

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

20 January 2026

2026/27 BUDGET & PRECEPT REPORT

1. 2026/27 Income & Expenditure Budget and Precept

- **To agree the proposed 2026/27 Budget;**
- **To set the Precept**

The Council needs to agree the final budget and determine its precept requirement for the financial year beginning 1 April 2026.

The budget for 2026/27 has been developed under challenging circumstances, consistent with recent years.

The Council's income and expenditure during the current financial year have continued to be affected by inflation and the ongoing cost-of-living pressures.

These pressures carry forward into the 2026/27 budget, alongside additional operational requirements, which includes the increase in employer National Insurance contributions.

Council's desire to support local initiatives and events has made for some difficult decisions by the Committee.

In the initiatives budget events/projects supported have been split out on separate lines so easier to identify.

Each spending committee was again asked to review their spending requirements for 2026/27 and to consider any changes to designated reserve requirements.

Consideration was made in order to replenish the general reserve which is still slightly below required levels, ensuring adequate uplifts in essential areas to ensure smooth operation of services.

The current reserves are as shown in the table below.

	Reserves as at November 2025		Amount	
3020	Cemetery Land Provision		64,305	
3022	Holy Trinity Churchyard & Monuments Reserve		8,633	
3025	Building Maintenance Reserve		10,664	
3030	Allotment Reserve		4,662	
3040	Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations Reserve		48,267	See below for cost of 2025 & c/f to 2026
3045	Shakespeare Statue Restoration Reserve		8,547	
3050	Special Events - S106 Bird Estates Pole & Dais		7,933	
3055	Events Reserve		10,000	
3060	Vehicle Replacement Reserve		5,188	
3071	Town Centre Strategic Partnership Reserve		2,598	
3078	Climate Change Reserve		11,108	
3085	Community Infrastructure Levy Reserve		295,486	See below re money in and out ytd
3090	Election Expenses Reserve		15,522	
3200	Revenue Reserves		211,147	
3085	Community Infrastructure Levy Reserve			
01/04/2025	Balance b/f 1 April 2025		217,853	
12/06/2025	CIL Receipts 1st Tranche 2025/26		99,696	
31/10/2025	Crowdguard HVM re Remembrance Day Parade	-	7,600	
31/10/2025	SADC Community builder	-	5,000	
18/11/2025	Bus Shelter Brookside Road	-	5,873	
30/11/2025	Cemetery ext initial exp & fees see 64314	-	450	
30/11/2025	Cemetery ext Stage 3 design	-	3,140	
	Balance at Nov 25		295,486	
11/12/2025	CIL Receipts 2nd tranche 2025/26		62,326	
Note	Balance at 16.12.25		357,812	

There is also a financial impact arising from the organisational review considered earlier this month.

The review was initiated following a recommendation from the Council's Internal Auditor and was carried out by an independent consultant.

The review examined the Council's staffing structure in detail, including the accuracy and relevance of job descriptions, workload distribution, and overall organisational capacity.

It also considered the Council's ability to respond to future pressures, including potential changes to service delivery and the possible implications of local government reorganisation.

The purpose of the review was to strengthen organisational resilience, identify current and emerging pressures, and support longer-term planning, including succession planning.

Recommendations for this was considered at a Council meeting earlier in the month and the recommendation of support, with further work to be undertaken was recommended.

Current budget figures are based on YTD expenditure, and an effort has been made to look in detail at all budget lines rather than just add a blanket inflation.

The following recommendations were minuted at the Finance and Audit Committee meeting of 17 December 2025 in relation to the budget and precept:

Draft Budget and Precept Requirement for 2026/26

It was Proposed, Seconded and

RECOMMENDED : *That the 2026/27 budget be further considered following the Extraordinary Council meeting on 6 January 2026, which will consider the Council's Organisational Review, and that the increase in the precept should ideally be no more than 5%.*

Council must sign off or amend the budget at the meeting on 20 January 2026 in order to submit the precept requirement to the District Council. The District Council has set a deadline of 23 January 2026 for this submission.

Responsible Financial Officer
16 January 2026