing, made the following announcement:

- A two hour long mental health training session would be taking place run by Oxfordshire Mind. Details had been emailed to Members.

Councillor Andrew Prosser made the following announcement:

- The Oxfordshire Nature recovery strategy had launched a month prior, and a briefing would be held for Members the following day at 5:30pm on Teams.

CL.55 Participation of the Public

The Chair explained that no submissions had been received by the deadline but that two members of the public had attended wishing to speak on Motion A. The Chair proposed allowing them to speak and suspending Rule 11.1 of the Council's procedure rules in order to do so. The was agreed by general consent of the Council.

Mr Jonathan Shuker, representing the Fire Brigades Union, addressed the Council. The speaker thanked Councillors Liam Walker and Nick Leverton for raising the motion and expressed serious concerns about proposals to close fire stations in West Oxfordshire and other areas, reduce fire engines and whole-time crews, and cut retained support officers, which would impact response times, firefighter safety, and recruitment. They highlighted potential loss of around 14% of on-call firefighters, the introduction of 12-hour shifts, and issues with response times. The Speaker felt that changes should involve consultation with firefighters rather than being made public without prior engagement. The speaker acknowledged the need for change but urged collaborative discussion to protect both communities and firefighters.

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CL.56 Questions by Members

Questions by Members, as listed on the agenda, and the responses to those questions, which were circulated in advance, were taken as read.

The Chair invited the questioners to ask a supplementary question if they wished and then invited the relevant Executive Members to respond.

The written questions and answers are detailed in a separate document appended to the Minutes of the Meeting. There were no supplementary questions.

The Director of Governance and Regulatory Services explained that due to an administrative error, part of the answer for question 4 had been missed. Councillor Lidia Arciszewska read this out;

“Most of Oxfordshire’s neighbouring authorities had already introduced the booking system for visits to domestic waste recycling centres. There is no evidence of an increase in fly-tipping where such a service method had been set up. However, any change to waste and recycling collection requires monitoring to make sure that there are no unwelcome side effects. West Oxfordshire’s fly-tipping management service has improved significantly over the last few years. The service led multiple surveillance operations in fly-tipping hotspots, leading to cessation of fly-tipping activities in those areas. The number of investigations and penalty notices served also increased. Moreover, a lot of effort has been put into proactive work, such as engaging with Parish Councils and developing strong relationships with Thames Valley Police and HMRC; these efforts now include ‘stop and search’ sessions.

The Council will therefore be monitoring the situation closely and will act according to need.”

Councillor Walker stated that he may have a follow up but would need the information in writing.

CL.57 Council tax support 2026/27

The purpose of the item was to consider and recommend to Full Council the revised Council Tax Support Scheme for the financial year 2026/2027.

Councillor Alaric Smith, Executive Member for Finance, introduced the report. Councillor Smith stated that the Council was required to review its Council Tax Support Scheme yearly. Councillor Smith stated that inflation was projected to continue at 3-4% into 2026. It was proposed that the Council Tax Support Scheme bands were adjusted in order to maintain the

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level of support, as otherwise people currently in receipt would no longer qualify due to inflation, this adjustment would prevent them being worse off as a result.

The recommendations would result in a £2,500 reduction in Council tax income to the Council, which was considered to be negligible on balance.

Councillor Andy Graham seconded the recommendations, and these were voted on.

Voting record – For – 39, Abstentions 0, Against 0, Did not vote 1

Resolved: That Council

1. Agreed the increase to income bands from 1 April 2026 of 3.5% or the inflationary increase in welfare benefits, whichever is greater.
2. Agreed that any surplus in the Hardship Fund is transferred over to 2026/2027.

CL.58 Proposals for Devolution to a Mayoral Strategic Authority

The purpose of the report was to provide information on the submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI) to Government. This was in response to the Government's devolution policy and sought to position the region in the next round of devolution for the purpose of creating a Mayoral Strategic Authority (MSA).

Councillor Andy Graham introduced the report and explained the proposed Thames Valley Mayoral strategic authority. It was expected that the new strategic authorities would be brought in in Summer/Autumn 2026.

Members discussed the report, raising the following points;

- It was asked who would be signing the letter. As County Council Leader, Councillor Liz Leffman stated that she would be signing it on behalf of Oxfordshire Councils and that Councillor Mary Tempton, Leader of Bracknell Council, would be signing it on behalf of Berkshire.
- A Mayoral Strategic Authority was welcomed as it would enable the councils to bring forward more ambitious projects and have greater representation on a national scale.
- While the expression of interest was welcomed, one member referenced concerns they had with the proposals. In particular, they emphasised the importance of democratic representation and engagement and stated that more detail on this was needed.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Andy Graham and seconded by Councillor Duncan Enright. Councillor Enright stated that there were many examples of successful Mayoral Strategic Authorities, and expressed optimism.

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Voting record – For – 39, Abstentions 1, Against 0, Did not vote 0

Resolved: That Council

1. Noted the benefits from the proposed devolution of powers and functions, and agree to continue building on the collaborative approach across the region to date;
2. Agreed to present views to the Executive on the proposed Expression of Interest (EOI) to be submitted by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) as the upper-tier authority to Government, noting that the EOI is designed to proactively position our region for early consideration in the next wave of the Devolution Programme;
3. Acknowledged the EOI as an initial invitation to Government, opening further dialogue and engagement, and not a decision to establish a Strategic Authority;
4. Noted that a further report will be brought to Council prior to any final decision on the creation of a Strategic Authority;
5. Noted the informal Devolution Board will oversee discussions with Government, ensuring robust governance and stakeholder engagement by elected members throughout this process.

CL.59 Appointment of Independent Member of the Audit and Governance Committee

Councillor Jane Doughty took advice from the Monitoring Officer and left the Chamber having declared an interest.

As Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee, Councillor Carl Rylett introduced the report and proposed the recommendation. Councillor Rylett stated that the Audit and Governance Committee had two Independent Members, and following the resignation of one, they were seeking to appoint a replacement. Councillor Rylett stated that the scheme had been in place for a year, and had produced good input.

Councillor Ruth Smith seconded the proposal and welcomed the appointment of a woman, referring the importance of equal representation in the public sector.

Resolved: That Council

1. Appointed Victoria Field to the Council's Audit & Governance Committee as an Independent Member for the remainder of the 4-year term ending on 25 September 2028.

Voting record – For 38 Against 0, Abstentions 1, did not vote 1

CL.60 Constitution Working Group Recommendations

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The purpose of the report was to consider the recommendations made by the Constitution Working Group (CWG) on 19 November 2025. Councillor Alaric Smith introduced the report and proposed the recommendations. Councillor Smith explained that the CWG had put forward two recommendations, which were to amend Part 3C of the Constitution (Terms of Reference for the Audit and Governance Committee) and to remove “special meetings” from Rule 5 of the Council procedure rules (Part 5A).

Members discussed the report and raised a point of clarity on which section of the terms of reference would be amended as there was a typographical error within the annex. It was explained that this would be corrected.

The proposals were seconded by Andy Graham, put to the vote and agreed by Council

Resolved: That Council

1. Agreed the amendment (shown in Annex A, as amended) to Part 3C of the Constitution Audit and Governance terms of reference following a recommendation from the Council’s external auditor that the Council clarifies, within its Constitution, the responsibility for the assessment of the Council’s Capital, Investment and Treasury Management Strategies as part of the annual budget setting process.
2. Agreed to remove Rule 5 of the Council Procedure Rules “Special meetings” as well as any other reference to special meetings.

Voting record – 39 for, 0 against, 1 abstentions

CL.6I Programme of Meetings 2026/27

The purpose of the report was to invite Council to set a programme of Council and Committee meetings for the civic year 2026–2027. Councillor Andy Graham introduced the report and stated that the same pattern was followed as previous years but delegations were included to make subsequent changes or schedule additional meetings.

Members discussed the report, raising the following points;

- The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny stated that on page 103 stated that reports would sometimes need to be followed for Overview and Scrutiny, and asked that this be avoided wherever possible.
- Why there were n meetings in May. The Head of Democratic and Electoral Services explained that this was due to elections taking place then.

The report was seconded by Councillor Alaric Smith and put to a vote.

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Resolved: That Council

1. Approved the Programme of Meetings for 2026/27, as detailed at Annex A and Annex B;
2. Delegated authority to the Director of Governance and Regulatory Services, in consultation with Group Leaders, to make changes to the programme of meetings, in the event that there is any future decision of the Council to change the committee structure, frequencies of committees or sub-committees, or committee remits that impacts the programme of meetings;
3. Delegated authority to the Democratic Services Business Manager to set meeting dates for committees and sub-committees that meet on an ad-hoc basis (Performance and Appointments Committee, Development Control Committee, Licensing Committee, Licensing Panel, Miscellaneous Licensing Sub-Committee, Standards Sub-Committee), member training, member briefing sessions, and any further working groups established by the Council.
4. Noted that the Council Procedure Rules (Part 5A of the Constitution) allows each committee to set its own start time.

For 39, Against 0, Abstentions 1

Council took a 12 minute break at this point.

CL.62 Motion A: Protecting Fire Services in West Oxfordshire

Councillor Liam Walker introduced the motion he was proposing on behalf of the Conservative Group. The motion was as follows;

Council notes:

1. That Oxfordshire County Council is currently considering proposals that include the potential closure of *two* on-call fire stations within West Oxfordshire: Eynsham Fire Station and Woodstock Fire Station.
2. That both stations provide vital emergency response capability for their communities and surrounding areas, and their crews contribute significantly to safeguarding residents, businesses, heritage assets, and critical transport infrastructure.
3. That West Oxfordshire is a growing district, with new housing developments, increased traffic volumes, and expanding commercial activity—all of which place greater, not lesser, demand on local emergency response capacity.

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4. That the loss of either station could risk slower response times, reduced local resilience, and diminished fire cover for incidents such as road traffic collisions, flooding, and property fires.

Council believes:

1. That maintaining strong, localised fire and rescue provision is essential for community safety and public confidence.
2. That any reduction in fire cover within West Oxfordshire is unacceptable and would represent a step backwards in protecting residents, especially in rural and semi-rural areas.
3. That decisions on fire station closures must prioritise public safety above financial or administrative considerations.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Formally oppose the proposed closure of Eynsham and Woodstock Fire Stations.
2. Ask the Council Leader write to the Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and Safety urging her to withdraw the proposals and to commit to maintaining full operational status at both stations.
3. Support local firefighters and residents in campaigning to retain emergency fire cover in West Oxfordshire.

Councillor Walker stated that he would be altering his motion in order to refer the motion to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. At this point there was a discussion over whether that would preclude the Council from debating the motion. This was due to perceived ambiguity over Council procedure rule 13.6 which stated “If the subject matter of any motion of which notice has been given falls within the remit of any Committee of the Council, or of the Executive, when it has been proposed and seconded it shall stand referred without discussion to that Committee or the Executive.”

The Chair took another break for ten minutes in order to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer. Upon reconvening the meeting the Chair explained that the alteration would be voted on in the first instance.

The alteration was debated and it was felt by some that the motion no longer made sense as altered. The alteration was accepted by the seconder, councillor Nick Leverton and was voted on as follows.

Voting record – Against 27, For 11, Abstentions 2

The alteration fell.

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It was stated that rule 13.6 should be reviewed by the Constitution Working Group to ensure clarity.

Councillor Alaric Smith then proposed referring the motion to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was clarified that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would then be responsible for determining what, if any, action to take in relation to the motion. This was seconded by Councillor Ruth Smith and Voted on.

Voting record – For 39, Abstentions 0

Resolved: To refer the motion to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and for the Committee to determine whether action is to be taken by the Council.

Before closing the meeting, the Chair wished the Council a Merry Christmas.

The Meeting closed at 3.53 pm

CHAIR

Agenda Item 9

 <p>WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL</p>	<p>WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL</p>
Name and date of Committee	EXECUTIVE - 14 JANUARY 2026 COUNCIL – 28 JANUARY 2026
Subject	DRAFT BUDGET 2026/27
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Cllr Alaric Smith Executive Member for Finance Email: alaric.smith@westoxon.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Madhu Richards, Director of Finance Email: madhu.richards@westoxon.gov.uk
Report authors	Madhu Richards, Director of Finance Georgina Dyer, Head of Finance Email: georgina.dyer@westoxon.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	This report provides an update on the developing budget for 2026/27 following the provisional government funding settlement announcement on 17 December 2025
Annexes	Annex A – Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Annex B – Draft Capital Programme Annex C – Council Tax Base Annex D – Fees & Charges Schedule Annex E – Prior Year Comparison
Recommendation(s)	<p>That the Executive resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Approve the Fees and Charges for 2026/27, as detailed in Annex D. <p>That the Executive resolves to recommend to Full Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Approve the Council Tax Base shown in Annex C, calculated as 49,561.59 for the year 2026/27. 2. Authorise the Director of Finance to submit the National Non-Domestic Rates Return 1 (NNDRI) to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government by the submission date of 31

	January 2026.
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Together for West Oxfordshire
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Meetings with Directors, Heads of Service, Business Managers and key stakeholders

I. BACKGROUND

- I.1 West Oxfordshire District Council (the Council) will approve the budget for 2026/27 on 25 February 2026. The first draft of the revenue budget for 2026/27 was presented to the Executive on 17 December 2025.
- I.2 This second draft of the revenue budget for 2026/27 has been updated with the provisional government funding settlement announced on 17 December 2025, draft fees and charges and the final Council Tax Base.
- I.3 A final budget, along with strategy papers for Treasury Management, Capital and Investments will be presented to the Executive and Full Council in February 2026.
- I.4 This report provides details of the funding settlement and the assumptions made for both the revenue budget and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) including the current drivers of growth.
- I.5 Although the settlement is now known, there are still items that are yet to be finalised, such as some details of the Capital Programme. Therefore, this draft of the budget is still subject to change.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1 This second draft of the 2026/27 budget is a **contribution to general fund reserves of £650,884 before growth requests** and a balanced budget after growth requests. This is a significantly more optimistic picture than the one painted by the government's results of the funding formula review published in June 2025. The funding formula is complex but for the Council the change in estimated funding in the MTFS presented to Executive in December and the one presented in this paper is the result of just one element – the Income Protection Floor (IPF). A more detailed explanation is included in paragraphs 2.4 to 2.7.
- 2.2 The detailed changes to the budget are set out in sections 3 and 4 of this report, and a summary is provided in the table below:

Draft Budget Version	Use of/(Contribution) to Reserves
25/26 Base Budget	(£91,280)
26/27 1 st Draft - Exec 17.12.25 (before growth)	£21,447
26/27 2 nd Draft - Exec 14.01.26 (before growth)	(£650,884)
26/27 2 nd Draft - Exec 14.01.26 (inc growth)	£ Nil

2.3 In June, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) confirmed that for most councils there would be a 0% minimum funding floor to guarantee that funding did not fall in cash terms over the Spending Review period. However, the Council was one of the circa 40 councils who were informed that they would not receive this guarantee and instead would be subject to a cash cut of 5% in year one i.e. 2026/27 and then a cash flat allocation in years two and three.

2.4 Financial modelling undertaken by Pixel, who provide support and advisory services to local government focussing on funding analysis, indicated a £943,000 loss of income over the three-year period from 2026/27 to 2028/29 following the outcome of the MHCLG consultation.

2.5 The Local Government Finance Settlement was announced on 17 December 2025 and there are material changes to the MTFS assumptions made in June 2025. In hindsight, the assumptions made may have been too prudent, but they were based on the information available at the time. The level of Retained Business Rates and Revenue Support Grant has not moved significantly between June and December, rather it is the addition of an IPF that has provided an additional £8,163,998 over the 3-year settlement period which represents 90% of the change.

2.6 The IPF compares a Council's 2025-26 income before reform with the income it would have received in 2025-26 had the new Fairer Funding Formula been applied. As part of the transitional arrangements, it guarantees that eligible councils will retain at least 95% of their pre-reform income when moving to the new system. It ensures that councils facing the greatest potential reductions from the funding reform are protected from a sudden drop in resources, giving them time to adjust whilst phasing in the new system.

2.7 The tables below highlight the changes between the funding position estimated in June and the position confirmed in the provisional financial settlement in December. As part of its methodology, the government includes income from the Business Rates Pool (the Pool) surplus within core spending power. However, the Council has always chosen not to budget for this income because it is unpredictable, and we do not base ongoing revenue requirements on funding that cannot be guaranteed. This has proven to be very advantageous to the Council within the Fairer Funding Methodology.

MTFS Line item	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Total
December MTFS	£	£	£	£
Revenue Support Grant	6,400,150	5,049,739	3,721,757	15,171,646
Business Rates Share	2,360,000	2,407,200	2,455,344	7,222,544
Total	8,760,150	7,456,939	6,177,101	22,394,190

MTFS Line item	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Total
Finance Settlement	£	£	£	£
Revenue Support Grant	7,522,982	5,218,704	2,849,655	15,591,342
Business Rates Share	2,490,393	2,547,518	2,598,911	7,636,822
Income Protection Floor	776,198	2,721,460	4,666,340	8,163,998
Total	10,789,573	10,487,682	10,114,906	31,392,161

2.8 The surplus from the Pool has always been treated as “bonus” income over and above our budgeted Retained Business Rates amounting to £1,050,924 in 2024/25, £570,894 in 2023/24 and £928,265 in 2022/23. It is this income, along with any General Fund surplus that has been moved to earmarked reserves in recent years to fund future gaps in the revenue budget over the life of the MTFS.

2.9 The MTFS has been prepared without incorporating any potential impacts from Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). At this stage, it is not possible to provide credible financial projections until the Government has reviewed the proposals and confirmed which will be implemented. Consequently, the MTFS assumes that the Council will continue to operate as usual and meet its financial obligations for the foreseeable future, irrespective of any future LGR decisions.

2.10 While the reserves position for the Council is currently healthy, there remains significant unknowns, with the key one being the cost of LGR from the announcement of the successful bid in the summer of 2026 to vesting day on 1 April 2028. An estimated cost has been included in the MTFS for the likely costs to run a Programme Office in 2026/27, with sufficient employees and specialist consultants to facilitate the implementation of the new Unitary Authority. These costs are funded through earmarked reserves. The transformation costs of LGR i.e. any redundancies and the associated pension strain cannot be estimated at this time, but they are likely to be material amounts which will impact the MTFS in years 2 and 3.

2.11 The use of reserves to manage short term fluctuations in the Council’s financial position is necessary but cannot be sustained over the longer term – reserves can only be spent once.

2.12 The financing of the Capital Programme will look to use internal borrowing, grants and capital receipts as far as the Council is able to delay, for as long as possible, the requirement to take on external borrowing. Borrowing is not inherently bad and is a responsible way to finance capital projects, if the revenue budget can afford to service the debt. Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) rates are currently at a higher rate than the Council would want to take out borrowing. In another year, as the Bank of England base rate falls, PWLB borrowing should be at a more palatable level.

3. 2026/27 BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS

3.1 The 2026/27 budget setting process has been informed by the key drivers of the financial performance in the current year, discussions with budget holders and takes into account the requirement for the Council to produce a balanced budget and to evidence financial sustainability over the life of the MTFS.

3.2 The table below shows the key changes to the budget from a £91,280 contribution to General Fund Reserves in 2025/26 to a balanced budget in 2026/27 with an estimated contribution from General Fund of £21,447 excluding growth and a contribution from General Fund of £372,184 when growth requests are considered.

2025/26 budget surplus	(91,280)
Budget Movements	
<u>Changes in expenditure</u>	
Reversal of one off items from 25/26	(335,900)
Disposal of Between Towns Road	(157,826)
Publica Contract - New Cost Model	(1,401,035)
Retained Staff	1,326,496
Take out secondary Pension contribution	(635,039)
Provisional Ubico contract inflation	319,784
New Temporary Accommodation	(28,212)
Business Rates and Council Tax on Council Assets	76,462
Business Manager Review	224,385
Outsourcing of Markets	(27,000)
Private Sector Housing condition survey	60,000
	(577,885)
<u>Changes in income</u>	
Investment Property income	(207,128)
Development Management Income	(190,000)
Trade Waste income	(250,000)
End of Rural Crime project and funding	33,100
	(614,028)
<u>Changes in funding</u>	
Provisional Business Rates Reset	4,324,384
Provisional Funding Settlement	(3,554,710)
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	192,960
Movements to/from earmarked reserves	1,009,853
Extended Producer Responsibility Grant increase	(652,216)
Council Tax from taxbase growth	(53,554)
Interest on long term borrowing	37,924
	1,304,641
2026/27 DRAFT BUDGET	21,448

Growth Requests	£
Permanent	
Building Maintenance Officer	43,460
Sovereign Posts	155,546
Nature Recovery Officer FTC to Permanent	39,756
Temporary Emergency Accommodation Lead	45,503
Town Centre footfall system	21,000
Shared Senior Officer - Pollution Services	16,565
Shared Tenancy Relations Officer	13,998
Shared Senior Officer - Private Water Supplies	14,909
	350,737
2026/27 DRAFT BUDGET inc Growth	372,184

3.3 The key changes to the budget from 2025/26 to 2026/27 are as follows:

Changes To Expenditure

- The reversal of one-off growth items from 2025/26 includes the £300,000 budget for the estimated one-off costs for Phase 2 of the Publica Review and the estimate of costs for the leisure contract options appraisal approved as a one-year growth item in 2025/26. The actual one-off costs for the Phase 2 Publica Review were £174,554.

Publica Review Costs

Costs	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
£	£	£	£
One Off	218,281	174,554	392,835
Enduring	213,147	111,351	324,498
Total	431,428	285,905	717,333

- Between Towns Road – part of our Investment Property portfolio, this office property in Oxford has been vacant since November 2023 when Oxfordshire County Council moved out. Various options for its continued use were assessed with the optimum outcome being a recommendation to sell on the open market. Council approved this recommendation in the summer of 2025 with the sale completion expected in January 2026. This sale provides a revenue budget saving of £157,826 which reflects the Business Rates liability and the cost of securing the building. In addition, the sale provides the Council with a capital receipt which will be used to help fund the Capital Programme, thereby reducing the Council's need to borrow externally.
- The Publica contract – this saving has two elements, firstly the reduction in contract sum due to the TUPE of employees back into the Council on 1 July 2025 (£624,478) and the new cost model, the principle of which was agreed between all partners as part of the Phase 2 Publica Review (£776,557). At the time of writing partners are in the process of agreeing the revised cost model.
- Retained employees – this figure needs to be viewed together with the Publica saving as it represents the employment costs of employees TUPEed back to the Council on 1 July 2025.
- Secondary Pension - historically, the Council has paid both a primary and secondary pension contribution. The primary contribution is the amount paid monthly through payroll and the secondary contribution is an additional cash sum paid to make sure that the Council can meet the future obligations of the pension scheme from employing staff in the past.
- The secondary contribution was introduced in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crash which resulted in near zero bond yields and caused a funding deficit in the pension scheme. Now that the scheme returns have pushed the scheme into a notional asset rather than liability (before the inclusion of the Asset Ceiling), the secondary contribution (£746,000) has been withdrawn and the primary contribution raised from 17.6% to 20% (£110,961). The net saving is therefore £635,039.
- Ubico contract - discussions are underway with Ubico to agree a contract sum for 2026/27. It takes a protracted amount of time each year due to the complicated nature of the contract deliverables. The initial growth request from Ubico is £319,784, driven predominantly by an increase in vehicle repair costs, wages inflation, and vehicle hire. A final Ubico contract sum will be included in the final budget, presented to Executive in February 2026.

- Emergency Accommodation - the Council committed to the purchase of an additional 30 emergency accommodation beds in this financial year to add to our existing 22 hostel spaces. So far, the purchase of 1 property has been completed with a further 6 properties on track to complete in January, in total these 7 properties will provide 21 beds for single households. A purchase of 1 further property is likely to complete before the end of the financial year, providing an additional 8 beds of family accommodation for 4 households.
- A programme of reconfiguration and refurbishment for all 7 properties, expected to complete by the end of January 2026, has begun with an estimated handover of the first property early in 2026. The provision of an additional 29 beds is estimated to reduce the net cost to the Council for emergency accommodation by £350,000 a year.
- Business Rates and Council Tax - the Council has liability for Business Rates on its operational buildings and Council Tax for some temporary accommodation. The increase in these costs for 2026/27 is estimated at £71,962 for Business Rates and £4,500 for Council Tax. It should be noted however that there will be a national Business Rates reset and revaluation for 1 April 2026 and it is possible that our Business Rates liability will increase.
- Business Manager review – this summarises a large volume of small adjustments across all the Council service areas which are not significant on their own. Included in this figure are amounts for publishing Planning Applications in local newspapers, licences for the tablets used by Building Control whilst they are onsite, inflationary increases for external contractors working on behalf of the Home Improvement Service, electricity costs, membership of the Oxfordshire Resources and Waste Partnership, professional subscriptions, the annual contribution to Better Homes Better Health, printing costs, etc.
- Markets - the management of the markets in Witney and Chipping Norton was outsourced in August 2025 to a commercial operator for an initial period of 2 years. The saving included in the budget relates to the costs associated with Ubico collecting the waste as this activity is no longer required.
- Housing Condition Survey - the Council has a statutory responsibility to undertake periodic housing condition surveys across the district. This review is due to take place in 2026 with an associated one-off budget of £60,000 that will be reversed in 2027/28.

Changes To Income

Investment Property – this income fluctuates year on year as tenancies end, new tenancies begin, properties come into charge from an initial rent-free period and rent reviews come into effect. In 2026/27 the total amount of income from Investment Property is budgeted to be £3,104,376.

- Marriotts Walk – this is not classified as an Investment Property but does generate income. The managing agents will provide an updated cashflow forecast for 2026/27 in mid-January with any changes being included in the final budget presented to Executive in February 2026.
- Development Management - income from Planning Applications has been particularly volatile over the last 2 years. In the current financial year, the Council has received some major applications which has resulted in a forecast year end position of £321,000 above target. Budget discussions with the Head of Planning and the Development Manager have resulted in an agreed increase in fee income for 2026/27 of £230,000 partially offset by additional expenditure of £40,000 for temporary employees needed for specialist advice as the expertise is not available in house and is not needed in a full-time capacity.
- Trade Waste - the budget for Trade Waste income has been increased by £250,000 in line with current year forecasts reported at the end of Q2. The exceptional performance of the service can be attributed to very active customer management and efficiencies in invoicing and income collection by the Publica Trade Waste team.

Changes To Funding

- Retained Business Rates - it has long been reported to Members that the Business Rates system was going to be reset by the government as part of the Fairer Funding Review, with the aim of ensuring that local government funding reflects current assessments of need and resources, rather than historic allocations. This is because the system has not been fully reset since its introduction in 2013, meaning disparities have grown over time. By updating Baseline Funding Levels (BFLs) and Business Rates Baselines (BRBs), the government can redistribute resources more fairly across councils based on relative need.
- Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is a statutory requirement to recognise the use of our fixed assets over time requiring a charge to revenue over the useful life of that asset i.e. vehicles over 7 years and property over a maximum of 50 years. The movement in MRP year to year is due to the level of expenditure estimated in the Capital Programme and the inclusion of finance leases in the balance sheet for the first time in 2024/25 after the adoption of the Accounting Standard IFRS16.

- Earmarked reserve movements – this is calculated every year and is the sum of movements both in and out of reserves. Movements out are matched to expenditure on posts and projects that have been agreed by the Executive to further Council Priorities. Examples of earmarked reserves funding expenditure are homelessness prevention and support, project management and climate change.
- The Council has been allocated significant funding from the Extended Producer Responsibility Grant, amounting to £2,852,839 in 2025/26 and £2,990,216 in 2026/27. There will be a timing difference between the receipt of this grant and expenditure against it, therefore it is budgeted to be moved into Earmarked Reserves and may be used to buy new recycling vehicles and to fund elements of the Waste and Environmental Services Project (WESP).
- Interest for external borrowing has been included in the Capital Programme on the assumption that the Council may have to fund £1.7m of waste vehicles mid-way through the 2026/27 financial year.

3.4 Inflationary Pressures

- Pay award – over the last few years, the approval of the national pay award has been agreed later in the year and after the Council budget is approved. The pay award for 2025/26 was approved in July 2025 at 3.2%, in line with the base budget assumption of 3% pay inflation for both Publica and retained employees.
- Initial discussions on the 2026/27 National Joint Council (NJC) pay award are taking place in December and January with a pay offer by the Local Government Association expected to be made to the Unions before the end of the current financial year. It is hoped that agreement will be reached earlier than in previous years, but it will be after the budget is considered by Full Council in February 2026. In the absence of any better information, a pay award of 3% has been included in the 2026/27 budget.
- Contract inflation – this is applied to individual contracts i.e. Ubico, Publica, Danfo (Public Conveniences) and Jade Security (Cash collection) based on their specific contract terms or agreed forecast expenditure, not as a generic percentage.
- General inflation – the rate of Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation is reported to be at 3.2% in November, down from 3.6% in October. Inflation impacts the cost of supplies and services i.e. building maintenance, external legal fees and fuel which tend to be higher than the CPI level. The MTFS approved in February 2025 assumed a

level of inflation of 2.5% for 2026/27 something which looks unlikely for at least the first half of the year.

- The Bank of England base rate fell to 3.75% in December, consistent with the advice we received from our Treasury Advisors. There remains some uncertainty about the timing of the next rate cut given that the rate of CPI inflation is sitting at 3.2% as at the end of November. Any rate cut will reduce the return we receive on our investments but will make any external borrowing the Council enters into cheaper.

4. MOVEMENTS IN VERSION OF BUDGET TAKEN TO EXECUTIVE IN DECEMBER

The table below shows the key movement in the budget presented to the Executive in December taking it from a contribution from General Fund of £21,447 (before growth) to an estimated contribution to General Fund of £650,884 excluding growth and balanced budget including growth.

Budget presented to the Executive in December 2025	21,448
Budget Movements since presentation to Executive	£
<u>Revenue Changes</u>	
Members Allowances	14,009
Waste & Environmental Services Programme	124,706
Closure of some Public Conveniences	(100,000)
Environmental Enforcement Legal Costs	28,000
Tree Work	39,500
Town Centre footfall data system - 3 year contract	21,000
LGR year one estimated cost	350,000
	477,215
<u>Funding Changes</u>	
Council Tax - growth in taxbase 1.68%	(300,250)
Income Protection Floor	(776,198)
Revenue Support Grant	(1,122,832)
Retained Business Rates	(130,392)
Movement to Earmarked Reserves	1,180,125
	(1,149,547)
2026/27 REVISED DRAFT BUDGET	(650,884)

Growth Requests	£
Permanent	
Sovereign Posts	155,546
Nature Recovery Officer FTC to Permanent	39,756
New Post - Shared Senior Officer, Pollution Services	16,565
New Post - Shared Senior Officer, Private Water Supplies	14,909
New Post - Shared Tenancy Relations Officer, Grant funded for 3 years	13,998
Healthy Communities Officer - Increased hours	16,971
Safer Communities Officer - Increased hours	10,299
Economic Development Assistant - FTC to permanent	33,679
Habitat improvements on council-owned land	23,100
Community and partnership initiatives	14,350
	339,173
Permanent Posts Funded Through New Initiatives for 12 months	
Community Funding Officer - Increase hours	19,140
Species recovery projects	41,000
Nature Recovery strategic projects and project development	34,000
Building Maintenance Officer	43,460
Temporary Housing Lead	45,403
Anti Violence Against Women Project	25,000
Environmental Crime Officer and regrade to Level 2 Case & Fieldworker	48,433
	256,436
One Year	
Planning Services Transformation Lead	55,275
2026/27 DRAFT BUDGET inc Growth	0

Changes to Revenue since December

- Members Allowances are subject to an annual increase at the same percentage rates as the cost-of-living uplift in the national pay settlement for local government employees. This Scheme was approved for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2027. Retained employee inflation has been included in the budget at 3%, but the actual percentage will not be known until after the budget has been approved in February 2026.
- A paper reviewing the Public Conveniences provision was taken to Executive in September 2025. The aim was to provide a balance between the continued provision of good quality public toilet facilities, protect essential facilities into the future and to reduce the financial burden on the Council. Following subsequent work with Town and Parish Councils, and the Public Conveniences Task and Finish Group, a report will go forward to Executive in February 2026 recommending the closure of some facilities, where there are nearby alternatives, or transfer to Town and Parish Councils. The resulting savings relate to the cleaning contract to service fewer facilities.
- Legal costs will be incurred in 2026/27 to undertake environmental enforcement action.
- The Council is required to act as a “reasonable and prudent landowner” and prevent foreseeable harm (Occupiers’ Liability Acts 1957 & 1984), in effect, to ensure public safety. The Council’s Tree Officer conducts inspections to identify any risks related to trees on the Councils land that may cause harm to people, buildings or livestock i.e. disease, broken limbs, vandalism and age. Work required to mitigate identified risks is conducted by qualified tree surgeons. The current budget of £40,500 is no longer sufficient for the volume of work required, therefore growth of £39,500 has been added to the budget for 2026/27. This budget will be reviewed for the 2027/28 budget setting cycle.
- Town Centre footfall data system – this funding would enable the procurement of a real-time footfall analytics system for district centres i.e. Witney, Carterton and Chipping Norton. The system would provide anonymised data on visitor numbers, dwell time, repeat visits and consumer spending patterns. These insights would directly support town centre regeneration and tourism initiatives and inform our climate action and parking strategies. The data would also allow us to assess the impact of local events and interventions as they happen, helping us target future investment and develop evidence-based programmes.
- Tax Base – Taxbase growth for 2026/27 is 1.68% or 819.26 Band D equivalents. This includes 763.11 Band D equivalents charged the second home premium. It is

recommended that Council Tax increases by the maximum of £5 to bring the district precept to £134.38 per Band D equivalent for 2026/27.

- Funding Settlement – the movement in the estimated funding in the MTFS presented to the Executive in December and the current version amounts to £2,029,422. The explanation for this change in funding assumptions can be found in paragraphs 2.4 - 2.7 of this report. The main driver is the Government's decision to include certain funding streams within Core Spending Power for the first time—specifically the Business Rates Pool surplus and grants that the Council has previously treated as service-specific, such as the Homelessness Prevention Grant.
- An additional transfer to Earmarked Reserves is proposed to meet the anticipated cost of LGR in 2026/27.

4.1 Items to be Reported in February

These items include:

- Capital Programme – The final draft of the Capital Programme will be reported to the Executive on 11 February 2026. The level of capital expenditure must be balanced against the availability of cash reserves and the cost of external borrowing.
- Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) – there is a statutory requirement for the Council to recognise the use of their fixed assets over time that will charge a cost to revenue over the useful life of that asset i.e. vehicles over 7 years and property over a maximum of 50 years. The final movement in MRP year to year is directly linked to the final Capital Programme.
- External Borrowing – the level of external borrowing is dictated by the estimated level of expenditure in the Capital Programme offset against any capital receipts, grants or internal borrowing used to fund capital expenditure.
- Retained Business Rates – the estimate of Retained Business Rates is submitted to MHCLG every year on 31 January through the NNDR 1 form. Permission is requested from Full Council for the Director of Finance to submit the National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) 1 form per statutory deadlines.

4.2 Growth Requests

- Sovereign Posts - discussions are currently underway in relation to making a small number of posts sovereign in addition to the posts transferred back to the Council

on 1 July 2025. Further information about these posts will be included in the final draft of the budget in February 2026. This will add additional capacity to help support the Local Plan, deliver infrastructure, and respond to LGR.

- Nature Recovery Officer - The Council's ability to deliver its Nature Recovery Plan and meet legal obligations relies on the specialist Nature Recovery Officer role. Making this post permanent would ensure continuity for key projects, partnerships, and biodiversity duties while strengthening the Ecology Team's capacity amid growing environmental demands. Without a permanent officer, the Council risks losing expertise, delaying progress, and missing funding opportunities—making this a cost-effective investment in long-term ecological and climate commitments
- Shared Senior Officer Pollution Management and Shared Senior Officer Private Water Supplies – both posts are requested to stop the reliance on external contractors to fill resource gaps, both posts would be funded equally by the Council, Cotswold and Forest of Dean District Councils.
- Shared Tenancy Relations Officer – this position is recommended as a result of the Renters Rights Act which has just received royal assent. The Act will impose new statutory duties on local authorities and introduce new protections for tenants. This will increase the demand on the Private Sector Housing team in Publica and will require a new shared specialist officer to conduct an enforcement and prevention role as a statutory duty for local authorities. The role will also work with the Housing Team to help prevent homelessness as part of their enforcement role. The government have confirmed an allocation of £32,353 New Burdens funding to deliver this new statutory requirement.
- Healthy Communities Officer - this role is currently 0.5FTE and provides project and employee management support within Community Wellbeing overseeing work on inequality, neighbourhood engagement, community forums and the voluntary sector. Due to increased demand within the service, the postholder has been engaged for an additional 11.5 hours per week on a temporary basis. The request is that these additional hours are made permanent as new externally funded projects are coming on stream, including the Oxfordshire Marmot Place Initiative which will keep demand in the service high. The core role is to co-lead the Oxfordshire County Council Public health funded Nature Recovery and Health Inequality project and manage the Community Builder roles.
- Safer Communities Officer – this role is currently 0.81FTE and oversees the Community Safety Partnership, is Prevent lead, is our interface with the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership and the Serious Violence work countywide. It coordinates preventative activity where capacity allows and links with the Oxfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner. Additional hours to bring this role to 1 FTE are being sought

to enable the role to have the capacity to take on responsibility for CCTV related work.

- Economic Development Assistant – this role has been employed on a FTC basis since April 2024 with the contract due to end in April 2026. Approval to make this post permanent would provide capacity for the team to meet the additional demands for support, project management and operational delivery that has been increasing over the last 12 months.
- Habitat Improvements, Community & Partnership Initiatives, Nature & Species Recovery - the growth in the nature recovery budget will enable the delivery of the Council's Nature Recovery Plan, facilitate projects to implement the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (OLNRS) and invest in targeted interventions that protect habitats, species and ecosystem resilience across the district. The aim is to place the Council at the forefront of nature recovery, ensuring the district meets its statutory duties while safeguarding irreplaceable species and habitats and enhancing natural capital across the district.
- Community Funding Officer – the role is currently 0.59FTE with the request being an increase to 1.00 FTE due to a significant increase in workload. From February 2026 the Council needs to start the process of recommissioning the 3-year service level agreements ready to commence in April 2027, to mobilise a new 3-year contract for a crowdfunder platform and to deliver two OCC commissioned pieces of work – the Community Insight Profile in Witney and a DCMS Local Youth Partnership Programme.
- Building Maintenance Officer – with the acquisition of 8 new properties for Temporary Accommodation, the Assets team will need additional resource to take on day-to-day repairs and maintenance that would otherwise have to be contracted out at a much higher cost than employing someone directly.
- Temporary Housing Lead - the Council currently operates The Old Courthouse in Witney and Horsefair in Chipping Norton as temporary emergency accommodation for 22 homeless single people. By the end of this financial year, it is expected that the Council will be operating 10 properties housing 43 homeless singles and 4 households with children. A Temporary Housing Lead will be required to join the existing team to properly manage these additional properties.
- Anti Violence Against Women and Girls – this project is to commission a professional performance on the topic, perform it in numerous locations and provide training for the public in Bystander Awareness as a follow up. The focus is to tackle the issue of unwanted sexual attention by males towards females which has been raised as a priority by young people in the Youth Needs Assessment. The

contribution from the Council represents circa 50% of the total required – only to be drawn down in the event of the remainder being available from external sources.

- A lack of resource has been identified to tackle environmental crime offences such as fly tipping, illegal waste disposal and abandoned vehicles. The Council is responsible for enforcing legislation effecting the visible environment, however the current resource level of 1 FTE is insufficient for the demands of the service.

4.3 Budget Risks

- Interest Rates – interest rates are now slowly starting to come down which for the Council is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it will make any external borrowing that the Council enters into more affordable, but falling interest rates adversely impact the returns we make from our cash balances.
- Over the last three years and the year to date, Treasury Management short term investing has produced income returns far higher than budget due to prevailing global economic conditions and the high rate of return from the Money Market Funds and Debt Management Office (DMO). As interest rates fall back, so do these income returns.
- Level of Reserves – General Fund balances are currently healthy when compared to cost of services, however with the cost of LGR as yet undetermined it would be prudent to assume that there will be some impact on General Fund reserves before 2028. If LGR were to be delayed for any reason, the Council may need to implement a savings programme in order to continue to produce a balanced budget past the life of the current MTFS.

5. FAIRER FUNDING REVIEW

- 5.1 The Government's proposals for the reform to local government funding went out for consultation earlier this year. Following on from this consultation, initial proposals were announced by MHCLG in July, and a policy statement was announced in December.
- 5.2 The Government proposed service-specific formulas (e.g. adult social care, children's services, highways) and a general "Foundation Formula" for other services.
- 5.3 There will be a phased approach to the formula element of the change i.e. in year one our settlement will be based on 2/3 the old formula and 1/3 the new formula. In year two it will be 1/3 the old formula and 2/3 the new formula etc.
- 5.4 There will be no phasing for the Business Rates reset which will be in effect for 1 April 2026 and it has been confirmed that New Homes Bonus will not be payable after 2025/26, but instead this funding will be redirected into needs-based formula.

- 5.5** The reset of the Business Rates system takes the Council back to a new Baseline and will effectively take out the growth over baseline achieved over the last decade that has made it beneficial to be a member of the Business Rates Pool. The Pool is therefore likely to close at the end of the 2025/26 financial year.
- 5.6** Over the summer it was indicated that for most councils there would be a 0% minimum funding floor to guarantee that funding did not fall in cash terms over the Spending Review period. However, the Council was one of the circa 40 councils who were informed that they would not receive this guarantee and instead would be subject to a cut of 5% to Core Spending Power in year one i.e. 2026/27 and a cash flat settlement for the other two years. Core Spending Power is the sum of Government Grants, Council Tax income and Retained Business Rates.
- 5.7** The settlement announcement on 17 December 2026 provided the Council with a much more positive funding position than the one in June 2025, due to the methodology used by the government to calculate the “damping” provided through the IPF and the inclusion of the Business Rates Pool surplus in our level of resources.
- 5.8** With the return to multi-year settlements the Council can plan budgets and the MTFS with a lot more confidence as much of the volatility is taken out of the process. Having known figures enables the Council to better manage reserves and mitigate financial shocks.

6. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1** The MTFS assumes a general inflationary increase of between 2% and 2.5% will apply to the cost of services from 2027/28 onwards, excluding contracts where the actual inflationary increase is known i.e. Ubico contract, salary inflation, Publica contract and some software licence agreements.
- 6.2** Salary inflation over the last 3 years has been higher than we have historically estimated. For 2026/27 there is an assumed 3% increase, but this is expected to fall back over the life of the MTFS.
- 6.3** Over the last few years, the Council has deliberately built-up Earmarked Reserves by moving our additional retained Business Rates income (growth over baseline), the surplus remitted from the Business Rates Pool and any General Fund surplus into Earmarked Reserves to fund any gap in the revenue budget over the life of the MTFS. This policy should ensure the viability of our provision of front-line services until the end of the MTFS period in 2030/31. This is important, not just for the Council and our residents, but also for the new Unitary Authority that will take over from us.
- 6.4** For several years, the Council has paid both a primary and secondary pension contribution. The primary contribution is the amount paid monthly through payroll and the secondary contribution is an additional cash sum paid to make sure that the Council can meet the future obligations of the pension scheme from employing staff in the past.

6.5 The Actuaries undertake an exercise to value the pension scheme every three years to look at how much money is in the pension fund (assets) and how much is needed to pay all current and future pensions (liabilities).

6.6 They use assumptions about life expectancy, investment returns, inflation, pay growth and compare the assets against the liabilities to assess if the scheme is fully funded i.e. has enough money to fund its obligations. Based on the results, the actuaries recommend how much the Council needs to pay into the scheme over the next three years to keep it sustainable.

6.7 The next triennial period starts on 1 April 2026, and the Actuaries have advised that the Council can stop paying a secondary pension contribution and raise the primary contribution from 17.6% to 20%. This has resulted in an MTFS saving of £635,039.

6.8 Treasury Management activities have provided the Council with significant investment returns over the last three years through the placement of cash reserves into short term investments i.e. DMO and the Money Market Funds. This activity provided £625,889 of interest income over and above the budget of £1,156,230 in 2024/25 and is forecast to deliver a significant amount of additional income, above budget, (set at the same level as the previous year), in 2025/26. As interest rates fall, we will no longer benefit from this additional income and so the base budget for investment income in 2026/27 will be kept as is.

6.9 Council Tax is assumed to increase by £5 for a Band D equivalent, the higher of the increases allowed without triggering a referendum – being either an increase of 2.99% on the Band D in 2025/26 of £129.38 or £5.

6.10 The Asset Management Strategy (AMS) was approved by Executive in November 2024. The AMS and the detailed option plans for individual properties provide clear guidance for future decision making and investment in the Council's land and property assets. A rolling 5 year repairs and maintenance programme, informed by the AMS feeds into the Capital Programme to identify both expenditure and financing requirements.

6.11 The MTFS is based on the most reasonable forecasts of income and expenditure that can be inferred at this point in time but are subject to change as we move through the budget setting process and more information and facts come to light.

7. FEES AND CHARGES

7.1 Fees and charges are set on three separate bases.

- Fees that are set centrally over which the Council has no control i.e. premises licences and penalty notices.
- Fees that are set on a cost recovery basis i.e. Building Control, taxi licences and Street Trading. The Council is required to make sure that fees are set at a level that does not generate a profit compared to the cost of providing the service.

- Fees that are discretionary where the Council has full control. These are the commercial services that operate where the Council is in competition with the private sector i.e. Pre Application (Planning) advice, trade waste and bulky waste.

- 7.2 Fee increases in 2026/27 for services provided on a cost recovery basis have been increased in line with the estimated pay award of 3% and any proven increase in direct expenditure.
- 7.3 Discretionary fees have been reviewed on a case-by-case basis in consultation with budget holders, considering the commercial viability of the service and opportunities to maintain or grow market share.
- 7.4 The Executive is asked to approve the fees and charges for 2026/27 as set out in the Schedule attached at Annex D.

8. CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 8.1 The final Capital Programme proposal will be put forward in February 2026.
- 8.2 Historically the Council has funded the Capital Programme through internal borrowing (use of cash balances), capital receipts, grant or S106 funding. Given the scale of capital expenditure in 2026/27 & 2027/28 i.e. waste vehicle fleet replacement, Leisure Centre Improvement Programme, proactive maintenance of our property portfolio and the provision of affordable housing it is possible we will need to call on external borrowing to fund elements of the Capital Programme from 2026/27.
- 8.3 The financial impact of external borrowing is in the revenue account where the MTFS already shows a significant funding gap in future years. This impact includes the cost of borrowing i.e. interest and MRP – the charge we must make to represent the use of the asset over its life. For vehicles this would be borrowing with the associated costs for 7 years, for land and property it would be a maximum of 50 years.
- 8.4 The PWLB interest rates are still high but should fall gradually over the next 12 months in line with the expected trajectory of the Bank of England Base Rate. There are however other options for borrowing other than PWLB i.e. Local Authority to Local Authority lending. The Treasury Management Strategy will be updated with a framework for future external borrowing.
- 8.5 Additional capital receipts are achieved through the disposal of assets where the income can then only be used to fund capital expenditure, not to support the provision of services. The AMS helps to inform decision making on the disposal of the Council's assets where it is

shown to be more advantageous to have a capital receipt to avoid external borrowing and MRP costs than to retain the asset for its capacity to generate revenue income.

- 8.6** The Council may wish to cash in an element of Pooled Funds in the future to finance capital expenditure if it proves to be more cost effective than to take on long term debt. However, interest generated from the Pooled Funds is instrumental in supporting front line Council services so any decision to release cash from long term investments should be carefully weighed against the impact on the MTFS in the longer term.
- 8.7** Further details about the way we fund the Capital Programme will be included in the revised Treasury Management, Capital and Investment Strategy papers, which will be considered by the Audit & Governance Committee at the 22 January 2026 meeting and included in the February 2026 budget papers.
- 8.8** An initial draft of the Capital Programme is in Annex B but as always, inclusion in the Capital Programme does not mean that the expenditure is authorised. Identifying the possible spend, and including it in the Capital Programme, ensures that potential borrowing requirements are identified. In most cases, a business case would still need to be prepared and brought forward for review.

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION

- 9.1** As stated in the body of this report, the budget and MTFS have been produced without incorporating any potential impacts from LGR, other than an estimate of the Project Office costs for 2026/27, due to the impossibility of providing any credible financial projections, but LGR will have an impact on the delivery of Council services and our financial position up until when the new Unitary Authority is established on 1 April 2028.
- 9.2** Once the government announces their decision for Oxfordshire, expected in Summer 2026, there will undoubtedly be the need for a substantial resource commitment to a transition programme. During this time, we cannot fail to maintain our level of service provision to the residents of West Oxfordshire or to meet our financial obligations. It is recommended that an earmarked reserve of £1m is set up to fund LGR costs in the first instance. The funding requirement will be updated as a more detailed financial analysis can be done once a proposal is chosen.

10. BUDGET CONSULTATION

- 10.1** The Council's budget consultation, via the online engagement platform CitizenLab, went live on 10 November 2025 and ran to 19 December 2025.
- 10.2** The Council has used a wide range of communication channels to promote the consultation including media engagement, social media, website, stakeholders and newsletters.

- 10.3** The number of responses received for the 2026/27 budget consultation was 150. This is significantly lower than the responses received in previous years (a total of 370 responses in 2025/26 and 377 for 2024/25).
- 10.4** This is thought to be due to “consultation saturation” bearing in mind the number of consultations carried out in recent months including LGR and Local Plan. It could also be due to resident’s perception that district budgets are soon to be overtaken by unitary budgets with LGR on the horizon.
- 10.5** A detailed analysis of the results will be presented in the final budget papers taken to Executive and Full Council in February 2026.

11. BUDGET REVIEW TIMETABLE

- 11.1** There is an All-Member Briefing on 8 January 2026.
- 11.2** The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will review the budget at a meeting on 4 February 2026.
- 11.3** A final budget will be presented to the Executive on 11 February 2026.
- 11.4** The Final Budget will be debated at Full Council on 25 February 2026.

12. CONCLUSIONS

- 12.1** This second draft of the 2026/27 budget is a surplus of £650,884 before growth requests and a balanced budget after growth requests.
- 12.2** There are continued uncertainties and cost pressures, as detailed in this report, which will have an impact on the 2026/27 budget and the MTFS.
- 12.3** The feedback from committee meetings and the budget consultation process will provide inputs into the Final Budget,
- 12.4** The Council will need to set realistic budgets, balancing current need and future financial stability, to ensure that adequate reserves are maintained over the medium term.

13. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1** There are no financial implications arising from this paper as it outlines the approach and context of the 2026/27 budget setting process.

14. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1** Apart from the statutory duties and obligations set out in this report, with regards to budget setting process, there are no further implications.

15. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 15.1** None required as a result of the content of this report.

16. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 16.1** No direct equalities impact with regards to the content of this report.

17. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

17.1 None.

18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

(END)

PARISH PRECEPTS AND TAXBASE 2025/26 & 2026/27

PARISH	TAXBASE		
	2025/2026	2026/2027	%
	No.	No.	CHANGE
ALVESCOT	239.95	243.67	1.55
ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD	265.07	270.86	2.18
ASTHAL	162.65	173.33	6.57
ASTON,COTE,SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY	636.52	644.86	1.31
BAMPTON	1,355.41	1,385.10	2.19
BLACK BOURTON	131.29	130.54	(0.57)
BLADON	413.13	417.63	1.09
BLENHEIM	26.92	27.96	3.86
BRIZE NORTON	828.34	922.65	11.39
BROADWELL	74.80	82.06	9.71
BRUERN	42.35	45.25	6.85
BURFORD	931.48	969.93	4.13
CARTERTON	5,724.60	5,750.95	0.46
CASSINGTON	343.40	344.21	0.24
CHADLINGTON	404.92	413.99	2.24
CHARLBURY	1,390.51	1,432.29	3.00
CHASTLETON	76.32	75.22	(1.44)
CHILSON	59.90	69.39	15.84
CHIPPING NORTON	2,898.39	2,919.10	0.71
CHURCHILL & SARDEN	382.87	405.93	6.02
CLANFIELD	370.75	374.77	1.08
COMBE	347.94	358.87	3.14
CORNBURY & WYCHWOOD	27.56	27.94	1.38
CORNWELL	25.80	27.05	4.84
CRAWLEY	79.95	81.95	2.50
CURBRIDGE & LEW	486.59	489.17	0.53
DUCKLINGTON	657.42	663.07	0.86
ENSTONE	616.79	623.06	1.02
EYNSHAM	2,217.93	2,238.20	0.91

PARISH PRECEPTS AND TAXBASE 2025/26 & 2026/27

PARISH	TAXBASE		
	2025/2026	2026/2027	% CHANGE
	No.	No.	
FAWLER	48.86	50.07	2.48
FIFIELD	111.26	112.64	1.24
FILKINS & BROUGHTON POGGS	232.95	244.35	4.89
FINSTOCK	313.40	309.16	(1.35)
FREELAND	702.54	705.88	0.48
FULBROOK	252.30	254.35	0.81
GLYMPTON	47.36	54.53	15.14
GRAFTON & RADCOT	31.05	33.63	8.31
GREAT TEW	99.33	113.45	14.22
HAILEY	523.31	528.38	0.97
HANBOROUGH	1,444.14	1,469.62	1.76
HARDWICK WITH YELFORD	52.55	55.70	5.99
HEYTHROP	84.00	73.10	(12.98)
HOLWELL	29.27	32.04	9.46
IDBURY	78.86	79.37	0.65
KELMSCOTT	47.00	50.21	6.83
KENCOT	67.67	69.11	2.13
KIDDINGTON WITH ASTERLEIGH	59.54	60.96	2.38
KINGHAM	415.57	442.06	6.37
LANGFORD	165.85	169.52	2.21
LEAFIELD	377.59	393.19	4.13
LITTLE FARINGDON	45.80	55.27	20.68
LITTLE TEW	109.22	111.04	1.67
LYNEHAM	100.55	107.39	6.80
MILTON-UNDER-WYCHWOOD	819.92	837.58	2.15
MINSTER LOVELL	753.46	749.60	(0.51)
NORTH LEIGH	1,011.10	1,036.17	2.48
NORTHMOOR	197.55	197.21	(0.17)
OVER NORTON	223.20	230.04	3.06

PARISH PRECEPTS AND TAXBASE 2025/26 & 2026/27

PARISH	TAXBASE		
	2025/2026	2026/2027	% CHANGE
	No.	No.	
RAMSDEN	187.92	192.46	2.42
ROLLRIGHT	244.49	252.79	3.39
ROUSHAM	25.87	27.47	6.18
SALFORD	131.67	134.85	2.42
SANDFORD ST MARTIN	149.75	159.29	6.37
SHILTON	289.90	298.69	3.03
SHIPTON-UNDER-WYCHWOOD	718.63	741.13	3.13
SOUTH LEIGH	165.42	165.45	0.02
SPELSBURY	166.93	174.24	4.38
STANDLAKE	698.48	716.04	2.51
STANTON HARCOURT	531.27	533.05	0.34
STEEPLE BARTON	609.57	624.49	2.45
STONESFIELD	729.85	727.47	(0.33)
SWERFORD	93.41	97.30	4.16
SWINBROOK & WIDFORD	107.53	115.04	6.98
TACKLEY	516.22	515.59	(0.12)
TAYNTON	82.55	86.46	4.74
WESTCOT BARTON	88.65	88.38	(0.30)
WESTWELL	58.10	64.16	10.43
WITNEY	11,298.35	11,377.10	0.70
WOODSTOCK	1,824.21	1,861.38	2.04
WOOTTON	306.79	317.97	3.64
WORTON	52.02	56.17	7.98
TOTAL TAXBASE (No.)	48,742.33	49,561.59	1.68
TOTAL PRECEPT(£)			
AVERAGE 'BAND D' COUNCIL TAX (£)			

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