

Supplemental Items for Executive

Thursday 12 February 2026 at 6.00 pm
in Council Chamber Council Offices
Market Street Newbury

Part I

Page No.

9. **Financial Year 2026/27: Revenue Budget (C4680)** 3 - 222
- Purpose: the budget acts as an indicator that the Council has set aside sufficient financial resources to achieve its objectives and to ensure that Council Tax bills can be issued to residents across the district prior to the start of the new financial year. This report details the budget proposals for financial year 2026/27 and supporting Council Tax proposals and resolutions.

Sarah Clarke.

Sarah Clarke

Executive Director - Resources

For further information about this item, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Sadie Owen (Principal Democratic Services Officer) on 01635 519052, e-mail: sadie.owen1@westberks.gov.uk

Further information and Minutes are also available on the Council's website at

www.westberks.gov.uk

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WestBerkshire
C O U N C I L

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Financial Year 2026/27: Revenue Budget

Committee considering report:	Council
Date of Committee:	26 February 2026
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Iain Cottingham
Report Author:	Toby Bradley/Shannon Coleman-Slaughter
Forward Plan Ref:	C4680

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 In accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and Local Government Act 2003, the Council must set a balanced budget annually by 11th March.
- 1.2 The budget acts as an indicator that the Council has set aside sufficient financial resources to achieve its objectives and to ensure that Council Tax bills can be issued to residents across the district prior to the start of the new financial year. This report details the budget proposals for financial year 2026/27 and supporting Council Tax proposals and resolutions.
- 1.3 The report includes various appendices to support members in their decisions on the recommendations disclosed. In advance of preparing this budget paper, the Council has been managing a budget consultation exercise (further relevant content is in Appendix I). Other appendices to this report include the overall savings proposals, budgeted investment, a fees and charges summary and changes and items relating to the setting of Council Tax.
- 1.4 Appendix J sets out the report of the Section 151 Officer on the robustness of budget estimates and adequacy of financial reserves, as required under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003. This appendix is of particular importance and guidance to members considering the financial settlement issued on 17th December 2025 as part of Central Government's Fair Funding Review 2.0, and the expectation that the Council will require Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) during the life of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

2 Recommendations

Council Tax

- 2.1 That Council approves the 2026/27 Council Tax requirement of £136.28 million, requiring a Council Tax increase of +2.99% with a +2.0% Council Tax precept ring-fenced for Adult Social Care.

Revenue Budget

- 2.2 That the proposed General Fund net budget requirement of £210.9 million itemised in Appendix B is approved.
- 2.3 That the fees and charges disclosed in Appendix C are approved.
- 2.4 That the proposed savings disclosed in Appendix F and investments disclosed in Appendix E are approved.
- 2.5 To note that a budget consultation was undertaken between 1st December 2025 and 12th January 2026. The consultation responses are disclosed in Appendix I.
- 2.6 To note the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations totalling £139.99 million and agree that the schools block of £74.09 million is allocated to schools using the local formula agreed by The Schools Forum on 19th January 2026. The outline DSG budget by block is detailed in Appendix H. Members are asked to note that the expenditure budget set is more than income funding available, and it is therefore anticipated that the cumulative High Needs Block (HNB) deficit will be increased by +£16.98 million in 2026/27 to £31.53 million. The cost of financing the HNB is factored into the revenue capital financing requirement for 2026/27 and drives part of the Council’s EFS request.
- 2.7 That the Executive ratifies the EFS request to Central Government of £50 million, split between £20 million attributable to 2025/26 to provide resilience to the reserves position, and £30 million required to balance the 2026/27 revenue budget.
- 2.8 It is further proposed that Council approve a 100% Council Tax discount for Care Leavers aged 18- 25 who reside in West Berkshire.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	The financial position of the Council is challenging, with considerable budgetary pressures in commissioned social care provision and general inflationary expenditure growth. The underlying funding streams are constrained with a significant readjustment of the Council Tax base (detailed in Appendix B of the MTFS), and an adverse settlement from Central Government (detailed in Appendix A of the MTFS). The Council’s reserve position is delicate, with the existing General Fund (£10.6 million as of 31st March 2025), generated from Exceptional Financial Support (EFS), under pressure from in-year overspends (2025/26). Additional EFS requests for financial year 2025/26, and to balance the revenue budget in 2026/27, were submitted to Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on 12 th December 2025, and a decision from Central Government remains outstanding at the time of writing this report. Without EFS, the Council, as with

	<p>many other upper tier authorities will be in a Section 114 position given the absence of significant and robustly substantiated savings programmes.</p>
<p>Human Resource:</p>	<p>Any changes to staffing would need to comply with the relevant HR Policies and Procedures. Several redundancies are listed within the savings (Appendix F).</p>
<p>Legal:</p>	<p>There is a requirement to produce a Revenue Budget under the various Local Government Finance Acts.</p> <p>The savings proposals have been consulted upon as appropriate, and further consultations may be required prior to implementing certain strategies.</p> <p>The Public Sector Equality Duty (149 (1) Act requires a Local Authority in exercise of its functions to have due regard to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act (b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it (c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it <p>The Council consulted on a variety of specific savings and income proposals between December 2025 and January 2026. A summary of the outcome of these consultations, together with equality impacts assessments are included in Appendix I of this report.</p> <p>In respect of the proposed care leavers discount, under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, local authorities have discretionary powers to reduce Council Tax liability under Section 13A (1) (c). This provision allows councils to offer discounts in individual cases or classes of cases, such as Care Leavers.</p>

Financial Year 2026/27: Revenue Budget

Risk Management:	Appendix J contains the Section 151 Officer's view of the robustness of estimates supporting the 2026/27 revenue budget.
Property:	<p>Significant amendments to the property and infrastructure portfolio are included as part of the Capital Strategy which is funded through revenue financing. Transformation activity will be sourced through the flexible use of capital receipts.</p> <p>The Council will be required to focus on an asset optimisation and potential disposals strategy in 2026/27 to fund both capital activity (to avoid debt costs associated with financing), and fund transformation activity designed to support long-term revenue savings.</p>
Policy:	Specific investment in the Council Strategy is included as part of this budget. These areas are highlighted separately in the budget paper.

	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		Individual savings have been subject to Equalities Impact Assessments where required. These are detailed in Appendix I.
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		See Appendix I.
Environmental Impact:		X		
Health Impact:		X		
ICT Impact:		X		
Digital Services Impact:		X		
Council Strategy Priorities:	X			Revenue capital financing enables the investment in the capital programme, which is aligned to the Council Strategy.
Core Business:		X		
Data Impact:		X		

Consultation and Engagement:	Corporate Board Financial Planning and Savings Board
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4 Executive Summary

Funding Available 2026/27

- 4.1 On 17th December 2025, Central Government issued a three-year funding settlement. The longer-term financial impacts of the settlement on Core Spending Power (CSP), and local adjustments to the tax base are detailed within the MTFs. In respect of financial year 2026/27 and revenue budget setting, £177.9 million of funding is available to support the delivery of Council services to residents. The decrease in spending power for West Berkshire is (3.4%) compared to 2025/26, inclusive of the government assumption that the Council takes the maximum increase in Council Tax +2.99% and the Adult Social Care precept +2.0%, without triggering a referendum (+4.99% as an overall total for West Berkshire Council).
- 4.2 The Council Tax Resolution is included in Appendix A. The 2026/27 funding statement is itemised in Appendix B, detailing the funding assumptions underpinning the financing of the net revenue budget.
- 4.3 The funding statement for financial year 2026/27 is as follows:

Funding Statement	Commentary/ Assumptions	2025/26	2026/27
		£ms	£ms
<i>Government Assumed Council Tax (Core Spending Power)</i>			<i>139.87</i>
<i>Council Tax Increase</i>		2.99%	2.99%
<i>Adult Social Care Precept</i>		2.00%	2.00%
Council Tax	Maximum percentage increase applied to tax base	109.59	110.99
Adult Social Care Precept	Maximum percentage increase applied to tax base	22.05	25.29
Collection Fund Deficit on Council Tax	Latest modelling of forecast deficit	-0.99	-2.81
Net Council Tax Funding Stream		130.65	133.48
Retained Business Rates	Government prescribed under settlement	30.57	13.27
Collection Fund Deficit on Business Rates	Latest modelling of forecast deficit	-4.60	-0.48
Net Retained Business Rates		25.97	12.79
Revenue Support Grant	Government prescribed under settlement	16.24	27.04
Homelessness & Domestic Abuse Grant Funding Streams	Government prescribed under settlement	0.32	1.43
Families First Grant Funding Stream	Government prescribed under settlement	0.33	1.42
Homelessness & Domestic Abuse Grant Funding Streams (Ringfenced Expenditure)	Government prescribed under settlement		-1.43
Families First Grant Funding Stream (Ringfenced Expenditure)	Government prescribed under settlement		-1.42
Extended Producer Responsibility Grant	Government prescribed	4.66	4.60
Net Un Ringfenced Revenue Support Grant		21.55	31.64
Total Funds Available	Total government funds, retained business rates and council tax revenues	178.17	177.90

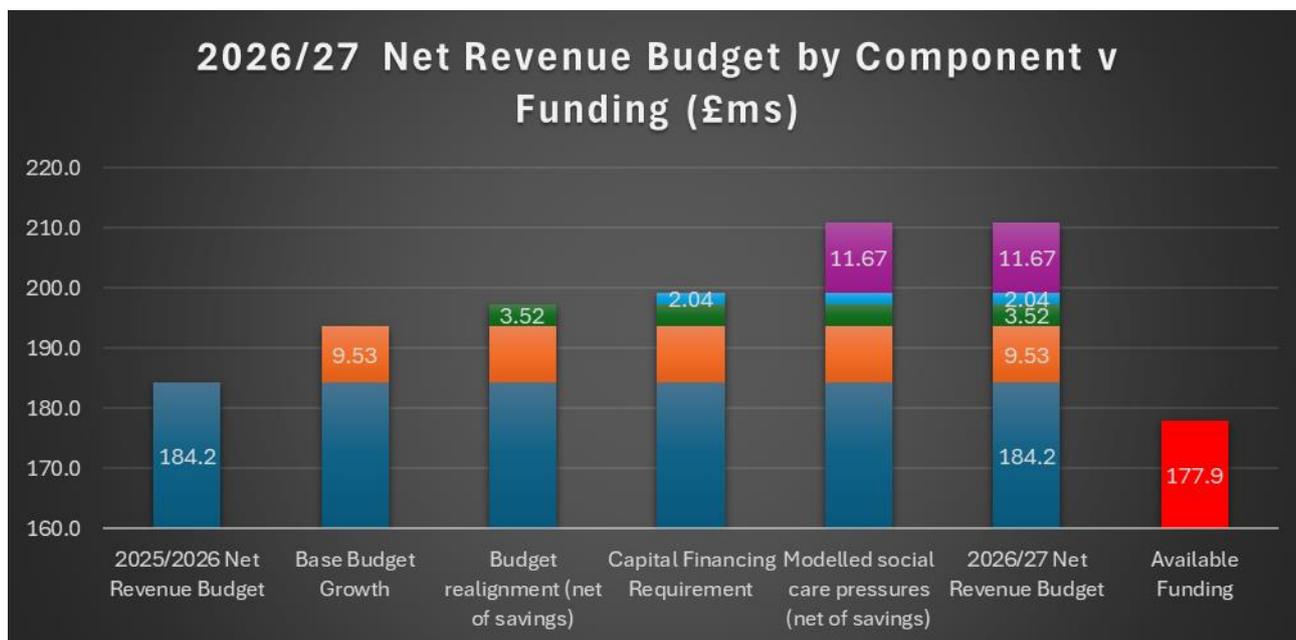
Net Revenue Expenditure Budget Requirement 2026/27

- 4.4 The net revenue budget requirement for financial year 2026/27 is detailed below, by directorate, in tabular form. The table below also outlines gross revenue and gross income, for Budget 2025/26, Q3 2025/26 and Budget 2026/27:

Financial Year 2026/27: Revenue Budget

	Expenditure Budget 2025/26	Income Budget 2025/26	Net Budget 2025/26	Q3 Expenditure Forecast 2025/26	Q3 Income Forecast 2025/26	Q3 Net Forecast 2025/26	Expenditure Budget 2026/27	Income Budget 2026/27	Net Budget 2026/27	Variance - Net Q3 vs Net Budget 2026/27	Variance - Net Budget 2025/26 vs Net Budget 2026/27		
ED People - ASC & Public Health	£0.3 m	£0.0 m	£0.3 m	£0.3 m	£0.0 m	£0.3 m	£0.2 m	£0.0 m	£0.2 m	-7.1%	£0.0 m	-16.0%	£0.0 m
Adult Social Care	£101.0 m	£-26.9 m	£74.2 m	£105.2 m	£-26.9 m	£78.3 m	£111.3 m	£-27.3 m	£84.1 m	5.6%	£4.1 m	13.3%	£9.9 m
Public Health & Wellbeing	£7.5 m	£-7.6 m	£-0.1 m	£7.1 m	£-7.2 m	£-0.1 m	£7.4 m	£-7.5 m	£-0.1 m	0.0%	£0.0 m	0.0%	£0.0 m
People - ASC & Public Health	£108.8 m	£-34.4 m	£74.4 m	£112.6 m	£-34.1 m	£78.5 m	£119.0 m	£-34.8 m	£84.2 m	5.5%	£4.1 m	13.2%	£9.8 m
ED People - Children's Services	£0.2 m	£0.0 m	£0.2 m	£0.2 m	£0.0 m	£0.2 m	£0.2 m	£0.0 m	£0.2 m	0.9%	£0.0 m	5.7%	£0.0 m
Children's Social Care	£35.7 m	£-3.0 m	£32.8 m	£39.9 m	£-3.4 m	£36.4 m	£43.6 m	£-3.0 m	£40.6 m	11.1%	£3.7 m	23.9%	£7.8 m
Education & SEND	£12.1 m	£-3.3 m	£8.9 m	£13.1 m	£-3.7 m	£9.3 m	£12.4 m	£-2.9 m	£9.5 m	5.4%	£0.5 m	7.7%	£0.7 m
Education (DSG Funded)	£157.1 m	£-157.6 m	£-0.4 m	£156.1 m	£-156.5 m	£-0.4 m	£148.2 m	£-148.6 m	£-0.4 m	0.0%	£0.0 m	0.0%	£0.0 m
People - Children's Services	£205.3 m	£-163.8 m	£41.4 m	£209.3 m	£-163.7 m	£45.6 m	£204.4 m	£-154.4 m	£50.0 m	10.0%	£4.1 m	20.6%	£8.5 m
Executive Director – Place	£0.3 m	£0.0 m	£0.3 m	£0.2 m	£0.0 m	£0.2 m	£0.3 m	£0.0 m	£0.3 m	-14.9%	£0.0 m	4.8%	£0.0 m
Community Services	£10.3 m	£-4.8 m	£5.5 m	£10.4 m	£-5.1 m	£5.4 m	£11.1 m	£-5.4 m	£5.7 m	-2.7%	£-0.1 m	4.5%	£0.2 m
Environment	£40.1 m	£-13.1 m	£27.0 m	£42.0 m	£-14.7 m	£27.2 m	£41.9 m	£-14.0 m	£27.9 m	1.0%	£0.3 m	3.5%	£0.9 m
Development & Housing	£8.1 m	£-4.5 m	£3.6 m	£11.3 m	£-7.6 m	£3.7 m	£10.4 m	£-5.6 m	£4.9 m	1.6%	£0.1 m	34.9%	£1.3 m
Place	£58.9 m	£-22.5 m	£36.3 m	£63.9 m	£-27.4 m	£36.5 m	£63.8 m	£-25.0 m	£38.8 m	0.4%	£0.1 m	6.8%	£2.5 m
Transformation, Customer & ICT	£4.2 m	£-0.6 m	£3.6 m	£5.3 m	£-0.7 m	£4.6 m	£6.4 m	£-0.5 m	£5.9 m	26.9%	£1.0 m	62.5%	£2.3 m
Executive Director - Resources	£0.8 m	£0.0 m	£0.8 m	£0.9 m	£0.0 m	£0.9 m	£1.1 m	£0.0 m	£1.1 m	4.4%	£0.0 m	30.1%	£0.3 m
Finance, Property & Procurement	£49.2 m	£-45.1 m	£4.0 m	£55.1 m	£-50.2 m	£4.8 m	£50.8 m	£-45.2 m	£5.6 m	19.6%	£0.8 m	38.0%	£1.5 m
Strategy & Governance	£7.0 m	£-1.7 m	£5.4 m	£7.1 m	£-1.6 m	£5.5 m	£7.6 m	£-1.8 m	£5.9 m	3.3%	£0.2 m	9.6%	£0.5 m
Resources	£61.2 m	£-47.4 m	£13.9 m	£68.3 m	£-52.5 m	£15.8 m	£65.9 m	£-47.5 m	£18.4 m	14.3%	£2.0 m	33.0%	£4.6 m
Chief Executive	£0.6 m	£0.0 m	£0.6 m	£0.7 m	£-0.2 m	£0.6 m	£0.7 m	£0.0 m	£0.7 m	-9.9%	£-0.1 m	4.9%	£0.0 m
Capital Financing and Mgmt	£17.3 m	£-0.5 m	£16.8 m	£15.0 m	£0.0 m	£15.0 m	£19.4 m	£-0.5 m	£18.9 m	-10.6%	£-1.8 m	12.1%	£2.0 m
WBC Total	£452.1 m	£-268.6 m	£183.4 m	£469.9 m	£-277.9 m	£192.0 m	£473.1 m	£-262.1 m	£210.9 m	4.6%	£8.5 m	15.0%	£27.5 m

4.5 The net revenue budget of £210.9 million can be split between expenditure as follows:



4.6 The above graphic details the growth elements of the net 2026/27 revenue budget building from a base budget in 2025/26, compared to available funding, i.e. £210.9 million net expenditure requirement versus a £177.9 million funding envelope, generating a £33.02 million gap which is proposed to be funded through £3.02 million of reserves and a £30 million EFS request.

4.7 2026/27 revenue expenditure growth is broken down as follows:

Financial Year 2026/27: Revenue Budget

(a) Base budget growth: £9.53 million (£8.23 million in 2025/26)

Base Budget Growth	£millions	Underlying Assumptions
Establishment costs	4.72	Assumed pay inflation 3.5%, plus incremental rises, national insurance, pension contributions
Secondary Pension Contributions	1.28	Deficit contributions determined by the Royal Berkshire Pension Fund
Supplies and services inflation	3.52	Specified contractual inflationary sums.
Total Base Budget Growth	9.53	

(Note: Establishment growth for 2026/27 includes growth for the 2025/26 pay award which was finally settled at 3.2% compared to 2.5% budget assumption. The 2026/27 assumption has been increased to 3.5% as inflation in September 2025 was 3.8%).

(b) Budget Realignment: £3.52million (Appendices E & F)

Appendix E details a number of realignments processes as part of a review of the revenue budget designed to ensure compliance with grant conditions and accounting regulations. Appendix E also details where there has been investment into the 2026/27 budget (+£0.42 million relating to Children's social care). Appendix F details non-social care commissioning savings, focusing on increasing fees and charges (£0.8 million), and removal of posts from the establishment (£0.2 million).

(c) Capital Financing: +£2.04 million (Appendix G)

Financing Requirement	2026/27
Capital financing of historic and planned capital programme £ms	£14.17
Capital financing of exceptional financial support £ms	£2.71
Additional borrowing required from HNB deficit £ms	£1.26
Total revenue budget requirement	£18.15
Revenue pressure (budget investment required)	£2.04

Capital financing, historically driven by funding the capital programme (past and planned), if now incurring financing costs relating to funding the HNB), and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) costs associated with EFS.

(d) Net Modelled Social Care Pressures: +£11.67million (Appendix D).

Social Care	£millions
Modelled Adult Social Care Pressures	9.22
Modelled Adult Social Care Savings	-2.37
Modelled Children's Social Care Pressures	5.78
Modelled Children's Social Care Savings	-0.95
Net Social care Pressures	11.67

Social care pressures and savings are broken down by category of care, demographic and inflation pressure in Appendix D.

4.8 A comparator of net revenue growth for 2026/27 compared to the 2025/26 revenue budget is included in the funding statement in Appendix B. Included within the net revenue budget position is investment and savings proposals in relation to social care commissioning detailed in Appendix D, non-social care commissioning investments outlined in Appendix E, and savings proposals presented in Appendix F. The

consultation responses relating to public facing savings proposals are included in Appendix I.

Funding Gap and Exceptional Financial Support

- 4.9 The 2026/27 net revenue budget of £210.9 million is set against available funding of £177.9 million, generating a funding gap of £33.02 million. The funding gap of £33.02 million, proposed to be funded through the utilisation of reserves of £3.02 million and an EFS request (submitted on 12th December 2025 to Central Government) of £30 million.
- 4.10 EFS has long-term financing implications for the Council, as the associated MRP allocation is chargeable to the Council's revenue account. The EFS over the life of the MTFs period compounds the additional support ask. The Council has limited reserves, with a General Fund of £10.6million as of 1st April 2025. There is already a planned usage of this reserve as part of the 2025/26 revenue budget setting (£2.27 m Collection Fund deficit), and in-year pressures generated by significant overspends against the Adults and Children's Social Care commissioning budgets. The Council's reserve statement is included in the MTFs, Appendix E. The Section 151 Officer's view of the robustness of estimates is included in Appendix J of this report.

5 Care Leavers Council Tax Discount

- 5.1 Care Leavers often face significant financial and emotional challenges as they transition into independent living. National guidance and best practice recommend that local authorities consider measures to support Care Leavers, including financial relief through Council Tax exemptions or discounts.
- 5.2 It is therefore proposed that West Berkshire Council introduces a policy to grant a 100% Council Tax Discount to all Care Leavers residing within the district, effective until their 25th birthday. The discount would apply regardless of tenancy type or whether the Care Leaver lives alone or with others.

6 Other Options Considered

The budget proposal contains a blend of savings options, Council Tax changes and request for EFS. The Council could enact a Council Tax referendum to introduce additional funding into the budget. This strategy has been rejected however due to the increased burden on local taxpayers that could have a negative local economic impact, the associated costs of the referendum and the likely adverse impact on the electoral vote.

7 Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix A – Formal Council Tax Resolution 2026/27.
- 7.2 Appendix A i to iv – Formal Council Tax Resolution 2026/27 supporting appendices.
- 7.3 Appendix B - General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27: Funding Statement.
- 7.4 Appendix C - General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27: Proposed Fees & Charges.

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- 7.5 Appendix D - General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27: Social Care Commissioning Budgets.
 - 7.6 Appendix E - General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27: Non-Social Care Commissioning Investments.
 - 7.7 Appendix F - General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27: Non- Social Care Commissioning Savings.
 - 7.8 Appendix G - General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27: Revenue Capital Financing Requirement.
 - 7.9 Appendix H - Financial Year 2026/27: Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
 - 7.10 Appendix I - General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27: Budget Consultation Responses.
 - 7.11 Appendix J - Section 25 Statement of the Section 151 Officer.
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Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No: X

- The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval X
- Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council
- Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position:
- Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees, Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only

Officer details:

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Appendix A

General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27: Formal Council Tax Resolution

That it be noted that the following amounts for the year 2026/27, in accordance with regulations made under Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (by the Localism Act 2011), are as follows: -

- (a) 67,655.39 being the amount calculated by the Council, (Item T) in accordance with Regulation 31B of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax base) Regulations 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), as its Council Tax base for the year (the number of properties paying Council Tax)
- (b) Part of the Council's area being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates

Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2026/27 (excluding Parish precepts) is £136,281,660.

That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2026/27 in accordance with Sections 31A to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, amended by the Localism Act: -

- (a) £479,693,838 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2), (a) to (f) of the Act taking account of all precepts issued to it by Parish councils
- (b) £336,787,890 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3), (a) to (d) of the Act
- (c) 142,905,949 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above, exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year (Item R specified in the Act)
- (d) £2,112.26 being the amount at (c) above (Item R specified in the Act), all divided by (a) above (Item T in the Act), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the 'basic' amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts)
- (e) £6,624,288 being the aggregate amount of all special items (parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (Appendix A i)

Financial Year 2026/27: Revenue Budget

- (f) £2,017.29 being the amount at (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by the amount at (a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items relate

That it be noted that for the year 2026/27, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley and the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in Appendix A i to iv.

That the Council in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 hereby sets the aggregate amounts disclosed in Appendix A i to iv as the amounts of Council Tax for 2026/27 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

In accordance with Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council determines its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for the financial year 2026/27 is not excessive.

Appendix A i to iv

General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27: Formal Council Tax Resolution – Supporting Appendices

Appendix A i Budget Resolution 2026/27

DIRECTORATE	GROSS EXP	GROSS INC	NET EXP
	£	£	£
PEOPLE	323,364,330	189,188,130	134,176,200
PLACE	63,780,460	24,973,410	38,807,050
RESOURCES/CHIEF EXECUTIVE	66,559,560	47,469,170	19,090,390
CAPITAL FINANCING	19,365,200	510,000	18,855,200
TOTALS FOR WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL (SUB TOTAL A)	473,069,550	262,140,710	210,928,840
FUNDED BY:			
TOTAL COUNCIL TAX FUNDING REQUIRED FOR WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL			136,281,660
Other non ring-fenced grants, Collection Fund and reserves total (detailed in the main report)			41,623,177
TOTAL FUNDING			177,904,837
PARISHES			6,624,288
TOTALS FOR PARISHES (SUB TOTAL B)	0	0	6,624,288

Appendix A ii Valuation Bands 2026/27

Valuation Bands

West Berkshire Council

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£1,126.76	£1,314.55	£1,502.35	£1,690.14	£2,065.73	£2,441.31	£2,816.90	£3,380.28

Adult Social Care

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£218.10	£254.45	£290.80	£327.15	£399.85	£472.55	£545.25	£654.30

Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£198.85	£232.00	£265.14	£298.28	£364.56	£430.85	£497.13	£596.56

Royal Berkshire Fire And Rescue Service

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

*The valuation bands for the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service are outstanding at the time of production of this summary

Aggregate Of Council Tax Requirements

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£1,543.71	£1,801.00	£2,058.28	£2,315.57	£2,830.14	£3,344.71	£3,859.28	£4,631.14

Appendix A iii Council Tax Schedule 2026/27

Appendix A iii)

Council Tax schedule 2026-27	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
West Berkshire Council Precepts								
West Berkshire Council	£1,126.76	£1,314.55	£1,502.35	£1,690.14	£2,065.73	£2,441.31	£2,816.90	£3,380.28
West Berkshire Council Adult Social Care	£218.10	£254.45	£290.80	£327.15	£399.85	£472.55	£545.25	£654.30
Total West Berkshire Council Precepts	£1,344.86	£1,569.00	£1,793.15	£2,017.29	£2,465.57	£2,913.86	£3,362.15	£4,034.58
Other major preceptors								
Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley	£198.85	£232.00	£265.14	£298.28	£364.56	£430.85	£497.13	£596.56
Royal Berkshire Fire And Rescue Service	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total for other major preceptors	£198.85	£232.00	£265.14	£298.28	£364.56	£430.85	£497.13	£596.56

*The valuation bands for the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service are outstanding at the time of production of this summary

Parish/town only (a)									
Parish/Town, and District and Special Expenses (b)									
Total with all precepts (c)									
Aldermaston	(a)	£19.19	£22.39	£25.59	£28.79	£35.19	£41.59	£47.98	£57.58
	(b)	£1,364.05	£1,591.39	£1,818.74	£2,046.08	£2,500.76	£2,955.45	£3,410.13	£4,092.16
	(c)	£1,562.90	£1,823.39	£2,083.87	£2,344.36	£2,865.33	£3,386.30	£3,907.26	£4,688.72
Aldworth	(a)	£66.37	£77.43	£88.49	£99.55	£121.67	£143.79	£165.92	£199.10
	(b)	£1,411.23	£1,646.43	£1,881.64	£2,116.84	£2,587.24	£3,057.65	£3,528.07	£4,233.68
	(c)	£1,610.08	£1,878.43	£2,146.77	£2,415.12	£2,951.81	£3,488.50	£4,025.20	£4,830.24
Ashampstead	(a)	£40.35	£47.07	£53.80	£60.52	£73.97	£87.42	£100.87	£121.04
	(b)	£1,385.21	£1,616.07	£1,846.95	£2,077.81	£2,539.54	£3,001.28	£3,463.02	£4,155.62
	(c)	£1,584.06	£1,848.07	£2,112.08	£2,376.09	£2,904.11	£3,432.13	£3,960.15	£4,752.18
Basildon	(a)	£16.20	£18.90	£21.60	£24.30	£29.70	£35.10	£40.50	£48.60
	(b)	£1,361.06	£1,587.90	£1,814.75	£2,041.59	£2,495.27	£2,948.96	£3,402.65	£4,083.18
	(c)	£1,559.91	£1,819.90	£2,079.88	£2,339.87	£2,859.84	£3,379.81	£3,899.78	£4,679.74
Beech Hill	(a)	£58.65	£68.42	£78.20	£87.97	£107.52	£127.07	£146.62	£175.94
	(b)	£1,403.51	£1,637.42	£1,871.35	£2,105.26	£2,573.09	£3,040.93	£3,508.77	£4,210.52
	(c)	£1,602.36	£1,869.42	£2,136.48	£2,403.54	£2,937.66	£3,471.78	£4,005.90	£4,807.08
Beedon	(a)	£36.37	£42.43	£48.49	£54.55	£66.67	£78.79	£90.92	£109.10
	(b)	£1,381.23	£1,611.43	£1,841.64	£2,071.84	£2,532.24	£2,992.65	£3,453.07	£4,143.68
	(c)	£1,580.08	£1,843.43	£2,106.77	£2,370.12	£2,896.81	£3,423.50	£3,950.20	£4,740.24
Beenham	(a)	£27.51	£32.09	£36.68	£41.26	£50.43	£59.60	£68.77	£82.52
	(b)	£1,372.37	£1,601.09	£1,829.83	£2,058.55	£2,516.00	£2,973.46	£3,430.92	£4,117.10
	(c)	£1,571.22	£1,833.09	£2,094.96	£2,356.83	£2,880.57	£3,404.31	£3,928.05	£4,713.66
Boxford	(a)	£29.00	£33.83	£38.67	£43.50	£53.17	£62.83	£72.50	£87.00
	(b)	£1,373.86	£1,602.83	£1,831.82	£2,060.79	£2,518.74	£2,976.69	£3,434.65	£4,121.58
	(c)	£1,572.71	£1,834.83	£2,096.95	£2,359.07	£2,883.31	£3,407.54	£3,931.78	£4,718.14
Bradfield	(a)	£20.62	£24.06	£27.49	£30.93	£37.80	£44.68	£51.55	£61.86
	(b)	£1,365.48	£1,593.06	£1,820.64	£2,048.22	£2,503.37	£2,958.54	£3,413.70	£4,096.44
	(c)	£1,564.33	£1,825.06	£2,085.77	£2,346.50	£2,867.94	£3,389.39	£3,910.83	£4,693.00
Brightwalton	(a)	£61.77	£72.07	£82.36	£92.66	£113.25	£133.84	£154.43	£185.32
	(b)	£1,406.63	£1,641.07	£1,875.51	£2,109.95	£2,578.82	£3,047.70	£3,516.58	£4,219.90
	(c)	£1,605.48	£1,873.07	£2,140.64	£2,408.23	£2,943.39	£3,478.55	£4,013.71	£4,816.46
Brimpton	(a)	£22.68	£26.46	£30.24	£34.02	£41.58	£49.14	£56.70	£68.04
	(b)	£1,367.54	£1,595.46	£1,823.39	£2,051.31	£2,507.15	£2,963.00	£3,418.85	£4,102.62
	(c)	£1,566.39	£1,827.46	£2,088.52	£2,349.59	£2,871.72	£3,393.85	£3,915.98	£4,699.18
Bucklebury	(a)	£28.17	£32.87	£37.56	£42.26	£51.65	£61.04	£70.43	£84.52
	(b)	£1,373.03	£1,601.87	£1,830.71	£2,059.55	£2,517.22	£2,974.90	£3,432.58	£4,119.10
	(c)	£1,571.88	£1,833.87	£2,095.84	£2,357.83	£2,881.79	£3,405.75	£3,929.71	£4,715.66
Burghfield	(a)	£79.32	£92.54	£105.76	£118.98	£145.42	£171.86	£198.30	£237.96
	(b)	£1,424.18	£1,661.54	£1,898.91	£2,136.27	£2,610.99	£3,085.72	£3,560.45	£4,272.54
	(c)	£1,623.03	£1,893.54	£2,164.04	£2,434.55	£2,975.56	£3,516.57	£4,057.58	£4,869.10
Catmore	(a)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	(b)	£1,344.86	£1,569.00	£1,793.15	£2,017.29	£2,465.57	£2,913.86	£3,362.15	£4,034.58
	(c)	£1,543.71	£1,801.00	£2,058.28	£2,315.57	£2,830.14	£3,344.71	£3,859.28	£4,631.14
Chaddleworth	(a)	£58.81	£68.62	£78.42	£88.22	£107.82	£127.43	£147.03	£176.44
	(b)	£1,403.67	£1,637.62	£1,871.57	£2,105.51	£2,573.39	£3,041.29	£3,509.18	£4,211.02
	(c)	£1,602.52	£1,869.62	£2,136.70	£2,403.79	£2,937.96	£3,472.14	£4,006.31	£4,807.58
Chieveley	(a)	£25.59	£29.86	£34.12	£38.39	£46.92	£55.45	£63.98	£76.78
	(b)	£1,370.45	£1,598.86	£1,827.27	£2,055.68	£2,512.49	£2,969.31	£3,426.13	£4,111.36
	(c)	£1,569.30	£1,830.86	£2,092.40	£2,353.96	£2,877.06	£3,400.16	£3,923.26	£4,707.92
Cold Ash	(a)	£31.69	£36.97	£42.25	£47.53	£58.09	£68.65	£79.22	£95.06
	(b)	£1,376.55	£1,605.97	£1,835.40	£2,064.82	£2,523.66	£2,982.51	£3,441.37	£4,129.64
	(c)	£1,575.40	£1,837.97	£2,100.53	£2,363.10	£2,888.23	£3,413.36	£3,938.50	£4,726.20
Combe	(a)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	(b)	£1,344.86	£1,569.00	£1,793.15	£2,017.29	£2,465.57	£2,913.86	£3,362.15	£4,034.58
	(c)	£1,543.71	£1,801.00	£2,058.28	£2,315.57	£2,830.14	£3,344.71	£3,859.28	£4,631.14

Financial Year 2026/27: Revenue Budget

Compton	(a)	£89.49	£104.40	£119.32	£134.23	£164.06	£193.89	£223.72	£268.46
	(b)	£1,434.35	£1,673.40	£1,912.47	£2,151.52	£2,629.63	£3,107.75	£3,585.87	£4,303.04
	(c)	£1,633.20	£1,905.40	£2,177.60	£2,449.80	£2,994.20	£3,538.60	£4,083.00	£4,899.60
East Garston	(a)	£25.44	£29.68	£33.92	£38.16	£46.64	£55.12	£63.60	£76.32
	(b)	£1,370.30	£1,598.68	£1,827.07	£2,055.45	£2,512.21	£2,968.98	£3,425.75	£4,110.90
	(c)	£1,569.15	£1,830.68	£2,092.20	£2,353.73	£2,876.78	£3,399.83	£3,922.88	£4,707.46
East Ilsley	(a)	£58.99	£68.82	£78.65	£88.48	£108.14	£127.80	£147.47	£176.96
	(b)	£1,403.85	£1,637.82	£1,871.80	£2,105.77	£2,573.71	£3,041.66	£3,509.62	£4,211.54
	(c)	£1,602.70	£1,869.82	£2,136.93	£2,404.05	£2,938.28	£3,472.51	£4,006.75	£4,808.10
Enborne	(a)	£30.41	£35.48	£40.55	£45.62	£55.76	£65.90	£76.03	£91.24
	(b)	£1,375.27	£1,604.48	£1,833.70	£2,062.91	£2,521.33	£2,979.76	£3,438.18	£4,125.82
	(c)	£1,574.12	£1,836.48	£2,098.83	£2,361.19	£2,885.90	£3,410.61	£3,935.31	£4,722.38
Englefield	(a)	£28.69	£33.48	£38.26	£43.04	£52.60	£62.17	£71.73	£86.08
	(b)	£1,373.55	£1,602.48	£1,831.41	£2,060.33	£2,518.17	£2,976.03	£3,433.88	£4,120.66
	(c)	£1,572.40	£1,834.48	£2,096.54	£2,358.61	£2,882.74	£3,406.88	£3,931.01	£4,717.22
Farnborough	(a)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	(b)	£1,344.86	£1,569.00	£1,793.15	£2,017.29	£2,465.57	£2,913.86	£3,362.15	£4,034.58
	(c)	£1,543.71	£1,801.00	£2,058.28	£2,315.57	£2,830.14	£3,344.71	£3,859.28	£4,631.14
Fawley	(a)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	(b)	£1,344.86	£1,569.00	£1,793.15	£2,017.29	£2,465.57	£2,913.86	£3,362.15	£4,034.58
	(c)	£1,543.71	£1,801.00	£2,058.28	£2,315.57	£2,830.14	£3,344.71	£3,859.28	£4,631.14
Frilsham	(a)	£41.19	£48.06	£54.92	£61.79	£75.52	£89.25	£102.98	£123.58
	(b)	£1,386.05	£1,617.06	£1,848.07	£2,079.08	£2,541.09	£3,003.11	£3,465.13	£4,158.16
	(c)	£1,584.90	£1,849.06	£2,113.20	£2,377.36	£2,905.66	£3,433.96	£3,962.26	£4,754.72
Great Shefford	(a)	£56.89	£66.38	£75.86	£85.34	£104.30	£123.27	£142.23	£170.68
	(b)	£1,401.75	£1,635.38	£1,869.01	£2,102.63	£2,569.87	£3,037.13	£3,504.38	£4,205.26
	(c)	£1,600.60	£1,867.38	£2,134.14	£2,400.91	£2,934.44	£3,467.98	£4,001.51	£4,801.82
Greenham	(a)	£25.67	£29.94	£34.22	£38.50	£47.06	£55.61	£64.17	£77.00
	(b)	£1,370.53	£1,598.94	£1,827.37	£2,055.79	£2,512.63	£2,969.47	£3,426.32	£4,111.58
	(c)	£1,569.38	£1,830.94	£2,092.50	£2,354.07	£2,877.20	£3,400.32	£3,923.45	£4,708.14
Hampstead Norreys	(a)	£52.20	£60.90	£69.60	£78.30	£95.70	£113.10	£130.50	£156.60
	(b)	£1,397.06	£1,629.90	£1,862.75	£2,095.59	£2,561.27	£3,026.96	£3,492.65	£4,191.18
	(c)	£1,595.91	£1,861.90	£2,127.88	£2,393.87	£2,925.84	£3,457.81	£3,989.78	£4,787.74
Hamstead Marshall	(a)	£24.57	£28.67	£32.76	£36.86	£45.05	£53.24	£61.43	£73.72
	(b)	£1,369.43	£1,597.67	£1,825.91	£2,054.15	£2,510.62	£2,967.10	£3,423.58	£4,108.30
	(c)	£1,568.28	£1,829.67	£2,091.04	£2,352.43	£2,875.19	£3,397.95	£3,920.71	£4,704.86
Hermitage	(a)	£49.29	£57.50	£65.72	£73.93	£90.36	£106.79	£123.22	£147.86
	(b)	£1,394.15	£1,626.50	£1,858.87	£2,091.22	£2,555.93	£3,020.65	£3,485.37	£4,182.44
	(c)	£1,593.00	£1,858.50	£2,124.00	£2,389.50	£2,920.50	£3,451.50	£3,982.50	£4,779.00
Holybrook	(a)	£36.51	£42.59	£48.68	£54.76	£66.93	£79.10	£91.27	£109.52
	(b)	£1,381.37	£1,611.59	£1,841.83	£2,072.05	£2,532.50	£2,992.96	£3,453.42	£4,144.10
	(c)	£1,580.22	£1,843.59	£2,106.96	£2,370.33	£2,897.07	£3,423.81	£3,950.55	£4,740.66
Hungerford	(a)	£104.67	£122.11	£139.56	£157.00	£191.89	£226.78	£261.67	£314.00
	(b)	£1,449.53	£1,691.11	£1,932.71	£2,174.29	£2,657.46	£3,140.64	£3,623.82	£4,348.58
	(c)	£1,648.38	£1,923.11	£2,197.84	£2,472.57	£3,022.03	£3,571.49	£4,120.95	£4,945.14
Inkpen	(a)	£22.65	£26.42	£30.20	£33.97	£41.52	£49.07	£56.62	£67.94
	(b)	£1,367.51	£1,595.42	£1,823.35	£2,051.26	£2,507.09	£2,962.93	£3,418.77	£4,102.52
	(c)	£1,566.36	£1,827.42	£2,088.48	£2,349.54	£2,871.66	£3,393.78	£3,915.90	£4,699.08
Kintbury	(a)	£40.56	£47.32	£54.08	£60.84	£74.36	£87.88	£101.40	£121.68
	(b)	£1,385.42	£1,616.32	£1,847.23	£2,078.13	£2,539.93	£3,001.74	£3,463.55	£4,156.26
	(c)	£1,584.27	£1,848.32	£2,112.36	£2,376.41	£2,904.50	£3,432.59	£3,960.68	£4,752.82
Lambourn	(a)	£69.75	£81.37	£93.00	£104.62	£127.87	£151.12	£174.37	£209.24
	(b)	£1,414.61	£1,650.37	£1,886.15	£2,121.91	£2,593.44	£3,064.98	£3,536.52	£4,243.82
	(c)	£1,613.46	£1,882.37	£2,151.28	£2,420.19	£2,958.01	£3,495.83	£4,033.65	£4,840.38
Leckhampstead	(a)	£37.97	£44.30	£50.63	£56.96	£69.62	£82.28	£94.93	£113.92
	(b)	£1,382.83	£1,613.30	£1,843.78	£2,074.25	£2,535.19	£2,996.14	£3,457.08	£4,148.50
	(c)	£1,581.68	£1,845.30	£2,108.91	£2,372.53	£2,899.76	£3,426.99	£3,954.21	£4,745.06
Midgham	(a)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	(b)	£1,344.86	£1,569.00	£1,793.15	£2,017.29	£2,465.57	£2,913.86	£3,362.15	£4,034.58
	(c)	£1,543.71	£1,801.00	£2,058.28	£2,315.57	£2,830.14	£3,344.71	£3,859.28	£4,631.14
Newbury	(a)	£96.97	£113.13	£129.29	£145.45	£177.77	£210.09	£242.42	£290.90
	(b)	£1,441.83	£1,682.13	£1,922.44	£2,162.74	£2,643.34	£3,123.95	£3,604.57	£4,325.48
	(c)	£1,640.68	£1,914.13	£2,187.57	£2,461.02	£3,007.91	£3,554.80	£4,101.70	£4,922.04
Padworth	(a)	£31.21	£36.41	£41.61	£46.81	£57.21	£67.61	£78.02	£93.62
	(b)	£1,376.07	£1,605.41	£1,834.76	£2,064.10	£2,522.78	£2,981.47	£3,440.17	£4,128.20
	(c)	£1,574.92	£1,837.41	£2,099.89	£2,362.38	£2,887.35	£3,412.32	£3,937.30	£4,724.76
Pangbourne	(a)	£102.99	£120.16	£137.32	£154.49	£188.82	£223.15	£257.48	£308.98
	(b)	£1,447.85	£1,689.16	£1,930.47	£2,171.78	£2,654.39	£3,137.01	£3,619.63	£4,343.56
	(c)	£1,646.70	£1,921.16	£2,195.60	£2,470.06	£3,018.96	£3,567.86	£4,116.76	£4,940.12
Peasemore	(a)	£52.85	£61.65	£70.46	£79.27	£96.89	£114.50	£132.12	£158.54
	(b)	£1,397.71	£1,630.65	£1,863.61	£2,096.56	£2,562.46	£3,028.36	£3,494.27	£4,193.12
	(c)	£1,596.56	£1,862.65	£2,128.74	£2,394.84	£2,927.03	£3,459.21	£3,991.40	£4,789.68
Purley on Thames	(a)	£65.57	£76.50	£87.43	£98.36	£120.22	£142.08	£163.93	£196.72
	(b)	£1,410.43	£1,645.50	£1,880.58	£2,115.65	£2,585.79	£3,055.94	£3,526.08	£4,231.30
	(c)	£1,609.28	£1,877.50	£2,145.71	£2,413.93	£2,950.36	£3,486.79	£4,023.21	£4,827.86
Shaw-Cum-Donnington	(a)	£39.36	£45.92	£52.48	£59.04	£72.16	£85.28	£98.40	£118.08
	(b)	£1,384.22	£1,614.92	£1,845.63	£2,076.33	£2,537.73	£2,999.14	£3,460.55	£4,152.66
	(c)	£1,583.07	£1,846.92	£2,110.76	£2,374.61	£2,902.30	£3,429.99	£3,957.68	£4,749.22
Speen	(a)	£38.06	£44.40	£50.75	£57.09	£69.78	£82.46	£95.15	£114.18
	(b)	£1,382.92	£1,613.40	£1,843.90	£2,074.38	£2,535.35	£2,996.32	£3,457.30	£4,148.76
	(c)	£1,581.77	£1,845.40	£2,109.03	£2,372.66	£2,899.92	£3,427.17	£3,954.43	£4,745.32
Stanford Dingley	(a)	£40.09	£46.77	£53.45	£60.13	£73.49	£86.85	£100.22	£120.26
	(b)	£1,384.95	£1,615.77	£1,846.60	£2,077.42	£2,539.06	£3,000.71	£3,462.37	£4,154.84
	(c)	£1,583.80	£1,847.77	£2,111.73	£2,375.70	£2,903.63	£3,431.56	£3,959.50	£4,751.40
Stratfield Mortimer	(a)	£63.71	£74.33	£84.95	£95.57	£116.81	£138.05	£159.29	£191.14
	(b)	£1,408.57	£1,643.33	£1,878.10	£2,112.86	£2,582.38	£3,051.91	£3,521.43	£4,214.42
	(c)	£1,607.42	£1,875.33	£2,143.23	£2,411.14	£2,946.95	£3,482.76	£4,018.56	£4,822.28
Streatley	(a)	£56.62	£66.06	£75.49	£84.93	£103.80	£122.68	£141.55	£169.86
	(b)	£1,401.48	£1,635.06	£1,868.64	£2,102.22	£2,569.37	£3,036.54	£3,503.70	£4,204.44
	(c)	£1,600.33	£1,867.06	£2,133.77	£2,400.50	£2,933.94	£3,467.39	£4,000.83	£4,801.00
Sulhamstead	(a)	£22.89	£26.71	£30.52	£34.34	£41.97	£49.60	£57.23	£68.68
	(b)	£1,367.75	£1,595.71	£1,823.67	£2,051.63	£2,507.54	£2,963.46	£3,419.38	£4,103.26
	(c)	£1,566.60	£1,827.71	£2,088.80	£2,349.91	£2,872.11	£3,394.31	£3,916.51	£4,699.82
Thatcham	(a)	£90.61	£105.71	£120.81	£135.91	£166.11	£196.31	£226.52	£271.82
	(b)	£							

Financial Year 2026/27: Revenue Budget

Theale	(a)	£105.25	£122.79	£140.33	£157.87	£192.95	£228.03	£263.12	£315.74
	(b)	£1,450.11	£1,691.79	£1,933.48	£2,175.16	£2,658.52	£3,141.89	£3,625.27	£4,350.32
	(c)	£1,648.96	£1,923.79	£2,198.61	£2,473.44	£3,023.09	£3,572.74	£4,122.40	£4,946.88
Tidmarsh with Sulham	(a)	£23.27	£27.14	£31.02	£34.90	£42.66	£50.41	£58.17	£69.80
	(b)	£1,368.13	£1,596.14	£1,824.17	£2,052.19	£2,508.23	£2,964.27	£3,420.32	£4,104.38
	(c)	£1,566.98	£1,828.14	£2,089.30	£2,350.47	£2,872.80	£3,395.12	£3,917.45	£4,700.94
Tilehurst	(a)	£44.31	£51.69	£59.08	£66.46	£81.23	£96.00	£110.77	£132.92
	(b)	£1,389.17	£1,620.69	£1,852.23	£2,083.75	£2,546.80	£3,009.86	£3,472.92	£4,167.50
	(c)	£1,588.02	£1,852.69	£2,117.36	£2,382.03	£2,911.37	£3,440.71	£3,970.05	£4,764.06
Ufton Nervet	(a)	£22.07	£25.75	£29.43	£33.11	£40.47	£47.83	£55.18	£66.22
	(b)	£1,366.93	£1,594.75	£1,822.58	£2,050.40	£2,506.04	£2,961.69	£3,417.33	£4,100.80
	(c)	£1,565.78	£1,826.75	£2,087.71	£2,348.68	£2,870.61	£3,392.54	£3,914.46	£4,697.36
Wasing	(a)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	(b)	£1,344.86	£1,569.00	£1,793.15	£2,017.29	£2,465.57	£2,913.86	£3,362.15	£4,034.58
	(c)	£1,543.71	£1,801.00	£2,058.28	£2,315.57	£2,830.14	£3,344.71	£3,859.28	£4,631.14
Welford	(a)	£31.81	£37.12	£42.42	£47.72	£58.32	£68.93	£79.53	£95.44
	(b)	£1,376.67	£1,606.12	£1,835.57	£2,065.01	£2,523.89	£2,982.79	£3,441.68	£4,130.02
	(c)	£1,575.52	£1,838.12	£2,100.70	£2,363.29	£2,888.46	£3,413.64	£3,938.81	£4,726.58
West Ilsley	(a)	£49.49	£57.73	£65.98	£74.23	£90.73	£107.22	£123.72	£148.46
	(b)	£1,394.35	£1,626.73	£1,859.13	£2,091.52	£2,556.30	£3,021.08	£3,485.87	£4,183.04
	(c)	£1,593.20	£1,858.73	£2,124.26	£2,389.80	£2,920.87	£3,451.93	£3,983.00	£4,779.60
West Woodhay	(a)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	(b)	£1,344.86	£1,569.00	£1,793.15	£2,017.29	£2,465.57	£2,913.86	£3,362.15	£4,034.58
	(c)	£1,543.71	£1,801.00	£2,058.28	£2,315.57	£2,830.14	£3,344.71	£3,859.28	£4,631.14
Winterbourne	(a)	£34.83	£40.63	£46.44	£52.24	£63.85	£75.46	£87.07	£104.48
	(b)	£1,379.69	£1,609.63	£1,839.59	£2,069.53	£2,529.42	£2,989.32	£3,449.22	£4,139.06
	(c)	£1,578.54	£1,841.63	£2,104.72	£2,367.81	£2,893.99	£3,420.17	£3,946.35	£4,735.62
Wokefield	(a)	£15.62	£18.22	£20.83	£23.43	£28.64	£33.84	£39.05	£46.86
	(b)	£1,360.48	£1,587.22	£1,813.98	£2,040.72	£2,494.21	£2,947.70	£3,401.20	£4,081.44
	(c)	£1,559.33	£1,819.22	£2,079.11	£2,339.00	£2,858.78	£3,378.55	£3,898.33	£4,678.00
Woolhampton	(a)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	(b)	£1,344.86	£1,569.00	£1,793.15	£2,017.29	£2,465.57	£2,913.86	£3,362.15	£4,034.58
	(c)	£1,543.71	£1,801.00	£2,058.28	£2,315.57	£2,830.14	£3,344.71	£3,859.28	£4,631.14
Yattendon	(a)	£51.96	£60.62	£69.28	£77.94	£95.26	£112.58	£129.90	£155.88
	(b)	£1,396.82	£1,629.62	£1,862.43	£2,095.23	£2,560.83	£3,026.44	£3,492.05	£4,190.46
	(c)	£1,595.67	£1,861.62	£2,127.56	£2,393.51	£2,925.40	£3,457.29	£3,989.18	£4,787.02

*Nil entries in line a above indicate that the Council is awaiting this data

Appendix A iv Town and Parish Council Precepts 2026/27

Town & Parish Council Precepts							
Parish	2025-26			2026-27			Council Tax increase/decrease (-)
	Taxbase 2025	Precept 2025	Band D 2025	Taxbase 2026	Precept 2026	Band D 2026	
Aldermaston	479.44	£ 13,500.00	£28.16	468.87	£ 13,500.00	£28.79	£0.63
Aldworth	135.61	£ 13,500.00	£99.55	135.02	£ 13,441.00	£99.55	£0.00
Ashampstead	188.94	£ 10,080.00	£53.35	185.58	£ 11,231.00	£60.52	£7.17
Basildon	972.70	£ 23,000.00	£23.65	946.54	£ 23,000.00	£24.30	£0.65
Beech Hill	153.14	£ 13,000.00	£84.89	153.46	£ 13,500.00	£87.97	£3.08
Beedon	197.86	£ 10,700.00	£54.08	197.99	£ 10,800.00	£54.55	£0.47
Beenham	520.63	£ 19,215.00	£36.91	516.73	£ 21,320.00	£41.26	£4.35
Boxford	249.10	£ 10,400.00	£41.75	248.26	£ 10,800.00	£43.50	£1.75
Bradfield	864.25	£ 23,500.00	£27.19	856.69	£ 26,500.00	£30.93	£3.74
Brightwalton	174.98	£ 13,200.00	£75.44	181.52	£ 16,820.00	£92.66	£17.22
Brimpton	315.73	£ 11,850.00	£37.53	308.62	£ 10,500.00	£34.02	£-3.51
Bucklebury	1,074.72	£ 40,000.00	£37.22	1,064.77	£ 45,000.00	£42.26	£5.04
Burghfield	2,650.10	£ 309,511.00	£116.79	2,601.37	£ 309,511.00	£118.98	£2.19
Catmore	14.09	£ -	£0.00	13.72	£ -	£0.00	£0.00
Chaddleworth	199.64	£ 15,000.00	£75.14	204.04	£ 18,000.00	£88.22	£13.08
Chieveley	1,150.50	£ 42,500.00	£36.94	1,159.14	£ 44,500.00	£38.39	£1.45
Cold Ash	1,664.87	£ 73,928.00	£44.40	1,658.01	£ 78,809.12	£47.53	£3.13
Combe	23.51	£ -	£0.00	36.64	£ -	£0.00	£0.00
Compton	699.16	£ 84,403.00	£120.72	666.37	£ 89,444.00	£134.23	£13.51
East Garston	284.48	£ 10,500.00	£36.91	288.24	£ 11,000.00	£38.16	£1.25
East Ilsley	264.76	£ 23,000.00	£86.87	259.94	£ 23,000.00	£88.48	£1.61
Enborne	382.33	£ 15,993.00	£41.83	372.68	£ 17,000.00	£45.62	£3.79
Englefield	123.69	£ 5,000.00	£40.42	120.82	£ 5,200.00	£43.04	£2.62
Farnborough	48.45	£ -	£0.00	51.86	£ -	£0.00	£0.00
Fawley	74.58	£ -	£0.00	77.52	£ -	£0.00	£0.00
Frilsham	165.61	£ 9,500.00	£57.36	161.83	£ 10,000.00	£61.79	£4.43
Great Shefford	420.29	£ 23,300.00	£55.44	421.83	£ 36,000.00	£85.34	£29.90
Greenham	2,983.96	£ 103,774.00	£34.78	2,700.99	£ 104,000.00	£38.50	£3.72
Hampstead Norreys	358.33	£ 26,821.00	£74.85	362.51	£ 28,385.00	£78.30	£3.45
Hamstead Marshall	155.12	£ 5,643.00	£36.38	153.11	£ 5,643.00	£36.86	£0.48
Hermitage	911.50	£ 63,500.00	£69.67	886.01	£ 65,500.00	£73.93	£4.26
Holybrook	2,751.15	£ 143,357.00	£52.11	2,722.26	£ 149,067.00	£54.76	£2.65
Hungerford	2,513.98	£ 383,939.00	£152.72	2,505.42	£ 393,344.00	£157.00	£4.28
Inkpen	440.22	£ 15,000.00	£34.07	441.56	£ 15,000.00	£33.97	£-0.10
Kintbury	1,236.68	£ 71,150.00	£57.53	1,235.76	£ 75,186.00	£60.84	£3.31
Lambourn	1,798.87	£ 182,115.00	£101.24	1,794.05	£ 187,692.00	£104.62	£3.38
Leckhampstead	175.63	£ 9,400.00	£53.52	170.29	£ 9,700.00	£56.96	£3.44
Midgham	168.57	£ 10,000.00	£59.32	166.07	£ -	£0.00	£-59.32
Newbury	13,491.52	£ 1,817,641.00	£134.72	13,526.89	£ 1,967,492.00	£145.45	£10.73
Padworth	442.53	£ 20,000.00	£45.19	427.25	£ 20,000.00	£46.81	£1.62
Pangbourne	1,587.47	£ 232,227.68	£146.29	1,582.16	£ 244,427.37	£154.49	£8.20
Peasmore	154.67	£ 10,000.00	£64.65	151.39	£ 12,000.00	£79.27	£14.62
Purley on Thames	2,052.65	£ 190,000.00	£92.56	2,033.40	£ 200,000.00	£98.36	£5.80
Shaw-Cum-Donnington	1,057.30	£ 62,400.00	£59.02	1,104.35	£ 65,200.00	£59.04	£0.02
Speen	1,155.22	£ 64,381.00	£55.73	1,183.59	£ 67,569.00	£57.09	£1.36
Stanford Dingley	125.22	£ 6,000.00	£47.92	124.74	£ 7,500.00	£60.13	£12.21
Stratfield Mortimer	1,815.26	£ 161,729.00	£89.09	1,793.77	£ 171,433.00	£95.57	£6.48
Streatley	573.88	£ 46,776.00	£81.51	578.34	£ 49,116.00	£84.93	£3.42
Sulham (see Tidmarsh)		£ 10,500.00					£0.00
Sulhamstead	655.80	£ 22,000.00	£33.55	640.65	£ 22,000.00	£34.34	£0.79
Thatcham	9,365.94	£ 1,179,921.00	£125.98	9,216.23	£ 1,252,552.00	£135.91	£9.93
Theale	1,569.56	£ 229,135.00	£145.99	1,403.29	£ 221,540.00	£157.87	£11.88
Tidmarsh with Sulham	305.00	£ 10,500.00	£34.43	315.22	£ 11,000.00	£34.90	£0.47
Tilehurst	5,635.94	£ 336,712.00	£59.74	5,553.00	£ 369,048.00	£66.46	£6.72
Ufton Nervet	143.21	£ 4,500.00	£31.42	141.95	£ 4,700.00	£33.11	£1.69
Wasing	26.62	£ -	£0.00	25.67	£ -	£0.00	£0.00
Welford	258.42	£ 12,428.00	£48.09	260.43	£ 12,428.00	£47.72	£-0.37
West Ilsley	153.98	£ 11,000.00	£71.44	152.29	£ 11,304.00	£74.23	£2.79
West Woodhay	60.03	£ -	£0.00	61.51	£ -	£0.00	£0.00
Winterbourne	106.85	£ 5,500.00	£51.47	105.29	£ 5,500.00	£52.24	£0.77
Wokefield	151.82	£ 1,750.00	£11.53	149.41	£ 3,500.00	£23.43	£11.90
Woolhampton	460.04	£ 26,000.00	£56.52	454.17	£ -	£0.00	£-56.52
Yattendon	175.28	£ 12,589.00	£71.82	174.31	£ 13,586.00	£77.94	£6.12
	68,511.38	£ 6,292,468.68		67,655.39	£ 6,624,288.49		

General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27: Funding Statement

Funding is reviewed in detail within the MTFS, Appendices A and B

Funding Statement	Commentary / Assumptions	2025/26	2026/27
		£ms	£ms
<i>Government Assumed Council Tax (Core Spending Power)</i>			<i>139.87</i>
<i>Council Tax Increase</i>		2.99%	2.99%
<i>Adult Social Care Precept</i>		2.00%	2.00%
Council Tax	Maximum percentage increase applied to tax base	109.59	110.99
Adult Social Care Precept	Maximum percentage increase applied to tax base	22.05	25.29
Collection Fund Deficit on Council Tax	Latest modelling of forecast deficit	-0.99	-2.81
Net Council Tax Funding Steam		130.65	133.48
Retained Business Rates	Government prescribed under settlement	30.57	13.27
Collection Fund Deficit on Business Rates	Latest modelling of forecast deficit	-4.60	-0.48
Net Retained Business Rates		25.97	12.79
Revenue Support Grant	Government prescribed under settlement	16.24	27.04
Homelessness & Domestic Abuse Grant Funding Steams	Government prescribed under settlement	0.32	1.43
Families First Grant Funding Steam	Government prescribed under settlement	0.33	1.42
Homelessness & Domestic Abuse Grant Funding Steams (Ringfenced Expenditure)	Government prescribed under settlement		-1.43
Families First Grant Funding Steam (Ringfenced Expenditure)	Government prescribed under settlement		-1.42
Extended Producer Responsibility Grant	Government prescribed	4.66	4.60
Net Un Ringfenced Revenue Support Grant		21.55	31.64
Total Funds Available	Total government funds, retained business rates and council tax revenues	178.17	177.90
Base Budget:	2025/26 net revenue budget with one off prior year savings reversed back into the base budget	167.15	184.17
Base Budget Growth	Establishment costs (pay 3.5%, NI, secondary pension) and contractual inflation on service contracts	8.23	9.53
Budget Realignment	Detailed in appendix	0.90	4.25
Investment in Services	Detailed in appendix	3.97	0.42
Capital Financing Requirement	Detailed in appendix	3.30	2.04
Modelled Social Care Commissioning Pressures	Detailed in appendix	8.07	14.99
Social Care Commissioning Savings Identified	Detailed in appendix	-1.80	-3.32
Non Commissioning Savings identified	Detailed in appendix	-6.38	-1.16
Savings to be identified			0.00
Net Revenue Budget Requirement	Net revenue requirement to deliver services to residents	183.44	210.93
Funding Gap	Balance between net revenue budget and funds available	5.27	33.02
Funding gap supported by use of reserves	Reserves allocated to support the budget	2.27	3.02
Funding gap supported by Exceptional Financial Support	Additional support requested from central government	3.00	30.00

Appendix C

General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27: Proposed Fees and Charges

PLEASE REFER TO APPENDIX PRESENTED SEPARATELY

General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27: Proposed Fees and Charges

Fees and Charges are disclosed on a directorate basis as follows:

Place and Resources Fees & Charges Proposals – 2026/27

1. Proposals – Place Directorate

1.1 Development and Housing

(1) Housing

Temporary accommodation is charged in line with Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates. LHA rates have been frozen at the 2024/25 level and will continue to be at the 30th percentile of local market rents until at least April 2026.

Properties which are managed under lease agreements for Registered Providers or private landlords are capped at 90% 2011 LHA level, plus a management fee provision of £40pw.

Do It Yourself Shared Ownership (DIYSO) leases will be increased to be consistent with the Social Rent Cap.

The Council also charge for homeless households placed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation. Households will need to claim Housing Benefit or will be charged up to the amount Housing Benefit would pay, if they were eligible. In addition, households will need to pay the ineligible charges, mainly breakfast. These charges are proposed to increase in accordance with inflation for 2025/26.

The Council can assist with providing removals and/or storage for homeless applicants. The full cost of providing this service will be recharged to the client.

The Council provides repairs and maintenance to a small supply of temporary accommodation, including an out-of-hours service. In the event that a tenant or licensee uses the emergency service for a non-emergency repair, or fails to attend an appointment for a contractor to attend to a repair, a charge will be made to the tenant to cover the call-out costs. Where repairs arise as a result of neglect or damage caused by the tenant or licensee, or a member of their household, or a visitor to their home, the full cost of the repair will be recharged to the tenant or licensee.

Housing related support services will be charged at the actual cost of the service received.

The Council charges Registered Providers for advertising properties through its Choice Based Lettings Scheme.

For 2026/27, the Council will charge an agency fee of 12% to any application for grants or loans where these are overseen and managed by the Home Improvement Agency.

	DESCRIPTION	FEE 2025/26	PROPOSED FEE 2026/27	Increase %
	Copy of housing assessment	No Charge	No Charge	
SL	Average rent for temporary accommodation per week	In Line with Local Housing Allowance Leased accommodation capped at 90% 2011 LHA level	In Line with Local Housing Allowance Leased accommodation capped at 90% 2011 LHA level	
SD	Secure Tenancies	Social Rent (80% Market)	Social Rent (80% Market)	
SD	Four Houses Corner Pitch Fees	£96	£100 + £5 Service charge	9.4%
SD	Do It Yourself Ownership rent (DIYSO) rent	Social Rent Cap applied to individual contracts	Social Rent Cap applied to individual contracts	
SD	Transport costs to temporary accommodation (TA)	Actual cost	Actual cost	
D	Home Improvement Agency (HIA) fee for private adaption work	12% of total cost of works to eligible clients	12% of total cost of works to eligible clients	
D	Choice Based Letting - Other Registered Providers	£50 per advert placed (billed quarterly in arrears)	£50 per advert placed (billed quarterly in arrears)	
D	Rechargeable repairs - tenant damage	Actual cost	Actual cost	
D	Failed call out charges	Actual cost	Actual cost	
	B&B charging			Increase %
	Ineligible Charges for Bed and Breakfast Accommodation:			
D	Heating, lighting and hot water per week per Family Unit*	£52.82	£55.09	4.3%
D	Breakfast per person, per week	£4.54	£4.73	4.3%
	* Family Units Include: Single person, Couple - no children, Couple with 1-4 children, Single person with 1-4 children.			

(2) Planning Services

The Planning Service is proposing an uplift of fees and charges by 4.8% in line with budget build guidance for any discretionary fees which can be locally set. For the Planning Application Fee, these are set nationally and are linked to September CPI which was 3.8%.

	2024/25	
	No. Applications	Total Income
Pre-Application Advice	144	£89,206
Planning Application Fees	2,058	£1,101,481
Historic Environment Records	28	£4,325

a) Pre-Application Advice

The following fees (with the exception of Householder Advice) are for written advice together with a site visit and one meeting. Additional meetings will incur additional charges:

		Fee 25/26 including VAT	Proposed Fee 26/27 including VAT	% Uplift
D	Householder Advice – written advice only Note: No add-on options are included.	240	£252	5.0%
D	Householder Advice on Listed Buildings - written advice only Note: No add-on options are included.	n/a	£445	

			Fee 25/26 including VAT	Proposed Fee 26/27 including VAT	% Uplift
D	Pre-application Advice Based on Floorspace Note: In all cases it is at the discretion of the Planning Service whether to accept a pre-application enquiry, or to enter into a bespoke PPA.	Less than 50 sqm	£300	£314	4.7%
D		51 to 100 sqm	£600	£629	4.8%
D		101 to 200 sqm	£1,200	£1,258	4.8%
D		201 to 500 sqm	£1,500	£1,572	4.8%
D		501 to 1000 sqm	£1,920	£2,012	4.8%
D		1001 to 2000 sqm	£2,640	£3,144	19.1%
D		2001 to 5000 sqm	£3,300	£4,716	42.9%
D		5001 to 10000 sqm	£12,000	£12,576	4.8%
D		10001 to 15000 sqm	£25,080	£26,284	4.8%
D		Over 15001 sqm	£35,040	£36,722	4.8%

			Fee 25/26 including VAT	Proposed Fee 26/27 including VAT	% Uplift
D	Pre-Application Advice Based on Number of Dwellings Note: In all cases it is at the discretion of the Planning Service whether to accept a pre-application enquiry, or to enter into a bespoke PPA.	First dwelling	£504	£528	4.8%
D		Each Additional dwelling	£354	£371	4.8%

			Fee 25/26 including VAT	Proposed Fee 26/27 including VAT	% Uplift
D	Pre-Application Advice Based on Site Area Note: In all cases it is at the discretion of the Planning Service whether to accept a pre-application enquiry, or to enter into a bespoke PPA.	Less than 1ha - per 0.1ha	£204	£272 per 0.1ha (with a minimum charge of £445)	33.3%
D		1ha to 3ha	£2,640	£2,767	4.8%
D		3.01ha to 5ha	£6,540	£6,854	4.8%
D		5.01 to 10ha	£13,080	£13,708	4.8%
D		10.01 to 15ha	£25,080	£26,083	4.0%
D		Over 15.01ha	£35,040	£36,722	4.8%

		Fee 2025/26 - Including VAT	Proposed Fee 26/27 including VAT	% Uplift
D	<p>Meeting</p> <p>Note: If a meeting is required on site, this is at the discretion of the officer and we reserve the right to charge an additional fee.</p> <p>Note: If new information is presented before the meeting, we reserve the right to charge an additional fee. The submission of new information will need to be agreed before the meeting.</p> <p>Note: If multiple officers are required to attend, a bespoke fee may be required.</p>	£522	£547	4.8%

Applicable to All Pre-Application Enquiries:

- Where a proposal includes development that has different elements that fall into more than one category listed, then the fees for all relevant categories forming the proposal are added together. The adjusted fee will be subject to VAT as set out above.
- If the pre-application contains additional proposed options for consideration by the LPA, then the fee will be as set out above, plus an additional 50% of the fee that would be required as set out above per additional proposal option where development is in the same category. The adjusted fee will be subject to VAT as set out above.
- Further / follow-up advice: this includes subsequent pre-application enquiries of the same character (and/or description) by the same applicant on the same site as a previous paid for pre-application enquiry or planning application and must be submitted within 3 months of the date of the original pre-app response or planning application decision from the LPA. This is charged at 75% of the relevant fee calculated as set out above. The adjusted fee will be subject to VAT as set out above.
- Any fees paid will not be refunded if it is decided by an applicant/agent that the advice is no longer required, even if this has not yet been supplied.

b) Other Charges

			Proposed Fee 25/26 including VAT	Proposed Fee 26/27 including VAT	% Uplift
D	Discretionary Work	per hour	£174	£182	4.6%
D	Technical Specialist Document Review	per hour	£174	£182	4.6%
D	Duty Planning Officer Advice	Free. Refer to website for full details/limitations of service at:	https://www.westberks.gov.uk/contact-duty-planning-officer		
D	Confirmation of compliance with a S106 / compliance with a notice and solicitor enquiries relating to CIL / S106	per hour	£174	£182	4.6%
D	External Specialist Consultant Advice (This will be required where advice is not available in house)		Price on Application	Price on Application	
D	Monitoring of S106 Agreements / Unilateral Undertakings		Bespoke Fee	Bespoke Fee	
D	Set Up of BNG Habitat Banks / Nutrient Neutrality Mitigation		Bespoke Fee based on document review, site visit and subsequent advice. This is in addition to legal fees.	Bespoke Fee based on document review, site visit and subsequent advice. This is in addition to legal fees.	
D	Monitoring of S106 BNG Habitat Banks / Nutrient Neutrality Mitigation		Bespoke Fee based on habitat size and complexity.	Bespoke Fee based on habitat size and complexity.	
D	Administration charge for submitting applications by post	For non-major applications	£60	£63	5.0%
D		For major applications	£180	£189	5.0%
D	Pre-application enquiry relating to amount of CIL likely to be charged for a development		Bespoke Fee based on discretionary hourly rate	Bespoke Fee based on discretionary hourly rate	
D	Providing archaeological information and advice for agri-environment schemes in line with nationally agreed service standards		Scale of charges, depending on the type of scheme and the area covered, in line with nationally agreed service standards.	Scale of charges, depending on the type of scheme and the area covered, in line with nationally agreed service standards.	
D	Advice which is not covered by any of the above Categories	per hour	£174	£182	4.6%

			FEE 2025/26 - Not subject to VAT	Proposed Fee 26/27 - Not subject to VAT	% Uplift
D	Two Strikes – Invalid submissions (if an application is not validated in two successive submissions)		25% of Application Fee	25% of Application Fee	
D	Charging for invalid applications (that have not been made valid within 28 days)		25% of Application Fee	25% of Application Fee	
D	Making an application to amend, discharge or vary a planning obligation		£1,800 minimum but a bespoke fee will be requested if the work required is considered to go beyond this fee level. This is in addition to legal fees.	£1,886 minimum but a bespoke fee will be requested if the work required is considered to go beyond this fee level. This is in addition to legal fees.	4.8%
D	Administration charge for withdrawing planning applications prior to validation	For householder, advertisement consent and prior notification application	£30	£31	3.3%
D		For all other application types with a planning fee of less than £2,000	£60	£63	5.0%
D		For all other application types with a planning fee of £2,000 or more	£150	£157	4.7%

c) Planning Applications

Planning Application Fees are set centrally by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities department in line with 'The Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications, Deemed Applications, Requests and Site Visits) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2023' (and any subsequent amendments).

These sums are uplifted annually by a minimum of September CPI. Please refer to this website for the details of scale fees at <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/planningfees>

d) Archaeology

Searches of the Historic Environment Record				
		FEE 2025/26 - Including VAT	Proposed Fee 26/27 including VAT	% Uplift
D	A4 computer print out (b/w) HER data	£0.16	£0.17	8.7%
D	A4 computer print out (colour) HER data	£0.68	£0.70	3.3%
D	A3 computer print out (b/w) HER data	£0.37	£0.38	4.1%
D	A3 computer print out (colour) HER data	£1.25	£1.31	4.7%

		FEE 2025/26 - Not subject to VAT	Proposed Fee 26/27 - Not subject to VAT	% Uplift
D	Research charges for staff time dealing with HER enquiries	£165 per hour with a minimum charge of £100	£173 per hour with a minimum of 1 hours charge	4.8%

1.2 Community Services:

(1) Public Protection Partnership

The Public Protection Partnership (PPP) provides chargeable services on behalf of West Berkshire Council and Bracknell Forest Council. The proposed fees for 2026-27 have been agreed by the Joint Public Protection Committee and the relevant licensing committees of the two councils.

PPP chargeable services can be found in Appendix Giii.

(2) Registration Services

The registration service fees are allocated based on a cost recovery model, as defined by applicable legislation. Following a review of the costs of delivering the service and a benchmarking exercise with other Local Authorities, the registration fees that are set locally are to be uplifted on average by 4.8%. Registration fees are largely controlled by statute:

2024/25	Total income	Number of Transactions
Licences	£30,617	41
Births, Deaths & Marriages	£566,927	3,897
Celebration	£1,476	61
Citizenship	£23,938	44
TOTAL	£622,958	4,043

			Fee 2025/26 - not subject to VAT	Proposed Fee 2026/27 - not subject to VAT	Increase %
SL	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Notice of Marriage or Civil Partnership	£42	£42	0%
D		Additional fee for Saturday appointment	£31	£33	5.2%
SL	Register Office	Available Wednesday morning. Fee paid at time of notice and includes fee for a certificate	£56	£56	0%
D	Shaw House Ceremony Room - Up to 46 guests	Monday - Thursday	£368	£386	4.8%
		Friday	£389	£408	4.9%
		Saturday	£409	£428	4.7%
		Sunday & Bank Holiday	£509	£533	4.7%

			Fee 2025/26 - not subject to VAT	Proposed Fee 2026/27 - not subject to VAT	Increase %
D	Shaw House Great Hall - Up to 100 guests	Monday - Thursday	£507	£532	4.9%
		Friday	£531	£556	4.7%
		Saturday	£558	£585	4.9%
		Sunday & Bank Holiday	£658	£690	4.9%
D	Small Ceremony Room- up to 8 people		n/a	£170	New
D	Ceremonies at approved premises	Monday - Thursday	£644	£675	4.8%
		Friday	£664	£696	4.8%
		Saturday	£684	£717	4.8%
		Sunday & Bank Holiday	£783	£820	4.7%
D	Additional Ceremony Hall Decoration	Great Hall	£1.00	£2.00	100.0%
	Approved Premise Licence - any number of rooms		£2,836	£2,972	4.8%
D	Private Citizenship ceremony Mon to Sat		£159	£167	5.0%
D	Marriages & Civil Partnerships Booking Fee (non refundable)		£35	£36	3.7%
D	Ceremony Amendment Fee (Change of date/time)		£18	£19	6.0%
D	Additional Registrar Fee	Superintendent Registrar	£21	£22	3.4%
		Registrar	£18	£19	6.0%
D	Marriages & Civil Partnerships Cancellation Fee	More than 4 months before ceremony	Fees refunded minus £132	Fees refunded minus £138	5.1%
		1-4 months before ceremony	50% refund	50% refund	
		Less than 1 month before ceremony	No refund	No refund	
SL	Certificates	All Certificates	£12.50	£12.50	0%
SL		Priority service within 24 hours	£38.50	£38.50	0%

			Fee 2025/26 - including VAT	Proposed Fee 2026/27 - including VAT	Increase %
D	Celebratory Services - Baby Naming/Affirmation of vows - Shaw House	Monday to Friday	£435	£455	4.7%
		Saturday	£551	£577	4.7%
D	Celebratory Services - Baby Naming/Affirmation of vows - At approved premises	Monday - Friday	£517	£542	4.7%
		Saturday	£619	£649	4.8%
		Sunday & Bank Holiday	£694	£728	4.8%
D	Postage 24h tracked		n/a	£4.50	New
D	Internation Postage - Standard		n/a	£5	New
D	Booking fee		n/a	£50	New
D	Admin fee		n/a	£40	New
D	Wedding music Ceremony Room & Great Hall only		n/a	£20	New
D	Wedding live streaming		n/a	£100	New
D	Keepsake DVD		n/a	£100	New

	Additional Fees:	Fee 2025/26 - not subject to VAT	Proposed Fee 2026/27 - not subject to VAT	Increase %
SL	Consideration by a Superintendent Registrar of a divorce/civil partnership dissolution obtained outside of the British Isles	£55	£55	0%
SL	Consideration by the Registrar General of a divorce/civil partnership dissolution obtained outside of the British Isles	£83	£83	0%
SL	Forename added within 12 months of birth registration	£44	£44	0%
SL	Consideration by a Registrar/Superintendent Registrar of a correction application to a register entry	£83	£83	0%
SL	Consideration by the Registrar General of a correction application to a register entry	£99	£99	0%

	Additional Fees:	Fee 2025/26 - not subject to VAT	Proposed Fee 2026/27 - not subject to VAT	Increase %
D	Proof of Life Forms	£25	£26	4.0%

(3) Shaw House

As this relates to a discretionary element of the Libraries and Museums service, there is generally no need to undertake a formal consultation on proposed fee changes. This is because the services can be accessed elsewhere.

(4) West Berkshire Museum

As this relates to a discretionary element of the Libraries and Museums service, there is generally no need to undertake a formal consultation on proposed fee changes. This is because the services can be accessed elsewhere.

1.3 Environment

1) Car Park and Public Transport

The Car Park and Public Transport fees and charges have been uplifted to the nearest 10p of the budget build guidance of 4.8%:

Car Parking	2024/25
Total income	£3,584,549
Number of Transactions	9,194

		Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	% Uplift	Notes
Newbury - Car Park Charges (Monday to Sunday including Bank Holidays):					
A - Central KFC, Central (N) Library, Corn Exchange, Kennet Centre, Pelican Lane, West Street (Monday to Sunday)	Up to 1 hour	£1.70	£1.80	5.88%	Blue Badge Holders: first 3 hours free using a parking clock.
	Up to 2 hours	£3.00	£3.20	6.67%	
	Up to 3 hours	£4.20	£4.50	7.14%	
	Up to 4 hours	£5.50	£5.90	7.27%	
	Up to 6 hours	£7.50	£8.00	6.67%	
	Up to 8 hours	£9.00	£9.60	6.67%	
	Over 8 hours	£13.00	£13.90	6.92%	
	Evening Charge	£2.50	£2.70	8.00%	
B - Eight Bells, Northcroft Lane, Wharf (Monday to Sunday)	Up to 1 hour	£1.70	£1.80	5.88%	
	Up to 2 hours	£3.00	£3.20	6.67%	
	Up to 3 hours	£4.20	£4.50	7.14%	
	Up to 4 hours (max stay)	£5.50	£5.90	7.27%	
	Evening Charge	£2.50	£2.70	8.00%	
C1 - Northbrook Multi-storey (Monday to Sunday)	Up to 1 hour	£1.50	£1.60	6.67%	
	Up to 2 hours	£2.50	£2.70	8.00%	
	Up to 3 hours	£3.50	£3.70	5.71%	
	Up to 4 hours	£4.50	£4.80	6.67%	
	Over 4 hours	£5.50	£5.90	7.27%	
	Evening Charge	£2.50	£2.70	8.00%	
C2 - Northcroft Lane West (Monday to Sunday, 01 October to 31 March) ; Football Club (Monday to Sunday)	Up to 1 hour	£1.00	£1.10	10.00%	
	Up to 2 hours	£2.00	£2.10	5.00%	
	Up to 3 hours	£3.00	£3.20	6.67%	
	Up to 4 hours	£4.00	£4.30	7.50%	
	Over 4 hours	£5.00	£5.40	8.00%	

		Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	% Uplift	Notes
Newbury - Car Park Charges (Monday to Sunday including Bank Holidays):					
E - Northcroft Lane West (Monday to Sunday, 01 April to 30 September)	Up to 2 hours	Free	Free	0.00%	
	Up to 3 hours	£1.00	£1.10	10.00%	
	Up to 4 hours	£2.00	£2.10	5.00%	
	Over 4 hours	£4.00	£4.30	7.50%	
C2 - Football Club (Monday to Sunday)	Up to 1 hour	£1.00	£1.10	10.00%	
	Up to 2 hours	£2.00	£2.10	5.00%	
	Up to 3 hours	£3.00	£3.20	6.67%	
	Up to 4 hours	£4.00	£4.30	7.50%	
	Over 4 hours	£5.00	£5.30	6.00%	
	Evening Charge	£2.50	£2.70	8.00%	
D - Goldwell Park, Northcroft Leisure Centre (Monday to Sunday)	Up to 3 hours	Free	Free	0.00%	
	Up to 4 hours	£1.00	£1.10	10.00%	
	Up to 6 hours (max stay)	£2.00	£2.10	5.00%	
	Evening Charge 7pm (up to 3 hours)	Free	Free	0.00%	
	Evening Charge 7pm (over 3 hours)	£1.00	£1.10	10.00%	
F - Newbury Station (Monday – Friday including bank holidays)	Up to 1 hour	£1.00	£1.10	10.00%	
	Up to 2 hours	£2.00	£2.10	5.00%	
	Up to 3 hours	£3.00	£3.20	6.67%	
	Up to 4 hours	£4.00	£4.30	7.50%	
	Peak daily charge (arrive before 10am) Ticket expires 23:59	£7.30	£8.20	12.33%	
	Off Peak daily charge (arrive after 10am) Ticket expires 23:59	£4.40	£5.30	20.45%	
F - Newbury Station (Saturday & Sunday)	Up to 2 hours	£2.00	£2.10	5.00%	
	Up to 4 hours	£3.50	£3.70	5.71%	
	Daily Charge	£4.40	£5.30	20.45%	

		Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	% Uplift	Notes
Out of Newbury Car Park Charges (Monday to Sunday including Bank Holidays):					
G - Church Street (Hungerford), River Meadow (Pangbourne), Station Road (Pangbourne) (Monday to Sunday)	Up to 1 hour	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	Blue Badge Holders: first 3 hours free using a parking clock.
	Up to 2 hours	£1.50	£1.60	6.7%	
	Up to 3 hours	£2.00	£2.10	5.0%	
	Up to 4 hours	£2.50	£2.70	8.0%	
	Over 4 hours	£6.00	£6.40	6.7%	
	Evening Charge	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
H - Station Road (Hungerford) (Monday to Sunday)	Up to 1 hour	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
	Up to 2 hours	£1.50	£1.60	6.7%	
	Up to 3 hours	£2.00	£2.10	5.0%	
	Up to 4 hours	£2.50	£2.70	8.0%	
	Over 4 hours	£3.00	£3.20	6.7%	
	Evening Charge	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
I - Burdwood Centre (Thatcham) (Monday to Sunday)	Up to 2 hours	Free	Free	0.0%	
	Up to 3 hours	£1.20	£1.30	8.3%	
	Up to 4 hours	£1.60	£1.70	6.2%	
	Over 4 hours	£3.00	£3.20	6.7%	
	Evening Charge	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
J - Gilbert Court (Thatcham) (Monday to Sunday)	Up to 1 hour	Free	Free	0.0%	
	Up to 2 hours	£0.80	£0.90	12.5%	
	Up to 3 hours	£1.20	£1.30	8.3%	
	Up to 4 hours	£1.60	£1.70	6.2%	
	Over 4 hours	£3.00	£3.20	6.7%	
	Evening Charge	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
K - Kingsland Centre (Thatcham) (Monday to Sunday)	Up to 1 hour	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
	Up to 2 hours	£1.50	£1.60	6.7%	
	Up to 3 hours	£2.00	£2.10	5.0%	
	Up to 4 hours	£2.50	£2.70	8.0%	
	Over 4 hours	£3.50	£3.70	5.7%	
	Evening Charge	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
L - Theale Main (Monday to Sunday)	Up to 1 hour	£0.80	£0.90	12.5%	
	Up to 2 hours	£1.20	£1.30	8.3%	
	Up to 3 hours	£1.60	£1.70	6.2%	
	Up to 4 hours	£2.00	£2.10	5.0%	
	Over 4 hours	£3.00	£3.20	6.7%	
	Evening Charge	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	

		Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	% Uplift	Notes
Out of Newbury Car Park Charges (Monday to Sunday including Bank Holidays):					
M - Theale West (Monday to Sunday)	Up to 1 hour	£0.80	£0.90	12.5%	
	Up to 2 hours (max stay)	£1.50	£1.60	6.7%	
	Evening Charge	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
N - High Street (Lambourn) (Monday to Sunday)	Up to 1 hour	Free	Free	0.0%	
	Up to 4 hours	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
	Over 4 hours	£2.00	£2.10	5.0%	
	Evening Charge (up to 1 hour)	Free	Free	0.0%	
	Evening Charge (over 1 hour)	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
O - Station Road (Thatcham) (Monday to Sunday)	After 10am Monday-Friday, and Weekends	£2.20	£2.35	6.8%	
	Before 10am Monday-Friday	£3.60	£3.85	6.9%	
P - Kennet Leisure (Thatcham) (Monday to Friday 7:30am to 5:30pm)	Up to 2 hours	Free	Free	0.0%	
	Up to 3 hours	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
	Over 3 hours	£10.00	£10.70	7.0%	

		Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	% Uplift	Notes
On-street Parking Charges (Monday to Sunday including Bank Holidays):					
OA - Newbury: Bartholomew Street, Broadway, Cheap Street, Northbrook Street	Up to 30 mins	Free	Free	0.0%	
	Up to 1 hour (max stay)	£1.20	£1.30	8.3%	
	Evening Charge	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
OB - Newbury: Kings Road West, Pelican Lane, West Mills	Up to 30 mins	Free	Free	0.0%	
	Up to 1 hour	£1.20	£1.30	8.3%	
	Up to 2 hours (max stay)	£2.20	£2.40	9.1%	
	Evening Charge	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
OC - Newbury: Newtown Road (North)	Up to 30 mins	Free	Free	0.0%	
	Up to 2 hours	£1.20	£1.30	8.3%	
	Up to 4 hours (max stay)	£2.20	£2.40	9.1%	
	Evening Charge	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
OD - Newbury: Newtown Road (South)	Up to 4 hours	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
	Over 4 hours	£1.50	£1.60	6.7%	
	Evening Charge	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
OE - Newbury: Catherine Road, Link Road	Up to 2 hours	£1.20	£1.30	8.3%	
	Up to 4 hours	£2.20	£2.40	9.1%	
	Over 4 hours	£4.00	£4.30	7.5%	
	Evening Charge	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
OE - Newbury: Station Road	Up to 2 hours	£1.20	£1.30	8.3%	
	Up to 4 hours	£2.20	£2.40	9.1%	
	Over 4 hours	£4.00	£4.30	7.5%	
	Evening Charge	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
OF - Newbury: Old Bath Road	Up to 2 hours	£1.20	£1.30	8.3%	
	Up to 4 hours	£1.70	£1.80	5.9%	
	Over 4 hours	£2.00	£2.10	5.0%	
	Evening Charge	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
OG - Newbury: Faraday Road, Ampere Road, Kelvin Road & Marconi Road	Up to 30 mins	Free	Free	0.0%	
	Up to 2 hours	£1.20	£1.30	8.3%	
	Up to 4 hours	£1.70	£1.80	5.9%	
	Over 4 hours	£2.00	£2.10	5.0%	
	Evening Charge	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	

		Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	% Uplift	Notes
On-street Parking Charges (Monday to Sunday including Bank Holidays):					
OH - Hungerford: High Street	Up to 1 hour	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
	Up to 2 hours	£1.50	£1.60	6.7%	
	Up to 3 hours	£2.00	£2.10	5.0%	
	Up to 4 hours	£2.50	£2.70	8.0%	
	Over 4 hours	£6.00	£6.40	6.7%	
	Evening Charge	Free	Free	0.0%	
OJ - Thatcham: Pipers Lane, Aylesford Way	Up to 4 hours (all day)	£1.00	£1.10	10.0%	
	Over 4 hours (all day)	£1.70	£1.80	5.9%	

		Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	% Uplift	Notes
Parking Season Tickets					
ST1, ST2 and ST3 - Newbury (Central KFC, Library, Kennet Centre, Pelican Lane)	Annual	£1,040.00	£1,112.00	6.9%	Annual passes = 80 x charge of daily ticket; Quarterly passes = 25 x charge of daily ticket; Monthly passes = 10 x charge of daily ticket. 50% discount applies for Council-approved volunteers if vehicle and valid Blue Badge are registered to the same person.
	Quarter	£325.00	£347.50	6.9%	
	Month	£130.00	£139.00	6.9%	
ST4 - Newbury (Northbrook)	Annual	£440.00	£472.00	7.3%	
	Quarter	£137.50	£147.50	7.3%	
	Month	£55.00	£59.00	7.3%	
ST5 - Newbury (Newbury Station)	Annual	£585.00	£656.00	12.1%	
	Quarter	£180.00	£205.00	13.9%	
	Month	£75.00	£82.00	9.3%	
ST6 and ST7 - Hungerford (Station Road) and Theale (Main)	Annual	£240.00	£256.00	6.7%	
	Quarter	£75.00	£80.00	6.7%	
	Month	£30.00	£32.00	6.7%	
ST8 - Pangbourne (Station Road)	Annual	£480.00	£512.00	6.7%	
	Quarter	£150.00	£160.00	6.7%	
	Month	£60.00	£64.00	6.7%	
ST9 - Thatcham (Kingsland Centre)	Annual	£280.00	£296.00	5.7%	
	Quarter	£90.00	£92.50	2.8%	
	Month	£35.00	£37.00	5.7%	
Lambourn (High Street)	Annual	£160.00	£168.00	5.0%	
	Quarter	£50.00	£52.50	5.0%	
	Month	£20.00	£21.00	5.0%	

	Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	% Uplift	Notes
Resident Parking Permits (first permit)				
Tier 1 - Hungerford – High Street (HHS), Newbury – Park Terrace (PT)	£80.00	£85.50	6.9%	50% discount available for Blue Badge holders.
Tier 2 - Newbury (except Park Terrace) (C1, E1, N1, NW1, SE1, SW1, SW2, W1)	£50.00	£53.50	7.0%	
Tier 3 - Hungerford (except High Street) (H1), Pangbourne (P1), Thatcham (TM), Theale (TE)	£40.00	£43.00	7.5%	
Tier 4 - Chieveley (CH), Lambourn (L1)	£30.00	£32.00	6.7%	
Resident Parking Permits (second permit)				
Tier 1 - Hungerford – High Street (HHS), Newbury – Park Terrace (PT)	£120.00	£128.25	6.9%	50% discount available for Blue Badge holders.
Tier 2 - Newbury (except Park Terrace) (C1, E1, N1, NW1, SE1, SW1, SW2, W1)	£75.00	£80.25	7.0%	
Tier 3 - Hungerford (except High Street) (H1), Pangbourne (P1), Thatcham (TM), Theale (TE)	£60.00	£64.50	7.5%	
Tier 4 - Chieveley (CH), Lambourn (L1)	£45.00	£48.00	6.7%	
Resident Visitor Permits				
Hungerford – High Street (HHS), Newbury – Park Terrace (PT)	Not applicable	Not applicable		
1 – 100 Permits	Per permit	£1.10	£1.20	9.1%
101+ Permits	Per permit	£1.60	£1.70	6.2%
Visitor (Special Parking) Permit	Per annum	£30.00	£32.00	6.7%
All Zone Permits (for professional carers)				
Medical professionals and non-profit care companies only	£10.50	£11.20	6.7%	Maximum stay of 2 hours in any location.
Commercial care providers	£52.50	£56.20	7.0%	

Other Charges		Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	Uplift %		
Blue Badge (new application)		£10.00	£10.00	0.0%		
Replacement Blue Badge		£10.00	£10.00	0.0%		
Parking Dispensation	Per Day	£15.80	£16.90	7.0%		
Parking Suspensions	Per application	£15.80	£16.90	7.0%		
	Per 5m bay per day	£10.50	£11.20	6.7%		
Council owned EV Charge Points (these are the base charges and will be subject to increase/decrease in line with the Council's 2022/23 electricity costs).						
		Min	Max	Min	Max	
Slow (7kWh) Charger	per kWh	35p	75p	40p	80p	14.3%
Fast (22kW AC) Charger	per kWh	40p	50p	48p	58p	20.0%
Rapid (50kW DC) Charger	per kWh	45p	60p	55p	70p	22.2%
Overstay fee (for Rapid charger).	per hour after 2 hours	£10.00		£12.00		20.0%
Dependent on provider and energy prices						

Other Charges		Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	Uplift %	Notes	
Public Transport						
D	Charge per departure		£0.60	£0.60	0.0%	It will not be financially viable to increase charges at The Wharf at this time.
D	Bus stands 0400-1800	up to 20 minutes	£0.00	£0.00	0.0%	
		20 minutes to 1 hour (max stay)	£1.20	£1.20	0.0%	
D	Coach stands 0400-1800	up to 90 mins (max stay)	£4.20	£4.20	0.0%	
D	Bus/coach stand and Bays B-F Mon-Sat 1800-0400 and all day Sunday	up to 3 hours	£3.10	£3.10	0.0%	
		over 3 hours	£6.30	£6.30	0.0%	
D	Additional charge for breaches		£25.00-£50.00	£25.00-£50.00	0.0%	No changes planned due to current market
D	Temporary bus stop closure	Per stop	£202.00	£212.00	5.0%	
		Per pair of opposite stops	£235.00	£246.00	4.7%	
D	Provision of information at bus stops for services not subsidised by WBC	Per stop	£13.00	£14.00	7.7%	
D	Concessionary bus pass replacement fee		£16.50	£16.50	0.0%	No proposed change following benchmarking exercise
D	Fares on Council-supported bus services	Single, return, adult, child and multi-journey tickets	Differing fares for each start-destination combination and bus route, with prices for single and return journeys, adult and child rates, in addition to multi-journey tickets. Details on multi-journey tickets can be found below and at www.westberks.gov.uk/connect Details on single/return/adult/child fares can be found on bus or by contacting transport@westberks.gov.uk			

Other Charges		Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	Uplift %	Notes	
Public Transport						
D	Connect urban adult fares	Connect Day	£6	£6	0.0%	Unlimited use for one day on valid routes.
		FlexiConnect (10 trips)	£16.50	£23.00	39.4%	Up to ten single journeys, on valid routes. Harmonising with Simply Newbury & Thatcham price.
		Connect 7-day	£16.50	£23.00	39.4%	Unlimited use for 7 consecutive days, on valid routes. Harmonising with Simply Newbury & Thatcham price.
		Connect 30-day	£61	£72	18.0%	Unlimited use for 30 consecutive days, on valid routes. Harmonising with Simply Newbury & Thatcham price.
D	Connect rural adult fares	Connect Day	£6	£7.30	21.7%	Unlimited use for one day on valid routes.
		FlexiConnect (10 trips)	£22	£26	18.2%	Up to ten single journeys, on valid routes. 3.5 x Day Ticket.
		Connect 7-day	£22	£26	18.2%	Unlimited use for 7 consecutive days, on valid routes. 3.5 x Day Ticket.
		Connect 30-day	£80	£91	13.8%	Unlimited use for 30 consecutive days, on valid routes. 3.5 x 7 Day Ticket.

Other Charges		Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	Uplift %	Notes	
Public Transport						
D	Connect urban child/youth fares	Connect Day	£4	£4.50	12.5%	Unlimited use for one day on valid routes. Harmonising with Simply Newbury & Thatcham price. Create a new Child Rural Day Ticket
		FlexiConnect (10 trips)	£12	£15.50	29.2%	Up to ten single journeys, on valid routes. Harmonising with Simply Newbury & Thatcham price.
		Connect 7-day	£12	£15.50	29.2%	Unlimited use for 7 consecutive days, on valid routes. Harmonising with Simply Newbury & Thatcham price.
		Connect 30-day	£42	£55	31.0%	Unlimited use for 30 consecutive days, on valid routes. Harmonising with Simply Newbury & Thatcham price.
D	Connect rural child/youth fares	Connect Day	£4	£5.50	37.5%	Unlimited use for one day on valid routes. Based on 75% cost of Adult Rural Day Ticket.
		FlexiConnect (10 trips)	£14	£19.25	37.5%	Up to ten single journeys, on valid routes. Based on 3.5 X Day Ticket.
		Connect 7-day	£14	£19.25	37.5%	Unlimited use for 7 consecutive days, on valid routes. Based on 3.5 X Day Ticket.
		Connect 30-day	£54	£67	24.1%	Unlimited use for 30 consecutive days, on valid routes. Based on 3.5 x 7 Day Ticket

Other Charges			Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	Uplift %	Notes
Public Transport						
D	Connect Group Day	Urban	£10	£10	0.0%	Unlimited use for one day for up to 4 people (adults and/or children), on valid routes. No rise. Same price as Simply Reading Buses group of 4 ticket.
		Rural	£16.50	£16.50	0.0%	Unlimited use for one day for up to 4 people (adults and/or children), on valid routes. No rise. It is acknowledged that at this time this ticket provides customers with no benefit in purchasing over 4 x single £3 fare cap tickets but it will be necessary to set a price in readiness for when the fare cap scheme ends.
D	Early Bird	Urban	£1.50	£1.60	6.7%	For concessionary pass holders travelling before 9.30am. Match Newbury & District commercial fare
		Rural	£2.00	£2.00	0.0%	For concessionary pass holders travelling before 9.30am.

2) Highways

Fees are charged for a range of services e.g. where Highway Authority approval is required to place items or to work on the public highway. These include vehicular crossings, skips, scaffolds, table and chairs on the highway, issuing permits for and inspecting utility operations, and temporary or permanent traffic regulation orders.

In addition, there are fees charged to developers for design checking, supervision and the inspection of new roads under construction and off-site highway improvements, as well as for sustainable drainage advice.

Where the Council has the ability to uplift the fees and charges, these costs have been increased by 4.8% unless otherwise stated:

2024/25	Total Income
Traffic Regulation Orders	£865,730
Streetworks	£302,472
Streetworks Permit Scheme	£235,581
Section 38 & 278	£423,685
Other Highway Income	£253,548

			Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	Increase %	Notes
Licence Fees, Permits and Other Charges						
D	Tree Preservation Order		£34	£36	5.9%	
D	Michaelmas Fair		£4,946	£5,183	4.8%	
D	Public Rights of Way	Search fees	£96	£101	5.2%	
D		Path order fees	£1,859 - £4,760	£1,948 - £4,988	4.8%	
SD	Statutory Declarations		£282 flat rate with rights to increase if the work required is onerous	£295 flat rate with rights to increase if the work required is onerous	4.6%	

			Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	Increase %	Notes
Highways Act Charges						
D	Land charges		£67	£70	4.5%	
D	Vehicular Crossing (S.184)	Approval	£193	£202	4.7%	
D	Skips on the Highway (S.139)	Initial fee	£59	£62	5.1%	
		per week	£69	£72	4.3%	
D	Scaffold/hoarding on the Highway (S.169/172)	Initial fee	£119	£125	5.0%	
		per week	£68	£71	4.4%	
SL	Tables and Chairs on the Highway (based on number of Chairs) (S.115)	New licence	£500	£500		Change in legislation
		Renewal licence	£350	£350		
D	Storing Materials on the Highways (S.171)	Initial fee	£113	£118	4.4%	
		per week	£37	£39	5.4%	
D	EV charging duct across footpath (S.171) Application	Approval	£189	£198	4.8%	
D	Temporary Excavation in the highway (S.171)		£149	£349	134.2%	
D	Cranes, machinery, structure on the highway (S.178)		£216	£226	4.6%	
D	S142 Licence to plant in the highway		£179	£188	5.0%	

These are maximum charges, pending consultation on changes to the West Berkshire Permit Scheme.

		Fee 2025/26		Proposed Fee 2026/27		Increase %	Note
Reinstatement category of street		0-2 & Traffic Sensitive	3-4 & Non-Traffic Sensitive	0-2 & Traffic Sensitive	3-4 & Non-Traffic Sensitive		
SL	Provisional Advance Authorisation (PPA)	£69	£49	£84	£70	31%	Fees set following statutory review every 3 years (last took place May 2025).
SL	Major	£156	£98	£219	£138	41%	
SL	Standard	£85	£49	£123	£47	27%	
SL	Minor Activity	£43	£30	£61	£39	37%	
SL	Immediate	£39	£26	£55	£35	38%	
SL	Variation	£0	£0	£30	£23		

		FEE 2025/26	PROPOSED FEE 2026/27	Increase %	Notes
Other Licences and Charges:					
	Licence to place advertising sign on public highway (A board or similar).	£70	£73	4.3%	
	Streetworks licence (S.50 NRSWA)	£337	£450	33.5%	
SL	Utility Works Inspection (NRSWA/TMA)	£50	£50	0.0%	
SL	Fixed Penalty Charge (Utility Companies) NRSWA/TMA	£120/£80	£240/£160	100.0%	Fees subject to a national increase mid year 25/26
SL	Working on the highway without a valid permit	£500 (£300 if paid within 29 days)	£1000 (£600 if paid within 29 days)	100.0%	Fees subject to a national increase mid year 25/26
SL	Follow up Inspection (utility works)	£120	£120	0.0%	
D	Permanent Traffic Regulation Order for Developer	£1,112.00	£1,165	4.8%	
D	Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders Section 14(1)	£3,181	£3,334	4.8%	
D	Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders Section 14(1) - Cancellation fee for applications withdrawn less than six weeks prior to Order coming into force (equal to 50% of the fee)	£1,591	£1,667	4.8%	
D	Re-use and/or re-notification of a pre-existing Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (equal to 50% of the fee)	£1,591	£1,667	4.8%	

		FEE 2025/26	PROPOSED FEE 2026/27	Increase %	Notes
Other Licences and Charges:					
D	Emergency Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders Section 14(2)	£3,181	£3,334	4.8%	
D	Retrospective Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders Section 14(2)	£3,181	£3,334	4.8%	
D	Extension of Temporary Traffic Regulation Order or Notice (equal to 25% of the fee)	£795	£834	4.8%	
D	Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders Section 16A where appropriate & Section 21 of TPCA	£100	£105	5.0%	
D	Cutting through signal loops and not informing LA	£668 plus cost of recutting loops	£700 plus cost of recutting loops	4.8%	
D	Tourist / Direction signs	£686 application and design fee, plus cost of actual sign installation. 50% rebate for unsuccessful applications.	£719 application and design fee, plus cost of actual sign installation. 50% rebate for unsuccessful applications.	4.8%	
D	Traffic Signs / Signals Equipment damaged by Road Traffic Accident or other event	Cost of repairs plus 10% administration charge.	Cost of repairs plus 10% administration charge.		
D	Use of permanent Traffic Regulation Order for railway crossing works	£103	£108	4.9%	
D	Access Protection Marking (single standard width dropped kerb driveway)	£278	£291	4.7%	
D	Sewerage treatment property charge	£501	£525	4.8%	
D	Cycle Training (non-schools, non-bikeability)	£63	£66	4.8%	
D	Cycle Training (bikeability, inc schools)	£10	n/a		Change of Fee Structure Working with schools to provide bicycle training. Charge is to cover administration and risk of non-attendance.
D	Bikeability Level 1	n/a	£10		
D	Bikeability Level 2	n/a	£13		
D	Bikeability Level 1 & 2 Combined	n/a	£15		
D	Bikeability Level 3	n/a	£15		
D	Bikeability Balance	n/a	£10		
D	Bikeability holiday courses (child)	n/a	£25		
D	Bikeability Adult courses	n/a	£30		

		FEE 2025/26	PROPOSED FEE 2026/27	Increase %	Notes
Other Licences and Charges:					
D	Road Safety Training: School Streets online course (cost per place)	£20	£20	0.0%	
D	Road Safety Training: Biker Down (cost per place)	£15	£15	0.0%	
D	Road Safety Training: Rider Down (cost per place)	£15	£15	0.0%	
D	Recovery and storage of unauthorised signs	£179	£188	5.0%	
SL	Street Works Core Sampling - Charge per failed core test	£200 (this is an average cost - actual cost calculated from the Coring Advice Note published by SEHAUC)	£200.00	0.0%	
D	Switch out / Switch on of permanent traffic signals	£574	£602.00	4.9%	

			Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	Increase %	Notes
Provision of Data:						
D	Highway search enquiries	One A4 plan covering 100 metres of highway	£83	£87	4.8%	
		Additional 100 metres	£28	£29	3.6%	
		Additional question	£28	£29	3.6%	
D	Provision of recorded injury accident Data		£179 + £57 per additional block of up to 10 accidents	£188 + £58 per additional block of up to 10 accidents	5.0%	
D	Provision of Traffic Data, per request per site:	data up to 1 year old	£179	£188	5.0%	
		data up to 3 years old	£144	£151	4.9%	
		data over 3 years old	£104	£109	4.8%	

		Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27					
Charges in relation to works occupying the carriageway during periods of overrun (S74) (maximum fee)								
Item	Description of street	Amount (£) (each of first three days)	Amount (£) (each subsequent day)	Amount (£) (each of first three days)	Amount (£) (each subsequent day)	Increase %	Notes	
SL	1	Traffic-sensitive or protected street not in road categories 2,3 or 4	5,000	10,000	5,000	10,000	0.0%	
SL	2	Other street not in road categories 2,3 or 4	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	0.0%	
SL	3	Traffic-sensitive or protected street in road categories 2	3,000	8,000	3,000	8,000	0.0%	
SL	4	Other street in road category 2	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%	
SL	5	Traffic-sensitive or protected street in road category 3 or 4	750	750	750	750	0.0%	
SL	6	Other street in road category 3 or 4	250	250	250	250	0.0%	

		Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	Increase %	Notes
Charges in relation to works outside the carriageway during periods of overrun (S74) (maximum fee)					
Item	Description of street	Amount (£)	Amount (£)		
SL	1	Street not in road category 2, 3 or 4	2,500	2,500	0.0%
SL	2	Street in road category 2	2,000	2,000	0.0%
SL	3	Street in road category 3 or 4	250	250	0.0%

			FEE 2025/26	PROPOSED FEE 2026/27	Increase %	Notes
Highways Development Control Fees						
D	Street naming and numbering - Property name change		£113	£118	4.4%	
D	Changes to new addresses due to the development changing after the schedule has been issued.	Per plot	£113	£118	4.4%	
D	Street Naming and Numbering - New Developments	One address/plot	£107	£112	4.7%	
		2 - 5 addresses/plots	£168	£176	4.8%	
		6 - 10 addresses/plots	£312	£327	4.8%	
		11 - 20 addresses/plots	£495	£519	4.8%	
		21 or more addresses/plots	£26	£27	3.8%	
D	New Road Construction Supervision (S38)	% of works cost	12.5%	12.50%	0.0%	Benchmarked
D	Highways Works Supervision (S278)	% of works cost	12.5%	12.50%	0.0%	
D	S115 E Fee		£669	£701	4.8%	
Provision of Pre-Planning Application Advice						
D	Transport Assessment Scoping Note		£210	£220	4.8%	
D	Draft Transport Assessment		£707	£741	4.8%	
D	Provision of Private Access		£130	£136	4.6%	
D	Highway Advice for New Developments	Hourly rate will be used to provide a quote dependent on individual request. (If we can't resource a pre-app request in house, we may need to employ a consultant and re-charge their costs, plus a 10% administrative charge.)	£175 per hour	£183 per hour	4.6%	
D	Meeting charge	per hour per officer	£175	£183	4.6%	

			Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	Increase %	Notes
Sustainable Drainage Pre-Application Advice Fees						
D	SuDS advice for Major sites (written responses only).	Hourly rate will be used to provide a quote dependent on individual request.	£175 per hour	£183 per hour	4.6%	
D	Meeting charge	Per hour per officer	£175	£183	4.6%	

			Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	Increase %	Notes
Ordinary Watercourse and Land Drainage Consent Pre-application Advice						
D	Written advice for a general site enquiry or flood risk assessment enquiry.	Per enquiry	£334	£350	4.8%	
D	Meeting charge	Per hour per officer	£175	£183	4.6%	
D	Further written advice after meetings		£200	£210	5.0%	
D	Any additional correspondence/advice required upon application	Per hour per officer	£175	£183	4.6%	

3) Hire of Sports Facilities

Sports facilities at Henwick Worthy, Faraday Road, Moorside, The Diamond at Greenham, Holy Brook and Northcroft. The intention is to increase the charges for the use of Council sports facilities by 4.8% (rounded to the nearest £1), except for the peak artificial grass hire and tennis courts at Henwick Worthy which have been uplifted above inflation following a benchmarking exercise and public consultation. The proposed Henwick fees are significantly lower than those consulted on, following the Council's careful consideration of respondents' feedback:

Sports Pitches	2024/25
Total income	£116,905
Number of Transactions	2,300

			Fees and Charges 2025/26	Proposed Fees and Charges 2026/27	% Increase
Henwick Worthy Sports Ground:					
D	Cricket – 1 st Hand Wicket (per match)	Adult	£113.00	£118.00	4.42%
		Junior	£53.00	£56.00	5.66%
D	Cricket – 2 nd Hand Wicket (used grass)	Adult	£84.00	£88.00	4.76%
		Junior	£41.00	£43.00	4.88%
D	Football – Grass (per game)	Adult	£86.00	£90.00	4.65%
		Junior	£42.00	£44.00	4.76%
D	Rugby – Grass (per game)	Adult	£86.00	£90.00	4.65%
		Junior	£42.00	£44.00	4.76%
D	Rugby Training	Cost per Hour	£23.00	£24.00	4.35%
	Use of Portable Lights	Cost Per Hour	£23.00	£24.00	4.35%
D	Full Pitch Artificial Grass - peak	30 Mins	£46.00	£51.00	10.87%
		1hr Only	£92.00	£102.00	10.87%
		1hr 30mins (11 a side)	£140.00	£155.00	10.71%
D	Half Pitch Artificial Grass - peak	30 Mins	£26.00	£29.00	11.54%
		1hr Only (5 a side)	£51.00	£56.00	9.80%
		1hr 30mins	£78.00	£86.00	10.26%
D	Full Pitch Artificial Grass – off-peak	30 Mins	£22.00	£23.00	4.55%
		1hr Only	£43.00	£45.00	4.65%
		1hr 30mins (11 a side)	£65.00	£68.00	4.62%
D	Half Pitch Artificial Grass – off-peak	30 Mins	£12.00	£13.00	8.33%
		1hr Only (5 a side)	£22.00	£23.00	4.55%
		1hr 30mins	£34.00	£36.00	5.88%

			Fees and Charges 2025/26	Proposed Fees and Charges 2026/27	% Increase
Hardcourt Activities:					
D	Netball (per court per hr)	1hr Only	£22.00	£23.00	4.55%
		1hr 30 mins	£33.00	£35.00	6.06%
D	Tennis (per court per hr)	1hr Only	£12.00	£14.00	16.67%
		1hr 30 mins	£18.00	£20.00	11.11%
D	Basketball Hardcut and BMX Pump Track	Adult	Free	Free	
		Junior	Free	Free	
Faraday Road					
D	Football - Grass (Per Game)	Adult	£71.00	£74.00	4.23%
		Junior	£36.00	£38.00	5.56%
Moorside:					
D	Football - Grass (Per Game)	Adult	£48.00	£50.00	4.17%
		Junior	£24.00	£25.00	4.17%
The Diamond -Greenham:					
D	Football - Grass (Per Game)	Adult	£71.00	£74.00	4.23%
		Junior	£36.00	£38.00	5.56%
Holybrook Park:					
D	Football – Grass (per game)	Adult	£71.00	£74.00	4.23%
		Junior	£36.00	£38.00	5.56%
Northcroft Recreation Ground:					
D	Football - Grass (per game)	Adult	£71.00	£74.00	4.23%
		Junior	£36.00	£38.00	5.56%
MISC					
D	Schools LEA Rate Per Hour	60 mins	£26.00	£27.00	3.85%
		90 mins	£39.00	£41.00	5.13%
D	Open Space Hire	Community Events Other	Price on Application		
D	Peak Rate – Weekday evenings after 6pm and all day Saturday, Off-Peak Rate – Weekdays before 6pm and all day Sunday				

4) Charges to Householders for Sewage Treatment

Approximately 150 properties, mainly in rural areas, are connected to small sewage treatment plants. These are the responsibility of West Berkshire Council to maintain, having previously been under the ownership of Newbury District Council until the point at which the affected housing stock was transferred to Sovereign Housing Association. The householders pay a fee to the Council which contributes to the maintenance costs.

5) Waste

The Garden Waste Scheme is proposed to increase by £5 per Council Tax Band. All other waste fees which are set locally are proposed to be increased by 4.8% on average:

2024/25	Total income	Number of Transactions
Garden Waste Subscriptions	£2,076,792	5,139
Waste Other	£220,574	3,017
Total	£2,297,366	£8,156

			Fees and Charges 2025/26	Proposed Fees and Charges 2026/27	Increase %	Notes
Waste Services						
D	Special Collection Charges (Bulky Household Collection)	Normal (within 7 days)	£63	£66.50	5.56%	
		Within 7 days by appointment inside property	£92	£96.50	4.89%	
D	Provision of wheelie bin		£37	£39.00	5.41%	
D	Provision of receptacles for collection of household waste for new developments		N/A	Price on Application		Price can vary dependant on property/development type. With charges ranging from £20 to £400 per unit and current market rates. Will require agreement of s106 for each development.

			Fees and Charges 2025/26	Proposed Fees and Charges 2026/27	Increase %	Notes
Waste Services						
D	Collection of garden waste for year (scheduled) - for 1st green bin (new subscriptions or renewals).	Council Tax Band				
		Band A	£40	£45	12.50%	
		Band B	£45	£50	11.11%	
		Band C	£50	£55	10.00%	
		Band D	£55	£60	9.09%	
		Band E	£60	£65	8.33%	
		Band F	£65	£70	7.69%	
		Band G	£70	£75	7.14%	
	Band H	£75	£80	6.67%		
D	Garden Waste service charge for 2nd to 5th green bins (For renewals only where one off set up payment has already been made).		£53	£56	5.66%	
D	Removal of fly tipping on private land		Price on Application	Price on Application		
D	Removal of graffiti up to 2m ² area		Price on Application	Price on Application		
SL	Section 33 Fixed Penalty Notice for Fly Tipping		£1,000	£1,000	0.00%	
	Section 33 Fixed Penalty Notice for Fly Tipping - if paid within 10 days		N/A	£500	N/A	

			Fees and Charges 2025/26	Proposed Fees and Charges 2026/27	Increase %	Notes
Waste Services						
SL	Section 34 Fixed Penalty Notice for Duty of Care offences		£600	£600	0.00%	
	Section 34 Fixed Penalty Notice for Duty of Care offences - if paid within 10 days		N/A	£300	N/A	

			Fees and Charges 2025/26	Proposed Fees and Charges 2026/27	Increase %	Notes
HWRC non-household waste charges:						
SD	Soil and Rubble	Less than two 50 litre bags or a single item no larger than 2000mm x 750mm x 700mm in size.	£0.00	£0.00		
		Per 25-litre bag or its equivalent, or for a single item exceeding the free limit above, or if a household makes over four visits within a four-week period.	£4.00	£4.20	5.00%	
		Standard Car/Hatchback	£18.00	£19.00	5.56%	
		Trailer	£30.00	£32.00	6.67%	
		Small Van /Estate Car	£36.00	£38.00	5.56%	
		Transit van or similar	£118.00	£124.00	5.08%	
SD	Plasterboard	Less than two 50 litre bags or a single item no larger than 2000mm x 750mm x 700mm in size.	£0.00	£0.00		
		Per 25-litre bag or its equivalent, or for a single item exceeding the free limit above, or if a household makes over four visits within a four-week period.	£3.00	£3.20	6.67%	
		Standard car / Hatchback	£17.00	£17.90	5.29%	
		Trailer	£28.00	£29.40	5.00%	
		Small Van / Estate car	£33.00	£34.60	4.85%	
		Transit Van or similar	£107.00	£112.40	5.05%	
D	Tyres	Motorised mini bike / motorised go-kart	£4.00	£4.20	5.00%	
		Standard tyre off rim (car/motorcycle)	£7.00	£7.40	5.71%	
		Standard tyre on rim (car motor cycle)	£10.00	£10.50	5.00%	
		Medium tyre off rim (large 4 x4 / large van)	£12.00	£12.60	5.00%	
		Medium tyre on rim (large 4 x 4 / large van)	£15.00	£15.80	5.33%	
		Miscellaneous tyres	£4.00	£4.20	5.00%	
	Gas canisters		£0.00	£0.00		
Charges for Non WBC Residents:						
D	Use of HWRCs	Charge per visit	£10.00	£10.50	5.00%	

Proposals – Resources Directorate

1) Electoral Services

These charges are statutory and the Council has no discretion to vary the level.

2) Local Land Charges

Land Charges fees are proposed to be increased by 4.8% in line with budget build guidance. A detailed benchmarking exercise was undertaken during 2024/25:

Land Charges	2024/25
Total Income	£271,501
Number of Searches	1,383

		Fee (including VAT) 2025/26	Proposed Fee (including VAT) 2026/27	% Increase
SD	CON29 Enquiries Part 1 - Residential* (First Parcel)	£264.00	£276.00	4.5%
SD	CON29 Enquiries Part 1- Commercial** (First Parcel)	£291.00	£306.00	5.2%
SD	CON29 Enquiries Part 1 (Additional Parcel)	£69.00	£72.00	4.3%
SD	CON29 Part 2 Questions 4-22 (each)	£57.00	£60.00	5.3%
SD	Solicitor / Conveyancers Additional Questions (each)	£63.00	£66.00	4.8%
	*Residential definition	An individual residential property, including any garden and associated parking/garage		
	**Commercial definition	Shops, offices, factories, warehouses, business premises, farms, fields and land		

3) Legal Services Fees

Fees and Charges for Legal Services have been raised by 4.8% in line with budget build guidance:

Legal Services	2024/25
Total Income	£124,575
Transactions	198

	Charge	Rate	Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	% Increase
D	Solicitors, Barristers, Chartered Legal Executives of 8 Years + PQE	Hourly	£194	£203	4.6%
D	Solicitors, Barristers and Chartered Legal Executives between 4 and 8 year PQE	Hourly	£179	£188	5.0%
D	All other fee earners (including Paralegals and Legal Executives but excluding Trainee Solicitors)	Hourly	£165	£173	4.8%
D	Trainee Solicitors	Hourly	£138	£145	5.1%

		Purpose of application	Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	% Increase
D	Section 15A of the Commons Act 2006; Section 15 Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013	Landowners' Statements	£1,260	£1,320	4.8%
D	Section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006	Registration of a new Town or Village green, other than by the Owner	No Fee	No Fee	
D	Section 15(8) of the Commons Act 2006	Registration of a New Town or Village Green by Landowner	No Fee	No Fee	
D	Section 19 of the Commons Act 2006	Correction, for the purpose of Section 19(2)(a) and [c] of an error made by the Registration Authority	No Fee	No Fee	
D	Section 19 of the Commons Act 2006	Correction, for a purpose described in Section 19(2)(b) or (e)	£224	£235	4.9%
D	Section 19 of the Commons Act 2006	Correction, for a purpose described in Section 19(2)(d) – payable per register unit	£34	£36	5.9%
D	Schedule 2, Paragraph 2 or 3 to the Commons Act 2006	Non-registration of Common Land or Town or Village Green	No Fee	No Fee	

		Purpose of application	Fee 2025/26	Proposed Fee 2026/27	% Increase
D	Schedule 2, Paragraph 4 to the Commons Act 2006	Waste Land of a Manor not Registered as Common Land	No Fee	No Fee	
D	Schedule 2, Paragraph 5, to the Commons Act 2006	Town or Village Green wrongly registered as Common Land	No Fee	No Fee	
D	Schedule 2, Paragraphs 6 and 9 to the Commons Act 2006	Deregistration of certain land registered as Common Land or as a Town or Village Green	£1,120	£1,174	4.8%

People Directorate Fees and Charges Proposals 2026/27

Statutory fees are not set by the Council and may be subject to change during the year. Statutory services are outside the scope of VAT. Non-statutory services that have an element of competition (e.g. printing) are subject to standard rated VAT. There are some exemptions to the standard rated tax rule.

1 Adult Social Care

- 1.1 Councils have the power to charge for certain social care services and are required to have a charging policy that is demonstrably fair and does not undermine the overall objectives of social care – that is, to promote both independence and social inclusion of service users. It is recognised that the level of fees and charges can have a direct impact on usage and take up, and in some instances work against the Council's social inclusion agenda by effectively discriminating against those who are less able to pay.
- 1.2 The Council's policy is therefore to charge service users an 'affordable' amount, which is uplifted by inflation each year where appropriate. However, where other local authorities, or Health organisations, are purchasing Council services on behalf of their service users, the charges made to these organisations are designed to reflect the actual costs of the service.
- 1.3 West Berkshire Council's Charging Policy for Adult Social Care services, introduced in 2015, states that the individual will have one assessed charge for all services. All services will be added together before a service user is financially assessed.
- 1.4 The guidance allows for a prescribed list of allowances, for example, rent, mortgage, council tax, buildings insurance, etc plus disability related costs, for example, community alarm system, extra heating costs that meet an individual's presenting care needs.
- 1.5 These allowances are then deducted from the total income to give an assessable income when an individual is receiving care in a non-residential setting.
- 1.6 From April 2012, any new or reviewed eligible individual requiring support from Adult Social Care receives this in the form of a Personal Budget through which they can arrange their support. As of 1 April 2011, individuals have been charged for each day they have booked at a Resource Centre and only in exceptional circumstances will charges be waived for non-attendance.
- 1.7 There are generally two types of charges – discretionary and statutory:

- **Discretionary Charges**

Unless otherwise stated, the fee increases for 2026/27 are by the annual September CPI of 3.8% + 1.0%. The charge to other Local Authorities and Health organisations for West Berkshire Resource Centres will also be increased by 4.8% for 2026/27.

Community Based Services will be charged at the actual cost of the service, including administration costs.

Other Day Centre services will be charged at the actual cost.

Some fees have been increased by more than 4.8% to ensure that the cost covers the work being undertaken.

- **Statutory Charges**

The method of assessing contributions from clients in long-term residential care is covered by Section 14 of the Care Act 2014, the Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) Regulations 2014, the Care and Support Statutory Guidance and the Council's ASC Charging Policy 2015.

The charges to full cost payers in WBC Homes, and to other Local Authorities and Integrated Care Boards who access services run by West Berkshire Council, are based upon current information in respect of cost and the estimated number of clients using the service.

Deputyship Fees are set by the Court of Protection.

Key to the follow tables

SL	Statutory by Legislation
SD	Statutory with Discretion
D	Discretionary
Note 1	Fee is below or above 4.8% due to rounding to the nearest £0.10 or £1.00.

CHARGE	UNIT	2024/25 INCOME	NUMBER OF CLIENTS	FEE 2025/26	PROPOSED FEE 2026/27	% Change	NOTES	
RESIDENTIAL AND NURSING CARE:								
SL	Residential and Nursing Care in Independent sector homes	Per Week	£5,944,856	575	Actual cost	Actual cost	Maximum charge subject to financial assessment	
SL	Residential Care in WBC Home - Notrees	Per Week	£321,437	29	£1,121.50	£1,175.30		4.8%
SL	Residential Care in WBC Home - Willows	Per Week	£724,855	45	£1,121.50	£1,175.30		4.8%
SL	Residential Care in WBC Home - Birchwood	Per Week	£1,114,273	53	£1,269.70	£1,330.60		4.8%
SL	Nursing Care in WBC Home - Birchwood	Per Week			£1,269.70	£1,330.60		4.8%
SL	Residential and Nursing care in WBC Homes - charge the assessed contribution whilst in hospital if bed retained at the home	Per Week	Included in above income	Included in above numbers	Assessed Charge	Assessed Charge		
SL	Residential and Nursing care in WBC Homes - charge the assessed contribution from date of admission even if client subsequently decides to leave the home during the review period	Per Week			Assessed Charge	Assessed Charge		

CHARGE	UNIT	2024/25 INCOME	NUMBER OF CLIENTS	FEE 2025/26	PROPOSED FEE 2026/27	% Change	NOTES		
COMMUNITY SUPPORT:									
SL	External Day activities	Per Day	£271,724	581	Actual cost	Actual cost		Maximum charge subject to financial assessment	
D	Transport	Per Trip			£5.00	£5.20	4.0%	* note 1	
SL	Technology Enabled Care (TEC) GPS Monitoring and Response Service	Per Day			£0.63	£0.63	0.0%	Refer to 1.8	
SL	Technology Enabled Care (TEC) Monitoring and Response Service	Per Day			£0.46	£0.46	0.0%	Refer to 1.8	
SL	Direct Payments (DP)	Per DP	£463,434	128	Actual cost	Actual cost			
SL	Personal Care	Per Hour	£3,250,289	751	£22.00	£22.00	0.0%	Refer to 1.9	
SL	Live-In Care	Per Week			Actual cost	Actual cost			
SL	Community Support	Per Hour			£20.40	£20.50	0.5%	Refer to 1.9	
SL	Extra Care Housing (ECH) at Alice Bye Court for Community Support and Personal Care	Per Hour	£1,557,585	590	Actual cost	Actual cost		Maximum charge subject to financial assessment	
SL	Extra Care Housing (ECH) at Alice Bye Court for Core Care charge for on-site response service	Per Week			£33.80	£35.40	4.7%		* note 1
SL	Extra Care Housing (ECH) at Audrey Needham House & Redwood House for Community Support and Personal Care	Per Hour			Actual cost	Actual cost			
SL	Extra Care Housing (ECH) at Audrey Needham House & Redwood House for Core Care charge for on-site response service	Per Week			£32.40	£34.00	4.9%		* note 1
SL	Sleep In Care	Per Night			Actual cost	Actual cost			
SL	Waking Night cover	Per Night			Actual cost	Actual cost			
SL	Respite Care	Per Night	£16,532	21	Actual cost	Actual cost			
D	WBC Resource Centre	Per Day	£393,210	168	£64.70	£67.80	4.8%		
D	WBC Resource Centre outreach workers	Per Hour			£25.60	£26.80	4.7%	* note 1	
D	WBC Resource Centre transport	Per Trip			£5.00	£5.20	4.0%	* note 1	
D	WBC Resource Centre meals	Per Meal			£63,510	136	£6.80	£7.10	4.4%
D	WBC Resource Centre to other LA's and ICB's - Older People	Per Day	£58,556	3	£89.90	£94.20	4.8%		
D	WBC Resource Centre to other LA's and ICB's - Learning Disability	Per Day			£146.00	£153.00	4.8%		
D	WBC Resource Centre to other LA's and ICB's - Physical Disability	Per Day			£135.60	£142.10	4.8%		

1.8 Technology Enabled Care will not be increased for 2026/27, this is the actual cost of the service from the provider.

1.9 The rate for Personal Care and Community Support is based on the current average rate commissioned by the Council:

CHARGE	UNIT	2024/25 INCOME	NUMBER OF CLIENTS	FEE 2025/26	PROPOSED FEE 2026/27	% Change	NOTES				
ADMINISTRATION FEES:											
SD	Administration fee for commissioning care for full cost clients	Per Annum	£45,312	313	£365.00	£383.00	4.9%	* note 1			
SD	Setup fee for deferred payers	Set Up	£231,276	275	£1,200.00	£1,258.00	4.8%				
SD	Administration fee for deferred payers	Per Annum			£400.00	£420.00	5.0%	* note 1			
D	Support in making a Lasting Power of Attorney application	Per Application			£203.00	£213.00	4.9%	* note 1			
D	Next of kin support administration following the death of a Deputyship client	Per Hour			£134.20	£140.60	4.8%				
D	Support in making a Deputyship application	Per Application			£457.00	£480.00	5.0%	* note 1			
SL	Work up to the date that the Deputyship order is issued	Per Annum			£944.00	Fees are set by the Court of Protection			Dependent on client's capital		
SL	Deputyship - Annual management fee first year	Per Annum			£982.00						
SL	Deputyship - Annual management fee for subsequent years	Per Annum			£824.00						
SL	Deputyship - Property management fee	Per Annum			£380.00						
SL	Deputyship - Prepare and lodgement of annual return to OPG	Per Return			£274.00						
SL	Deputyship - Preparation of a basic HMRC income tax return	Per Return			£89.00						
SL	Deputyship - Preparation of a complex HMRC income tax return	Per Return			£140.00						
SL	Deputyship - travel	Per 1 hour			£51.00						
D	Support in making a Appointeeship application	Per Application			£169.20					£177.30	4.8%
D	Administration fee to ICB for reimbursement of providers / client payments	Per Annum	£262.50	£275.10	4.8%						
D	Completion of Mental Capacity (COP3) application	Per Application	£160	3	£56.10	£58.80	4.8%				

CHARGE	UNIT	2024/25 INCOME	NUMBER OF CLIENTS	FEE 2025/26	PROPOSED FEE 2026/27	% Change	NOTES		
ADULT PLACEMENTS:									
SD	Band 1 - Full time placement	Per Week	£212,341	50	£271.25	£284.30	4.8%	Maximum charge subject to financial assessment	
SD	Band 2 - Full time placement	Per Week			£315.34	£330.50	4.8%		
SD	Band 3 - Full time placement	Per Week			£380.31	£398.60	4.8%		
SD	Band 1 - Respite	Per Night			£78.70	£82.50	4.8%		
SD	Band 2 - Respite	Per Night			£86.30	£90.40	4.8%		
SD	Band 3 - Respite	Per Night			£102.50	£107.40	4.8%		
SD	Band 1 - Over Night	Per Night			£55.60	£58.30	4.9%		* note 1
SD	Band 2 - Over Night	Per Night			£66.40	£69.60	4.8%		
SD	Band 3 - Over Night	Per Night			£77.20	£80.90	4.8%		
SD	Band 1 - Day support	Per Hour			£12.20	£12.80	4.9%		* note 1
SD	Band 2 - Day support	Per Hour			£14.60	£15.30	4.8%		
SD	Band 3 - Day support	Per Hour			£15.90	£16.70	5.0%		* note 1
SD	Management fee - Full time placement	Per Week			£51,921	7	£142.10		£148.90
SD	Management fee - Respite	Per Week	£42.50	£44.50			4.7%	* note 1	
SD	Management fee - Day support	Per Hour	£5.60	£5.90			5.4%	* note 1	

Phoenix Resource Centre	2024/25
Total Income	26,106
Number of transactions	108

CHARGE	UNIT	FEE 2025/26	PROPOSED FEE 2026/27	% Change
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PHOENIX RESOURCE CENTRE:

D	Ground floor Theatre (with lighting and audio system) from	Per Day	£113.70	£119.20	4.8%	
		Per Half Day	£59.50	£62.40	4.9%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£28.20	£29.60	5.0%	* note 1
D	Ground floor Theatre (with lighting and audio system) to	Per Day	£199.00	£208.60	4.8%	
		Per Half Day	£106.70	£111.80	4.8%	
		Per Hour	£51.20	£53.70	4.9%	* note 1
D	Audience seating (setting up and taking down)	Per Day	£93.30	£97.80	4.8%	
		Per Half Day	£93.30	£97.80	4.8%	
		Per Hour	£93.30	£97.80	4.8%	
D	First floor Theatre office	Per Day	£21.30	£22.30	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Half Day	£21.30	£22.30	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£21.30	£22.30	4.7%	* note 1
D	Ground floor frailty and dementia suite (Lilac Lounge)	Per Day	£113.20	£118.60	4.8%	
		Per Half Day	£59.40	£62.30	4.9%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£19.80	£20.80	5.1%	* note 1
D	Ground floor physical disability suite (Sunshine Room)	Per Day	£75.20	£78.80	4.8%	
		Per Half Day	£38.30	£40.10	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£13.40	£14.00	4.5%	* note 1
D	Ground floor sensory cooking room	Per Day	£75.20	£78.80	4.8%	
		Per Half Day	£38.30	£40.10	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£13.40	£14.00	4.5%	* note 1
D	Ground floor sensory room	Per Day	£75.20	£78.80	4.8%	
		Per Half Day	£38.30	£40.10	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£13.40	£14.00	4.5%	* note 1
D	Ground floor optimusic room	Per Day	£75.20	£78.80	4.8%	
		Per Half Day	£38.30	£40.10	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£13.40	£14.00	4.5%	* note 1
D	Ground floor dining room	Per Day	£113.70	£119.20	4.8%	
		Per Half Day	£59.50	£62.40	4.9%	* note 1
D	Ground floor dining room and kitchen	Per Day	£127.80	£133.90	4.8%	
		Per Half Day	£66.90	£70.10	4.8%	
D	Ground floor small activity room	Daily Rate	£37.30	£39.10	4.8%	
		Per Half Day	£19.10	£20.00	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£8.50	£8.90	4.7%	* note 1
D	First floor TT activity room	Per Day	£75.20	£78.80	4.8%	
		Per Half Day	£38.30	£40.10	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£13.40	£14.00	4.5%	* note 1

CHARGE	UNIT	FEE 2025/26	PROPOSED FEE 2026/27	% Change
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PHOENIX RESOURCE CENTRE CONTINUED:

D	First floor Moving and Handling training room 1	Per Day	£167.00	£175.00	4.8%	
		Per Half Day	£135.70	£142.20	4.8%	
		Per Hour	£46.20	£48.40	4.8%	
D	First floor Moving and Handling training room 1 - room only	Per Day	£83.40	£87.40	4.8%	
		Per Half Day	£69.30	£72.60	4.8%	
		Per Hour	£23.90	£25.00	4.6%	* note 1
D	First floor large meeting room without equipment	Per Day	£46.90	£49.20	4.9%	* note 1
		Per Half Day	£24.20	£25.40	5.0%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£9.90	£10.40	5.1%	* note 1
D	First floor large meeting room with equipment	Per Day	£61.20	£64.10	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Half Day	£29.80	£31.20	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£11.90	£12.50	5.0%	* note 1
D	First floor small meeting rooms	Per Day	£28.20	£29.60	5.0%	* note 1
		Per Half Day	£14.80	£15.50	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£5.50	£5.80	5.5%	* note 1
D	Accessible shower facility and personal care rooms	Per Hour	£12.70	£13.30	4.7%	* note 1

Hungerford Resource Centre	2024/25
Total Income	216
Number of transactions	6

CHARGE	UNIT	FEE 2025/26	PROPOSED FEE 2026/27	% Change
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HUNGERFORD RESOURCE CENTRE:

D	Ground floor main activity room	Per Day	£132.20	£138.50	4.8%	
		Per Half Day	£66.90	£70.10	4.8%	
		Per Hour	£23.40	£24.50	4.7%	* note 1
D	Ground floor computer suite	Per Day	£67.40	£70.60	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Half Day	£33.90	£35.50	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£11.90	£12.50	5.0%	* note 1
D	Ground floor quiet room	Per Day	£33.90	£35.50	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Half Day	£17.70	£18.50	4.5%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£6.90	£7.20	4.3%	* note 1
D	Ground floor hairdressing salon	Per Day	£33.90	£35.50	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Half Day	£17.70	£18.50	4.5%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£6.90	£7.20	4.3%	* note 1
D	First floor meeting room 1	Per Day	£67.40	£70.60	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Half Day	£33.90	£35.50	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£11.90	£12.50	5.0%	* note 1
D	First floor meeting room 2	Per Day	£67.40	£70.60	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Half Day	£33.90	£35.50	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£11.90	£12.50	5.0%	* note 1
D	Accessible shower facility and personal care rooms	Per Hour	£12.70	£13.30	4.7%	* note 1

Greenfield Resource Centre	2024/25
Total Income	101
Number of transactions	1

CHARGE	UNIT	FEE 2025/26	PROPOSED FEE 2026/27	% Change
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GREENFIELD RESOURCE CENTRE:

D	Atrium	Per Day	£132.20	£138.50	4.8%	
		Per Half Day	£66.90	£70.10	4.8%	
		Per Hour	£23.40	£24.50	4.7%	* note 1
D	Computer suite	Per Day	£67.40	£70.60	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Half Day	£33.90	£35.50	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£11.90	£12.50	5.0%	* note 1
D	Highview room	Per Day	£99.40	£104.20	4.8%	
		Per Half Day	£50.40	£52.80	4.8%	
		Per Hour	£17.70	£18.50	4.5%	* note 1
D	Shaw room	Per Day	£99.40	£104.20	4.8%	
		Per Half Day	£50.40	£52.80	4.8%	
		Per Hour	£17.70	£18.50	4.5%	* note 1
D	Windmill room	Per Day	£67.40	£70.60	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Half Day	£33.90	£35.50	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£11.90	£12.50	5.0%	* note 1
D	Sensory room	Per Day	£67.40	£70.60	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Half Day	£33.90	£35.50	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£11.90	£12.50	5.0%	* note 1
D	Small office	Per Day	£33.90	£35.50	4.7%	* note 1
		Per Half Day	£17.70	£18.50	4.5%	* note 1
		Per Hour	£6.90	£7.20	4.3%	* note 1
D	Accessible bath facility and personal care rooms	Per Hour	£12.70	£13.30	4.7%	* note 1
D	Security opening and locking building at weekends	Per Day	£24.20	£25.40	5.0%	* note 1

Social Care Training

1.10 West Berkshire Council Social Care Training courses are open for anyone to access to support the Private, Voluntary and Independent care sector. To support local and accredited social care providers, the charges for this are subsidised. Charging is essential to ensure that people book courses and attend. An increase of 4.8% has been applied to these charges for 2026/27.

1.11 The Department of Health requires Councils to work closely with its partners on joint training and to facilitate improved standards of care through training initiatives; therefore, some joint training will have the same charges as the partners involved and will sit outside this charging policy.

Social Care Training	2024/25
Total Income	34,923
Number of transactions	50

CHARGE	UNIT	FEE 2025/26	PROPOSED FEE 2026/27	% Change
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ADULTS AND CHILDREN'S COURSES:

D	Personal Assistants	Full Day	£56.10	£58.80	4.8%
D		Half Day	£33.60	£35.20	4.8%
D	Private Social Care and all others	Full Day	£116.60	£122.20	4.8%
D		Half Day	£65.00	£68.10	4.8%
D	Voluntary / Associated Social Care	Full Day	£65.00	£68.10	4.8%
D		Half Day	£33.60	£35.20	4.8%

CORPORATE COURSES:

D	Personal Assistants	Full Day	£56.10	£58.80	4.8%
D		Half Day	£33.60	£35.20	4.8%
D	Private Social Care and all others	Full Day	£116.60	£122.20	4.8%
D		Half Day	£65.00	£68.10	4.8%
D	Voluntary / Associated Social Care	Full Day	£116.60	£122.20	4.8%
D		Half Day	£65.00	£68.10	4.8%

FOSTER CARE COURSES:

D	Personal Assistants	Full Day	£56.10	£58.80	4.8%
D		Half Day	£33.60	£35.20	4.8%
D	Private Social Care and all others	Full Day	£116.60	£122.20	4.8%
D		Half Day	£65.00	£68.10	4.8%
D	Voluntary / Associated Social Care	Full Day	£65.00	£68.10	4.8%
D		Half Day	£33.60	£35.20	4.8%

OTHER COURSES FOR PRIVATE, VOLUNTARY, AND INDEPENDENT SECTOR:

D	Associated Organisations	Full Day	£202.80	£212.50	4.8%
D	Non Associated Organisations	Full Day	£525.40	£550.60	4.8%

2 Education: Family Hubs

- 2.1 The Family Hubs may enter into hire agreements to deliver services to children, young people, families and the local community. Family Hubs are non-profit making organisations and as such it is agreed that West Berkshire Family Hubs have a reduced charge for statutory providers for use of the Centres' facilities where they are delivering services for families with children at 0-5 years that fall within the remit of Family Hubs e.g.
- Family Groups and contact visits held by Children Services
 - Clinics and drop-ins held by Health Professionals
- 2.2 The Family Hubs started to charge for activity sessions provided to the public in 2018/19. These activities are pre-booked via an online booking system. Activities are allocated to a pricing band, depending on their nature.
- 2.3 Key to the follow tables:
 SL Statutory by Legislation
 SD Statutory with Discretion
 D Discretionary

Note 1: Fee is below or above 4.8% due to rounding to the nearest £0.05

Family Hubs								
Room Hire	Unit	2024/25 Income	Number of clients	Fees 2025/26	Proposed Fees 2026/27	% change	Notes	
East District - Calcot:								
D	Non profit Organisation	per hour	£364	12	£12.75	£13.35	4.7%	*note 1
D	Profit Organisation	per hour			£25.00	£26.20	4.8%	
D	Statutory Services	per hour			£7.80	£8.15	4.5%	*note 1
Central District - Thatcham Park Lane:								
D	Non profit Organisation	per hour	£45,031	129	£12.75	£13.35	4.7%	*note 1
D	Profit Organisation	per hour			£25.00	£26.20	4.8%	
D	Statutory Services	per hour			£7.80	£8.15	4.5%	*note 1

Note: contributions are accepted for Stay and Play activities towards refreshments.

Family Hubs Additional Fees and Charges (Out of hours)						
	Unit	Fees 2025/26	Proposed Fees 2026/27	% change	Notes	
D	Caretaker Opening Charge		12.85	13.50	5%	Charges after 6pm Weekdays and on Saturdays
D	Caretaker Waiting Time Charge	per hour				Charges after 6pm Weekdays and on Saturdays
	1 Hour		N/A	N/A	0.0%	
	2 hours		£8.85	£9.25	4.6%	
	3 Hours		£13.35	£14.00	4.9%	
	4 Hours		£17.70	£18.55	4.8%	
	5 Hours		£21.65	£22.70	4.8%	
	6 Hours		£26.05	£27.30	4.8%	
D	Fees for afterhours bookings	One-off	£4.45	£4.65	4.6%	*note 1

Family Hubs Activity Sessions						
	Band	Unit	Fees 2025/26	Proposed Fees 2026/27	% change	Notes
D	A	per session	£0 - £3.85	£0 - £4.00	3.9%	*note 1
D	B	per session	£3.86 - £12.75	£4.01 - £13.35	4.7%	*note 1
D	C	per session	£12.76 - £25.00	£13.36 - £26.20	4.8%	

Name of session/Group	Charging Band	Basis
All Stay, Play & Learn Groups	A	Per family per session
Messy Play	A	Per family per session
All Baby Groups	A	Per family per session
Post Natal Group	A	Per family per session
Family Learning Courses	A	Per learner per session
Baby massage	B	Per family per session
Paediatric First Aid	C	Per adult one off session

3 Education: Home to School Transport

The Standard Rate has increased by £54 per year from £1,038 (academic year 2025/26) to £1,092 (academic year 2026/27) to reflect increasing transport costs. The rate represents £5.75 for a return journey per school day. The Rate applies across West Berkshire so that rural communities are not disadvantaged with a higher price:

Home to School Transport Fees and Charges

Home To School Transport							
Band		2024/25 Income	Number of fare payers	Fees 2025/26	Proposed Fees 2026/27	% change	Notes
D	Standard rate	£533,230	525	£1,038	£1,092	5%	Fare Payer charges
D	Replacement bus pass admin fee	£645	43	£15	£15	0	
D	Rail pass admin fee	£60	3	£20	£20	0	

4 Children's Social Care

- 4.1** Section 20 Parental Contribution Policy relates to situations where a child is accommodated by a Local Authority under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989.
- 4.2** Section 20 allows Local Authorities to provide accommodation for a child with parental consent, without a court order, if doing so safeguards or promotes the child's welfare. It is a voluntary arrangement where parents agree to the child being looked after by the Local Authority.
- 4.3** Under Schedule 2, Part III of the Children Act 1989, Local Authorities must consider whether to recover contributions toward the child's maintenance from anyone liable (usually the parents). Individual financial circumstances will be considered.
- 4.4** The rate is set at 50% of the lowest foster care rate for the youngest age band. For 2026/27, the rate has been increased by 4.8% to £139.81 per week:

	CHARGE	UNIT	2024/25 INCOME	NUMBER OF CLIENTS	FEE 2025/26	PROPOSED FEE 2026/27	% Change
	PARENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS:						
SD	Parental contribution for children accommodated under section 20	Per Week	£0	-	£133.41	£139.81	4.8%

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Fees & Charges: Public Protection Partnership 2026/27

The Public Protection Partnership (PPP) provides chargeable services on behalf of two authorities, Bracknell Forest Council and West Berkshire Council. Where services are provided to Wokingham Borough Council, the applicable fees will be levied.

Fees effective from 1 April 2026

Please Note:

- All Statutory Fees and those linked to national schemes are based on fees published on 01 September 2025 and may be subject to change by Central Government or the management of the schemes.
- The Hourly rate is **£74 ph** for 2026/27, if there is a minimum number of hours or it is capped it is indicated in the text below.
- Class A Statutory Fees are marked with **Green** and Class B Discretionary Fees are headed **Blue**
- There are some additional fees which will be due when making an application, these are listed separately (if known) and with a note if amounts vary.
- If you have any questions regarding fees and charges, please contact PPP Customer Delivery team using our [Make an enquiry form](#).

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LICENCES, REGISTRATIONS AND CONSENTS

Pre Application Advice

We provide chargeable pre-application advice for the following licenses and consents:

License/Consents	2026/27 Fee	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
Gambling Act	£74 ph	£69ph	7.2%
Licensed Premises Notifications	£74 ph	£69ph	7.2%
Licensing Act 2003	£74 ph	£69ph	7.2%
Scrap Metal	£74 ph	£69ph	7.2%
Sex Establishments	£74 ph	£69ph	7.2%
Skin Piercing & Dermal Treatments	£74 ph	£69ph	7.2%
Street Trading Consents	£74 ph	£69ph	7.2%

Animal Licences

Animal Licences – (Class A – Fee Discretionary)	2026/27 Fee	2025/26 Fee	% Increase	
<p>*The application fee stated is for licensing administration- an additional charge will be made for a new or renewal inspection at cost by City of London inspectors</p> <p>**the granting fee stated is for licensing administration-an additional charge will be made for the cost of a midterm inspection at cost carried out by City of London inspectors</p> <p>*** Additional vets fee payable</p> <p>Inspections required beyond the above mentioned due to additional visits and aborted visits will be charged at an additional fee</p>				
NEW - Animal Boarding Establishment - combined (dogs and cats)	Application Fee	£ 222* plus inspection costs	£207	7.2%
	Granting Fee	£148** plus inspection costs	Minimum 4 hours at £276*	^Not directly comparable, as CoL charges are now additional to the two hour admin fee (uplifted by 7.2%)
	Total Fee (minimum)	£370 plus inspection costs	£483 minimum	^ See above
RENEWAL - Animal Boarding Establishment - combined (dogs and cats)	Application Fee	£185* plus inspection costs	£172.50	7.2%
	Granting Fee	£148** plus inspection costs	Minimum 4 hours at £276	^ See above
	Total Fee (minimum)	£333 plus inspection costs	£448.50 minimum	^ See above

NEW - Animal Boarding Establishment - single species (dogs or cats))	Application Fee	£148* plus inspection costs	£138	7.2%
	Granting Fee	£148** plus inspection costs	Minimum 4 hours at £276*	^ See above
	Total Fee (minimum)	£296 plus inspection costs	£414 minimum	^ See above
RENEWAL - Animal Boarding Establishment - single species (dogs or cats))	Application Fee	£111* plus inspection costs	£103.50	7.2%
	Granting Fee	£148** plus inspection costs	Minimum 4 hours at £276*	^ See above
	Total Fee (minimum)	£259 plus inspection costs	£379.50 minimum	^ See above
NEW - Home boarder	Application Fee	£148* plus inspection costs	£138	7.2%
	Granting Fee	£148** plus inspection costs	Minimum 4 hours at £276*	^ See above
	Total Fee (minimum)	£296 plus inspection costs	£414 minimum	^ See above
RENEWAL - Home boarder	Application Fee	£111* plus inspection costs	£103.50	7.2%
	Granting Fee	£148** plus inspection costs	Minimum 4 hours at £276*	^ See above
	Total Fee (minimum)	£259 plus inspection costs	£379.50 minimum	^ See above
NEW - Home Boarder - Franchisee arrangers licence (excludes inspection fee per host)	Application Fee	£148* plus host inspection costs	£138	7.2%
	Granting Fee	Per inspection at inspection costs/hourly costs	Per inspection at hourly rate	^ See above
	Total Fee (minimum)	£148 + host inspection costs	£138 + host inspection fee	^ See above
RENEWAL - Home Boarder - Franchisee arrangers licence (excludes inspection fee per host)	Application Fee	£111* plus host inspection costs	£103.50	7.2%
	Granting Fee	Per inspection at inspection costs/hourly rate	Per inspection at hourly rate	^ See above
	Total Fee (minimum)	£111 + host inspection costs	£103.50 + host inspection fee	^ See above
Assessment of hobby host as part of a franchisee licence	Host inspection fee	(£244) at cost of inspection	£138	Increased to CoL inspection rate
NEW - Dog Day Care	Application Fee	£222* plus inspection costs	£207	7.2%
	Granting Fee	£148** plus inspection costs	Minimum 4 hours at £276*	^ See above
	Total Fee (minimum)	£296 plus inspection costs	£483 minimum	^ See above

RENEWAL - Dog Day Care	Application Fee	£185* plus inspection costs	£172.50	7.2%
	Granting Fee	£148** plus inspection costs	Minimum 4 hours at £276*	^ See above
	Total Fee (minimum)	£333 plus inspection costs	£448.50 minimum	^ See above
NEW - Dog Breeding Establishment (***) excluding vet fee	Application Fee	£222* plus inspection costs	£207	7.2%
	Granting Fee	£148** plus inspection costs	Minimum 4 hours at £276*	^ See above
	Total Fee (minimum)	£370 plus inspection costs	£483 minimum	^ See above
RENEWAL - Dog Breeding Establishment	Application Fee	£185* plus inspection costs	£172.50	7.2%
	Granting Fee	148** plus inspection costs	Minimum 4 hours at £276*	^ See above
	Total Fee (minimum)	£333 plus inspection costs	£448.50 minimum	^ See above
NEW - Dog Breeding Establishment (in domestic dwelling)(***) excluding vet fee	Application Fee	£148* plus inspection costs	£138	7.2%
	Granting Fee	£148** plus inspection costs	Minimum 4 hours at £276*	^ See above
	Total Fee (minimum)	£296** plus inspection costs	£414 minimum**	^ See above
RENEWAL - Dog Breeding Establishment (in domestic dwelling)	Application Fee	£111* plus inspection costs	£103.50	7.2%
	Granting Fee	£148** plus inspection costs	Minimum 4 hours at £276*	^ See above
	Total Fee (minimum)	£259 plus inspection costs	£379.50 minimum	^ See above
NEW - Pet Vending / Sale of pets	Application Fee	£148* plus inspection costs	£138	7.2%
	Granting Fee	£148** plus inspection costs	Minimum 4 hours at £276*	^ See above
	Total Fee (minimum)	£296 plus inspection costs	£414 minimum	^ See above
RENEWAL - Pet Vending / Sale of pets	Application Fee	£111* plus inspection costs	£103.50	7.2%
	Granting Fee	£148** plus inspection costs	Minimum 4 hours at £276*	^ See above
	Total Fee (minimum)	£259 plus inspection costs	£379.50 minimum	^ See above
NEW - Animal for Exhibition	Application Fee	£222* plus inspection costs	£207	7.2%
	Granting Fee	148** plus inspection costs	Minimum 4 hours at £276*	^ See above
	Total Fee (minimum)	£370 plus inspection costs	£483 minimum	^ See above
RENEWAL - Animal for Exhibition	Application Fee	£185* plus inspection costs	£172.50	7.2%
	Granting Fee	£148** plus inspection costs	Minimum 4 hours at £276*	^ See above

	Total Fee (minimum)	£333 plus inspection costs	£448.50 minimum	^ See above
Riding Establishment - Inspections are carried out annually, regardless of the star rating or length of licence, by a qualified Veterinarian Officer. ***Vets fees will be recharged separately.				
NEW - Main inspection fee, plus fee per horse (***excluding vets fee)	Application Fee	£148	£138	7.2%
	Granting Fee	Minimum 4 hours at £296	Minimum 4 hours at £276*	7.2%
	Total Fee (minimum)	£444 minimum***	£414 minimum**	7.2%
RENEWAL - Main inspection fee, plus fee per horse (***excluding vets fee)	Application Fee	£111	£103.50	7.2%
	Granting Fee	Minimum 4 hours at £296	Minimum 4 hours at £276*	7.2%
	Total Fee (minimum)	£407 minimum***	£379.50 minimum**	7.2%
Fee per horse, for the first 10 horses		£18.50	£17.25	7.2%
Fee per horse, for next 11-50 horses		£12.50	£11.75	6.4%
Fee per horse, for every horse 51 & over		£10.50	£9.70	8.2%
NEW - Primate Keepers (***excluding vets fee)	Application Fee	£148 plus inspection costs	N/a	New fee, New legislation
	Granting Fee	Minimum 4 hours at £296 plus inspection costs	N/a	New fee, New legislation
	Total Fee (minimum)	£444 minimum*** plus inspection costs	N/a	New fee, New legislation
RENEWAL - Primate Keepers (***excluding vets fee)	Application Fee	£111 plus inspection costs	N/a	New fee, New legislation
	Granting Fee	Minimum 4 hours at £296 plus inspection costs	N/a	New fee, New legislation
	Total Fee (minimum)	£407 minimum*** plus inspection costs	N/a	New fee, New legislation
Primate Keeper (Variation)		£222 plus inspection costs	N/a	New fee, New legislation
Other Fees				
Additional mid licence visit		£148 plus cost of inspection	£138	7.2%
Variation to the licence fee (inclusive of one visit)		£222	£207	7.2%

Replacement licence fee (lost or stolen paperwork, change of name, etc.)		£37	£34.50	7.2%
Re-evaluation of star rating (inclusive of one visit)		£74 plus cost of inspection	£138	1 hr plus cost of inspection now
Transfer due to death of licensee	Admin cost	£37	£34.50	7.2%

Wild Animals and Zoos

Wild Animals & Zoos	Duration	2026/27 Fee	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
NEW - Dangerous Wild Animal Consent (***) excluding vets fee)	2 years	£592 plus inspection costs	£552	7.2%
RENEWAL - Dangerous Wild Animal Consent (***) excluding vets fee)	2 years	£370 plus inspection costs	£345	7.2%
NEW and RENEWAL - Zoo Licences Periodical inspections (***) excluding Vets Fees)	Up to 6 years	£2,590.00	£2415	7.2%

Explosives Licences – Statutory

Description	Duration	2026/27 All Council Areas	2025/26 All Council Areas	% Increase
Licence to store explosives where a separation distance is required by law e.g. over 250kg hazard class 4 fireworks	1 year	£202	£202	0%
	2 years	£266	£266	0%
	3 years	£333	£333	0%
	4 years	£409	£409	0%
	5 years	£463	£463	0%
Renewal of licence to store explosives where a separation distance is required by law e.g. over 250kg hazard class 4 fireworks	1 year	£94	£94	0%
	2 years	£161	£161	0%
	3 years	£226	£226	0%
	4 years	£291	£291	0%

	5 years	£357	£357	0%
Licence to store explosives where no minimum separation distance is required by law e.g. up to 250kg hazard class 4 fireworks	1 year	£119	£119	0%
	2 years	£154	£154	0%
	3 years	£190	£190	0%
	4 years	£226	£226	0%
	5 years	£260	£260	0%
Renewal of licence to store explosives where no minimum separation distance is required by law e.g. up to 250kg hazard class 4 fireworks	1 year	£59	£59	0%
	2 years	£94	£94	0%
	3 years	£132	£132	0%
	4 years	£166	£166	0%
	5 years	£202	£202	0%
Varying the name of licensee or address of site		£40	£40	0%
Any other kind of variation		Cost Recovery	Cost Recovery	
Transfer of licence		£40	£40	0%
Replacement Licence		£40	£40	0%
Full year registration for sale of fireworks (capped fee)		£500.00	£500.00	0%

Gambling Act 2005 – Statutory

Description	Type	2026/27 All Council Areas	2025/26 All Council Areas	% Increase
Casinos (regional)	New Application	£15,000	£15,000	0%
	Provisional Statement	£15,000	£15,000	0%
	Application with Provisional Statement	£8,000	£8,000	0%
	Variation	£7,500	£7,500	0%
	Transfer/Reinstatement	£6,500	£6,500	0%
	Annual Fee	£15,000	£15,000	0%
Casinos (large)	New Application	£10,000	£10,000	0%
	Provisional Statement	£10,000	£10,000	0%
	Application with Provisional Statement	£5,000	£5,000	0%
	Variation	£5,000	£5,000	0%
	Transfer/Reinstatement	£2,150	£2,150	0%
	Annual Fee	£10,000	£10,000	0%
Casinos (small)	New Application	£8,000	£8,000	0%

	Provisional Statement	£8,000	£8,000	0%
	Application with Provisional Statement	£3,000	£3,000	0%
	Variation	£4,000	£4,000	0%
	Transfer/Reinstatement	£1,800	£1,800	0%
	Annual Fee	£5,000	£5,000	0%
Bingo Clubs	New Application	£3,500	£3,500	0%
	Provisional Statement	£3,500	£3,500	0%
	Application with Provisional Statement	£1,200	£1,200	0%
	Variation	£1,750	£1,750	0%
	Transfer/Reinstatement	£1,200	£1,200	0%
	Annual Fee	£1,000	£1,000	0%
Betting Premises	New Application	£3,000	£3,000	0%
	Provisional Statement	£3,000	£3,000	0%
	Application with Provisional Statement	£1,200	£1,200	0%
	Variation	£1,500	£1,500	0%
	Transfer/Reinstatement	£1,200	£1,200	0%
	Annual Fee	£600	£600	0%
Tracks	New Application	£2,500	£2,500	0%
	Provisional Statement	£2,500	£2,500	0%
	Application with Provisional Statement	£950	£950	0%
	Variation	£1,250	£1,250	0%
	Transfer/Reinstatement	£950	£950	0%
	Annual Fee	£1,000	£1,000	0%
Family Entertainment Centres	New Application	£2,000	£2,000	0%
	Provisional Statement	£2,000	£2,000	0%
	Application with Provisional Statement	£950	£950	0%
	Variation	£1,000	£1,000	0%
	Transfer/Reinstatement	£950	£950	0%
	Annual Fee	£750	£750	0%
Adult Gaming Centres	New Application	£2,000	£2,000	0%
	Provisional Statement	£2,000	£2,000	0%
	Application with Provisional Statement	£1,200	£1,200	0%

	Variation	£1,000	£1,000	0%
	Transfer/Reinstatement	£1,200	£1,200	0%
	Annual Fee	£1,000	£1,000	0%
Lotteries & Amusements	New Application	£40	£40	0%
	Annual Fee	£20	£20	0%
All licences	Notification of change	£50	£50	0%
	Copy of licence	£25	£25	0%
Club gaming or machine permit	New Application	£200	£200	0%
	Existing holder	£100	£100	0%
	Renewal	£200	£200	0%
	Annual Fee	£50	£50	0%
	Variation	£100	£100	0%
	Copy of licence	£15	£15	0%
Club Gaming or Machine Permit (holds a club Premises Certificate under Licensing Act 2003)	New Application	£100	£100	0%
	Renewal	£100	£100	0%
Licensed Premises Notifications		All Council Areas		
To make available up to 2 gaming machines on premises which hold on-premises alcohol licence	Notification of intention	£50	£50	0%
Gaming Machine Permit (more than 2 machines) on-premises which hold on premises alcohol licence	Application (existing holder)	£100	£100	0%
	New Application	£150	£150	0%
	Annual Fee	£50	£50	0%
	First Annual Fee (payable within 30 days of date permit takes effect)	£50	£50	0%
	Variation	£100	£100	0%
	Transfer	£25	£25	0%
	Change of name	£25	£25	0%
	Copy of permit	£15	£15	0%

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licences

Vehicle Licences		All Council Areas (where applicable) 2026/27 Fee	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
Hackney Carriage Vehicle – NEW		£333	£310.50*	7.2%
Hackney Carriage Vehicle – RENEWAL		£296	£276*	7.2%
Private Hire Vehicle – NEW		£333	£310.50*	7.2%
Private Hire Vehicle – RENEWAL		£296	£276*	7.2%
Home to school – NEW and RENEWAL	Bracknell only	£185	£172.50	7.2%
Private Hire Vehicle with Dispensation - NEW		£333	£310.50*	7.2%
Private Hire Vehicle with Dispensation - RENEWAL		£296	£276*	7.2%
Temporary Vehicle Licence	Up to 3 months	£296	£276	7.2%
Driver Licences				
Driver – NEW	3 year Includes initial tests and safeguarding training	£370.50	£348	6.5% (calc £ x 4.5 + £37.50)
Driver – RENEWAL	3 year Includes tests and safeguarding training	£333.50	£313.50	6.4% (calc £ x 4 + £37.50)
Home to school – NEW & RENEWAL Bracknell only	3 year Includes initial tests and safeguarding training	£259.50	£237.60	9.2% (calc £ x 2.9 + £37.50)
Conversion of driver licence to another type	1.5hrs (inc retaking tests)	£111	£103.50	7.2%
Disability Awareness Training		At cost	At cost	

Private Hire Operators (PHO)

Private Hire Operator	Number of Vehicles	2026/27 Fee	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
NEW Per vehicle calculation of 3.5 hours (at £74.00 hourly rate) plus an hour per year (years 2-5) for first vehicle, plus 15 minutes per additional vehicle per years (years 1-5) up to a maximum of 20 vehicles	1	£555.00	£517.50	7.2%
	2	£647.50	£603.75	7.2%
	3	£740.00	£690	7.2%
	4	£832.50	£776.25	7.2%
	5	£925.00	£862.50	7.2%
	6	£1,017.50	£948.75	7.2%
	7	£1,110.00	£1035	7.2%
	8	£1,202.50	£1121.25	7.2%
	9	£1,295.00	£1207.50	7.2%
	10	£1,387.50	£1293.75	7.2%
	11	£1,480.00	£1387	7.2%
	12	£1,572.50	£1466.25	7.2%
	13	£1,665.00	£1552.50	7.2%
	14	£1,757.50	£1638.75	7.2%
	15	£1,850.00	£1725	7.2%
	16	£1,942.50	£1811.25	7.2%
	17	£2,035.00	£1897.50	7.2%
	18	£2,127.50	£1983.75	7.2%
	19	£2,220.00	£2070	7.2%
	20	£2,312.50	£2156.25	7.2%
	20+	£2,312.50	£2156.25	7.2%
Private Hire Operator	Number of Vehicles	2026/27 Fee	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
RENEWAL Per vehicle calculation of 1.5 hours (at £74 hourly rate) plus an hour per year (years 2-5) for first	1	£407.00	£379.50	7.2%
	2	£499.50	£465.75	7.2%
	3	£592.00	£552	7.2%
	4	£684.50	£638.25	7.2%
	5	£777.00	£724.50	7.2%
	6	£869.50	£810.75	7.2%
	7	£962.00	£897	7.2%

vehicle, plus 15 minutes per additional vehicle per years (years 1-5) up to a maximum of 20 vehicles	8	£1,054.50	£983.25	7.2%
	9	£1,147.00	£1069.50	7.2%
	10	£1,239.50	£1155.75	7.2%
	11	£1,332.00	£1242	7.2%
	12	£1,424.50	£1328.25	7.2%
	13	£1,517.00	£1414.50	7.2%
	14	£1,609.50	£1500.75	7.2%
	15	£1,702.00	£1587	7.2%
	16	£1,794.50	£1673.25	7.2%
	17	£1,887.00	£1759.50	7.2%
	18	£1,979.50	£1845.75	7.2%
	19	£2,072.00	£1932	7.2%
	20	£2,164.50	£2018.25	7.2%
20+	£2,164.50	£2018.25	7.2%	

Other Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Charges

Other charges		2026/27 Fee All Council Areas (where applicable)	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
Transfer of vehicle to new owner		£74	£69	7.2%
Variation to a Private Hire Operator		£74	£69	7.2%
Change of vehicle		£92.50	£86.25	7.2%
Replacement Licence		£37	£34.50	7.2%
Replacement Badge	Badge was £5	£37 + Badge Costs (£5)	£34.50 + Badge Costs (£5)	7.2%
Replacement Vehicle Licence Plate	Plate was £26	£37 + Plate Costs (£6)	£34.50 + Plate Costs (£26)	7.2%
Knowledge Test	First attempt included in initial fee	£92.50	£86.25	7.2%
Missed Appointment		£37	£34.50	7.2%
Disclosure and Barring Service Check (DBS)		At cost	At cost	

Advertising on a Hackney carriage - NEW	Bracknell Only	£74	£69	7.2%
Advertising on a Hackney Carriage - RENEWAL	Bracknell Only	£37	£34.50	7.2%
Change of address (PH & HC)		£18.50	£17.25	7.2%
Backing Plate	£26 at cost	£26	£26 at cost	
Medical Exemption		£37	£34.50	7.2%
Refund Processing Fee		£37	£34.50	
Change of vehicle registration	Sticker and licence was £31	£37 + sticker and licence costs (£31)	£34.50 + sticker and licence costs (£31)	7.2%
Pre-application advice, hourly rate	Min 1 hour	Hourly rate	£69	7.2%

Hairdresser Registration

Description	2026/27 Fee All Council Areas	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
Hairdresser/barber registration	£37	£34.50	7.2%

Licensing Act 2003 – Statutory

Description	2026/27 Fee All Council Areas	2025/26 Fee All Council Areas	% Increase
Pre-application advice, hourly rate	£74	£69	7.2%
Premises Licence Application – “one off” fees set by statute based upon rateable value (RV) of premises (Class B – Statutory Fee) *	All Council Areas	All Council Areas	
Band A – RV up to 4,300	£100	£100	0%
Band B – RV 4,300 to 33,000	£190	£190	0%
Band C – RV 33,001 to 87,000	£315	£315	0%
Band D – RV 87,001 to 125,000	£450	£450	0%
Band E – RV 125,001 and above	£635	£635	0%

Premises Licence – Annual Fee (Class B – Statutory Fee) *			
Band A – RV up to 4,300	£70	£70	0%
Band B – RV 4,300 to 33,000	£180	£180	0%
Band C – RV 33,001 to 87,000	£295	£295	0%
Band D – RV 87,001 to 125,000	£320	£320	0%
Band E – RV 125,001 and above	£350	£350	0%
Annual charge multiplier applied to premises used exclusively or primarily for the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises - Band D	£640	£640	0%
Annual charge multiplier applied to premises used exclusively or primarily for the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises - Band E	£1050	£1050	0%
Club Premises Certificate Application – “one off” fees set by statute based upon rateable value (RV) of premises (Class B – Statutory Fee)	All Council Areas	All Council Areas	
Band A – RV up to 4,300	£100	£100	0%
Band B – RV 4,300 to 33,000	£190	£190	0%
Band C – RV 33,001 to 87,000	£315	£315	0%
Band D – RV 87,001 to 125,000	£450	£450	0%
Band E – RV 125,001 and above	£635	£635	0%
Club Premises Certificate – Annual Fee (Class B – Statutory Fee)			0%
Band A – RV up to 4,300	£70	£70	0%
Band B – RV 4,300 to 33,000	£180	£180	0%
Band C – RV 33,001 to 87,000	£295	£295	0%
Band D – RV 87,001 to 125,000	£320	£320	0%
Band E – RV 125,001 and above	£350	£350	0%

*There are additional fees for premises licence applications, and the annual fee for exceptionally large scale events (5,000+), unless certain conditions apply. Please read Regulation 4(4) and 4(5) of The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005

	2026/27	2026/27	2025/26	2025/26	% Inc
Additional fees	Additional Premises	Additional annual fee	Additional Premises	Additional annual fee	
Number in attendance at any one time	licence fee	payable if applicable	licence fee	payable if applicable	

5,000 to 9,999	£1,000	£500	£1,000	£500	0%
10,000 to 14,999	£2,000	£1000	£2,000	£1000	0%
15,000 to 19,999	£4,000	£2,000	£4,000	£2,000	0%
20,000 to 29,999	£8,000	£4,000	£8,000	£4,000	0%
30,000 to 39,999	£16,000	£8,000	£16,000	£8,000	0%
40,000 to 49,999	£24,000	£12,000	£24,000	£12,000	0%
50,000 to 59,999	£32,000	£16,000	£32,000	£16,000	0%
60,000 to 69,999	£40,000	£20,000	£40,000	£20,000	0%
70,000 to 79,999	£48,000	£24,000	£48,000	£24,000	0%
80,000 to 89,999	£56,000	£28,000	£56,000	£28,000	0%
90,000 and over	£64,000	£32,000	£64,000	£32,000	0%
Other fees					
Application for the grant or renewal of a personal licence		£37	£37		0%
Temporary event notice		£21	£21		0%
Theft, loss, etc.of premises licence or summary		£10.50	£10.50		0%
Application for a provisional statement where premises being built etc.		£315	£315		0%
Notification of change of name or address		£10.50	£10.50		0%
Application to vary licence to specify individual as premises supervisor		£23	£23		0%
Application for transfer of premises licence		£23	£23		0%
Interim authority notice following death etc.of licence holder		£23	£23		0%
Theft, loss etc.of certificate or summary		£10.50	£10.50		0%
Notification of change of name or alteration of rules of club		£10.50	£10.50		0%
Change of relevant registered address of club		£10.50	£10.50		0%
Theft, loss etc.of temporary event notice		£10.50	£10.50		0%
Theft, loss etc.of personal licence		£10.50	£10.50		0%
Duty to notify change of name or address		£10.50	£10.50		0%
Right of freeholder etc.to be notified of licensing matters		£21	£21		0%
Application for a minor variation		£89	£89		0%
Community Premises applying for the mandatory alcohol condition to be disapplied		£23	£23		0%

Application for the grant or renewal of a personal licence	£37	£37	0%
Temporary event notice	£21	£21	0%
Theft, loss, etc.of premises licence or summary	£10.50	£10.50	0%
Application for a provisional statement where premises being built etc.	£315	£315	0%
Notification of change of name or address	£10.50	£10.50	0%
Pre-application work, hourly rate	£74	£69	7.2%
Film Classification and Issue of Certificate	£18.50 per 15 minutes or part thereof of the film	£17.25 per 15 minutes or part thereof of the film	7.2%

Petroleum Licences – Statutory

Petroleum Licences	2026/27 Fee	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
Not exceeding 2,500 litres	£48	£48	0%
Not exceeding 50,000 litres	£65	£65	0%
Exceeding 50,000 litres	£137	£137	0%

Scrap Metal

Description		2026/27 Fee	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
Scrap Metal site –NEW	3 Years	£592	£552	7.2%
Scrap Metal site - RENEWAL	3 Years	£555	£517.50	7.2%
Scrap Metal mobile collector - NEW	3 Years	£296	£276	7.2%
Scrap Metal mobile collector - RENEWAL	3 Years	£259	£241.50	7.2%
Scrap Metal - Variation of Licence		£296	£276	7.2%
Scrap Metal - change of site manager		£74	£69	7.2%
Scrap Metal - copy of licence		£18.50	£17.25	7.2%
Scrap Metal - Change of Name		£37	£34.50	7.2%

Sex Establishments – Statutory

		2026/27	2025/26	% Increase
Description	Type	All Council Areas	All Council Areas	
Sex establishments	Initial	£6,728	£6,728	0%
Sex establishments	Renewal	£5,085	£5,085	0%
Sex establishments	Transfer	£1,340	£1,340	0%
Sex establishments	Variation	£1,340	£1,340	0%

Skin Piercing & Dermal Treatments

Description	Type	2026/27 Fee	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
Skin piercing Registrations (one off registration) - (Class A – Fee Discretionary)	Individual (4hrs)	£296	£276	7.2%
	Premises (5hrs)	£370	£345	7.2%
	Joint application (7hrs)	£518	£483	7.2%
Pre-application work, hourly rate	Min. 1 hour	£74	£69	7.2%

Street Trading Consents

Description	Type	Bracknell Forest 2026/27 Fee	West Berkshire 2026/27 Fee	Bracknell Forest 2025/26 Fee	% inc	West Berkshire 2025/26 Fee	% inc
Street Trading Consents - (Class A – Fee Discretionary)	Daily	£74	£74	£69	7.2%	£69	7.2%
	1 Week	£185	£185	£172.50	7.2%	£172.50	7.2%
	Monthly Rate	£296	£296	£276	7.2%	£276	7.2%
	3 months	£814	£814	£759	7.2%	£759	7.2%
	6 months	£1,017.50	£1,017.50	£948.75	7.2%	£948.75	7.2%
	Annual Fee	£1,720.50	£1,720.50	£1604.25	7.2%	£1604.25	7.2%
	6 months max. 2 trading days a week incl. Fri, Sat & Sun	£814	N/A	£759	7.2%	N/A	N/A

	6 months max. 2 trading days a week Mon-Thurs only	£610.50	N/A	£569.25	7.2%	N/A	7.2%
	Ice cream van (per van) 6 month	£962	£999	£851	13.3%	£942.50	6%
	Ice cream van (per van) 1 month	£259	£296.00	£221	17%	£282.90	4.7%
Variation fee		£111	£111	£103.50	7.2%	£103.50	7.2%
Refund for Street Traders	In the event that following consultation the application is refused or deemed withdrawn by officers, a sum of 50% of the application fee is payable as a refund. If the application is refused by a Panel, no refund of the application fee is payable.						
Pre-application work, hourly rate	Min. 1 hour	£74	£74	£69	7.2%	£69	7.2%

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Abandoned vehicles – Statutory

		2026/27	2025/26	% Increase
Description		Bracknell Forrest Only	Bracknell Forrest Only	
Removal (prescribed fee)	Less than 3.5 tonnes	£192	£150	28%
Removal (prescribed fee)	Between 3.5 and 7.5 tonnes	£256	£200	28%
Removal (prescribed fee)	Between 7.5 tonnes and 18 tonnes	£448	£350	28%
Removal (prescribed fee)	Over 18 tonnes	£448	£350	28%
Daily Storage (prescribed fee)	Less than 3.5 tonnes	£26	£20	30%
Daily Storage (prescribed fee)	Between 3.5 and 7.5 tonnes	£32	£25	28%
Daily Storage (prescribed fee)	Between 7.5 tonnes and 18 tonnes	£38	£30	27%
Daily Storage (prescribed fee)	Over 18 tonnes	£45	£35	29%
Enforcement Disposal costs (prescribed fee)	Less than 3.5 tonnes	£96	£75	28%
Enforcement Disposal costs (prescribed fee)	Between 3.5 and 7.5 tonnes	£128	£100	28%

Enforcement Disposal costs (prescribed fee)	Between 7.5 tonnes and 18 tonnes	£160	£125	28%
Enforcement Disposal costs (prescribed fee)	Over 18 tonnes	£192	£150	28%
Fixed Penalty Notice	Reduced to £120.00 if paid within 7 days	£200	£200	0%
Enforcement invoice costs		£77	£77	0%

Fly Tipping Environment Protection Act 1990

		Bracknell Forest Only		
Description		2026/27 FPN	2025/26 FPN	% Increase
Section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990	Fixed Penalty Notice	£400	£400	0%
Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990	Fixed Penalty Notice	£300	£300	0%

Anti-Social Behaviour Act

Description		2026/27 Fee	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
Anti-Social Behaviour Act	High Hedges Fee (Class A – Fee Discretionary)	£ 1,517.00	£1414.50	7.2%

Dog Warden Services

Description	2026/27 Fee	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
Stray Dogs – not taken to kennel	Call-out - £130 Statutory Fee - £25	Call-out - £130 Statutory Fee - £25	0 %
Stray Dogs – taken to kennel	Call-out - £130 Statutory Fee - £25 Returning dog from kennels to owner £130	Call-out - £130 Statutory Fee - £25 Returning dog from kennels to owner £130	0%

	Any kennelling and veterinary fees incurred are charged based on cost recovery.	Any kennelling and veterinary fees incurred are charged based on cost recovery.	
Kennels cost	Recharge based on cost. These are subject to variation depending on Kennel's used.	Recharge based on cost. These are subject to variation depending on Kennel's used.	
Dog fouling fixed penalty charge	£100	£100	
Miscellaneous stray dog activities e.g. microchipping.	Cost recovery charged at £74 ph	Cost recovery charged at £69ph	7.2%
Debit and credit card administration costs are subject to payment to Noah's Ark when applicable.	Cost recovery currently £45	Cost recovery currently £45	7.2%

Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016 – Statutory

		2026/27	2025/26	% Increase
Scheduled Processes – (Class B – statutory Fee)		All Council Areas	All Council Areas	
Standard Process		£1,650	£1,650	0%
Additional fee for operating without a permit		£1,188	£1,188	0%
Service Stations (PVR 1 & PVR II combined)		£257	£257	0%
Service Station (PVR 1)		£155	£155	0%
Dry Cleaners		£155	£155	0%
Vehicle Refinishers		£362	£362	0%
Mobile Screening & Crushing Plant for each of the 1 st and 2 nd applications		£1,650	£1,650	0%
Mobile Screening & Crushing Plant for the 3 rd to 7 th applications		£985	£985	0%
Mobile Screening & Crushing Plant for the 8 th and subsequent applications		£498	£498	0%

Substantial changes (variation)				0%
Standard Process		£1,050	£1,050	0%
Standard process where substantial change results in a new PPC activity or any other solvent emission activity		£1,650	£1,650	0%
Reduced Fee Activities		£102	£102	0%
Annual Subsistence Charge (Statutory)				
Standard Process or any other solvent activity	Low	£772	£772	0%
	Medium	£1,161	£1,161	0%
	High	£1,747	£1,747	0%
Service stations PVR II	Low	£113	£113	0%
	Medium	£226	£226	0%
	High	£341	£341	0%
Vehicle Refinishers and other reduced fees	Low	£228	£228	0%
	Medium	£365	£365	0%
	High	£548	£548	0%
Dry cleaners/PVR1	Low	£79	£79	0%
	Medium	£158	£158	0%
	High	£237	£237	0%
Mobile Screening & Crushing Plant	Low	£626	£626	0%
	Medium	£1,034	£1,034	0%
	High	£1,551	£1,551	0%
Mobile Screening & Crushing Plant for 2 nd permit	Low	£646	£646	0%
	Medium	£1,034	£1,034	0%
	High	£1,551	£1,551	0%
Mobile Screening & Crushing Plant for 3 rd to 7 th permit	Low	£385	£385	0%
	Medium	£617	£617	0%
	High	£924	£924	0%
Mobile Screening & Crushing Plant for the 8 th and subsequent permits	Low	£198	£198	0%
	Medium	£314	£314	0%
	High	£473	£473	0%

Late payment charge	If invoice issued & not paid within 8 weeks	£52	£52	0%
Payment in 4 instalments		Additional £38	Additional £38	0%
Transfer and Surrender				
Transfer		£169	£169	0%
Partial Transfer		£497	£497	0%
Surrender		£0	£0	0%
Transfer Reduced fees		£0	£0	0%
Partial Transfer Reduced Fees		£47	£47	0%

Private Sector Housing

Description	2026/27 Fee	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
Inspection of Housing Premises for Immigration purposes (Class A – Fee Discretionary)	£518	£476	8.8%
Enforcement Notices served under Housing Act 2004	Hourly Rate	Hourly Rate	7.2%
HMO Licence NEW - assisted application	£1,480	£1380	7.2%
Stage 1	£888	£828	
Stage 2	£592	£552	
HMO Licence RENEWAL	£999	£931.50	7.2%
Stage 1	£600	£559.00	
Stage 2	£399	£372.50	
Caravan Site Licences			
Site licence new (plus additional fee per pitch)	£555	£517.50	7.2%
New licence additional fee per pitch	£20	£18.50	8.1%
Transfer of licence	£222	£207	7.2%
Alteration of conditions	£296	Hourly Rate	Previously an hourly rate
Annual inspection fee – per pitch	£17.75	16.50	7.6%
Enforcement action -per hour	Hourly Rate	Hourly Rate	7.2%
Deposit, vary or deleting site rules	£148	£138	7.2%
Mobile Homes Regulations 2020			
Application Fee – Fit and Proper Test	£148	£138	7.2%

(any application taking more than two hours to process will be charged at an additional hourly rate of £74/ph or part thereof)			
Annual Check Fee – Fit and Proper Test	Hourly Rate	Hourly Rate	7.2%
Where the authority has to assist with appointing a site manager the costs will be specified in the agreement between the parties			

Private Water Supplies

Description		2026/27 Fee	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
Risk assessment (for each assessment)	Every 5 years. Min. charge 1 hour, simple risk assessment and report typically 5 hours	At Hourly Rate	At Hourly Rate	7.2%
Sampling visit (for each sampling visit) *	Charge for a visit, taking a sample and delivery to the laboratory. Typically 2.5 hours	At Hourly Rate	At Hourly Rate	7.2%
Investigation	Carried out in the event of a test failure, can be substituted by the risk assessment - this does not include any required analysis costs.	At Hourly Rate	At Hourly Rate	7.2%
Regulation 9 Supply Analysis of Group A Parameters		Laboratory Costs **	Laboratory Costs **	
Regulation 9 Supply Analysis of Group B Parameters		Laboratory Costs **	Laboratory Costs **	
Regulation 10 Supply Parameters		Laboratory Costs **	Laboratory Costs **	
Analysis of Single Dwelling Supplies (upon request)		Laboratory Costs **	Laboratory Costs **	

* A local authority should not charge for the Officer time for a sample that is taken and analysed solely to confirm or clarify the results of a previous sample. A local authority can charge for a sample visit to verify the effectiveness of improvements, e.g. following completion of actions specified in a Notice.

** Laboratory fees set annually

Other Fees

	Hourly rate applies minimum of 2 hours	2026/27 Fee	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
Environmental Information Request - Individual, Non-Commercial	Hourly rate applies minimum of 2 hours	£148 minimum	£138 minimum	7.2%
Environmental Information Request - Commercial and Government	Hourly rate applies minimum of 2 hours	£148 minimum	£138 minimum	7.2%
Civil Actions (Class A – Fee Discretionary)		£148 minimum	£138 minimum	7.2%
Safety Certification and administration	Hourly rate applies minimum of 2 hours	£148 minimum	£138 minimum	7.2%
Pre-Application Advice, hourly charge		£74	£69	7.2%

TRADING STANDARDS

Buy with confidence

Description	Employee numbers	2026/27 Fee	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
Application Fee (set nationally by Buy with Confidence scheme)	1-5 employees	£159	£155	2.6%
	6-20 employees	£220	£215	2.3%
	21-49 employees	£277	£270	2.6%
	50+ employees	POA	POA	
Annual fee (set nationally by Buy with Confidence scheme)	1-5 employees	£295	£285	3.5%
	6-20 employees	£440	£430	2.3%
	21-49 employees	£580	£570	1.8%
	50+ employees	POA	POA	
Members before 2017/18 Annual Fee (Bracknell Forest legacy members only)	1-5 employees	£147	£143	2.8%
	6-20 employees	£222.50	£216	3%
	21-49 employees	£296	£288	2.8%
<i>Additional Premises: For businesses that operate from more than one premises, an additional £92 per premises per year fee will be charged.</i>				
<i>Additional Trading Styles: £149 pa per additional trading style will be charged.</i>				

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* West Berkshire & Wokingham schemes administered by Hampshire County Council
 Fees are set nationally and will be updated in accordance with any changes to those fees

Primary Authority

Description	2026/27 Fee	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
Primary Authority Work hourly chargeable rate	£74	£69	7.2%
Application Fee - Set-up costs	£370*	£345*	7.2%
Annual charge - previous year usage 10 hours or less	£666**	£621**	7.2%
Annual charge - previous year usage 20 hours	£1,332.00*	£1242**	7.2%
Anything likely to be in excess of 20 hours	Individually assessed	Individually assessed	

* Work subsequent to the initial visit will be charged at our hourly rate of £74 per hour.

** Hours do not roll over into the next financial year.

Assured Care and Support (Wokingham Only)

Description	Employee numbers	2026/27 Fee	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
Membership Fee	1-5 employees	£112	£105	6.7%
	6-20 employees	£225	£210	7.1%
	21+ employees	£561.75	£525	7%

Weights and Measures

Description		2026/27 Fee	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
Weights and Measures Fees	Includes the cost of maintaining calibration of equipment annually (Based on ACTSO guidance)	£74 p/h	£69 p/h	7.2%

Other Fees

Description		2026/27 Fee	2025/26 Fee	% Increase
Food export certificates	Full cost recovery based on hourly rate - These will be completed within 10 working days.	£74 minimum	£69 minimum	7.2%
Food export certificates - expedited	These will be completed within 5 working days.	£111 minimum	N/A	New Fee
Food Hygiene Rating Scheme rescore	2 hours	£185	£172.50	7.2%
General Business Advice (Non-Primary Authority)	Hourly rate (first 30 minutes free)	£74	£69	7.2%
Resident Request for Advice	Hourly rate	£74	£69	7.2%

Some animal inspections are currently undertaken by the City of London. Where these inspections are undertaken, the cost will be added to the PPP fees. The current fees are set out below. Please note these are the 2025/26 fees. The fees for 2026/27 have not been set by City of London as yet and the Annex will be updated in due course

LEVEL OF CHARGES 1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026 - all fees are subject to VAT at the current rate		Cost 2025 - 2026
Activity	Visit type	TOTAL (exc. VAT)
Animal Boarding Est (Kennel / Cattery)	New Licence application or 1st inspection by CoLC - combined (dogs & cats)	488
	Renewal Licence Inspection - combined (dogs & cats)	427
	New Licence application or 1st inspection by CoLC - single species (dogs or cats)	427
	Renewal Licence Inspection - single species (dogs or cats)	366
	Unannounced mid licence visit	244
Home boarder	New Licence application or 1st inspection by CoCL	305
	Renewal Licence Inspection	244
	Unannounced mid licence visit	244

Franchisee arrangers' licence	New Licence application or 1st inspection by CoCL of a home boarding arranger /franchisee	305
	Renewal Licence Inspection of a home boarding arranger /franchisee	244
	Assessment of a hobby host as part of a arranger /franchisee licence	244
	Unannounced mid licence visit	244
Dog Day Care	New Licence application or 1st inspection by CoCL - less than 10 dogs	366
	New Licence application or 1st inspection by CoCL - 10 or more dogs	488
	Renewal Licence Inspection - less than 10 dogs	305
	Renewal Licence Inspection - 10 or more dogs	366
	Unannounced mid licence visit	244
Dog Breeding Establishment	**New Licence application or 1st inspection by CoCL - vet inspection - dogs housed in kennel units	539
	Renewal License inspection - dogs housed in kennel units	427
	**New Licence application or 1st inspection by CoCL - vet inspection - dogs housed in home environment	385

	Renewal License inspection breeding - dogs housed in home environment	305
	Unannounced mid licence visit	244
*Riding Establishment	**New Licence application or 1st inspection by CoCL - inspection veterinary fee only (+ additional fee per horse)	539
	**Renewal Licence application - inspection veterinary fee only (+ additional fee per horse)	385
<u>Example of charge per horse in a yard with</u>	**Annual vet inspection veterinary fee - inspection veterinary fee only (+ additional fee per horse)	231
<u>60 horses</u>	Fee per horse for the first 10 horses	17
1st 10 horses @ £17 = £170	Fee per horse for next 11-50 horses	11
horses 11-50 @ £11 = £440	Fee per horse 51 horses & over	10
horses 51-60 horses @ £10 = £100	**Unannounced mid licence visit (on top of annual vet inspection)	308
Pet Vending / Sale of pets	New Licence application or 1st inspection by CoCL- up to 2 species	488
	New Licence application or 1st inspection by CoCL - more than 2 species	549

	Renewal Licence Inspection - up to 2 species	427
	Renewal Licence Inspection - more than 2 species	488
	Unannounced mid licence visit	244
Dangerous Wild Animals	**New Licence application or 1st inspection by CoCL vet inspection - commercial / outside premises (plus mileage over 100 miles @ 50p per mile)	539
	**Renewal License vet inspection commercial / outside premises (plus mileage over 100 miles @ 50p per mile)	385
	**New Licence application or 1st inspection by CoCL vet inspection - domestic dwelling (plus mileage over 100 miles @ 50p per mile)	385
	**Renewal License vet inspection - domestic dwelling domestic dwelling (plus mileage over 100 miles @ 50p per mile)	308
	**DWA on Location - 1st hour including travel and report writing	231
	**DWA on location visit additional charge per hour	77
Illegal Imports outside of CofL jurisdiction	Collection and Detention	366
	Mileage at 65p per mile	0.65

Zoos	**New or Periodical (Full Day) (Vet) without travel time (hourly rate to be added)	616
	**Informal / Special (Full Day) (Vet) without travel time (hourly rate to be added) includes report	693
	**Administration package (optional) - includes all additional support and administration required	1769
	**New or Periodical (Half Day) (Vet) without travel time (hourly rate to be added)	346.5
	**Informal / Special (Half Day) (Vet) without travel time (hourly rate to be added) includes report	423.5
	**Administration package (optional) - includes all additional support and administration required	915
	**Veterinary 14.1a exemption inspection	693
Animal for Exhibit on location	DWA on Location (Exhibit) - 1st hour including travel and report writing	244
	DWA on location visit additional charge per hour	77
Animal for Exhibition	New Licence application or 1st inspection by CoCL- Single species	488
	New Licence application or 1st inspection by CoCL - Multi species	549

	Renewal Licence Inspection - Single species	366
	Renewal Licence Inspection - Multi species	366
Shows-Exhibitions-AGO- Markets	Inspection (Full day per officer)	549
	Inspection (Half day per officer)	305
Animal Keepers Farm stock (Hobby / Domestic Address)	Inspection Visit	305
Animal Keepers / nondomestic address (Half Day)	Inspection Visit	366
Animal Keepers / nondomestic address (full day)		549
Reassessment of star rating	**1 x Veterinary Officer	308
	1 x Animal Health Inspector	244

Hourly Rate - Complaint visits/reports and other additional functions	**1 x Veterinary Officer	77
	1 x Animal Health Inspector	61

** RCVS Veterinary Surgeon.

AHI = Animal Health Inspector

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Appendix D

General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27: Social Care Commissioning Budgets

Adult Social Care Commissioning

Adult Social Care / Primary Support Reason (PSR) & Age banding	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Q3 Actuals	Q3 Actuals	Modelled	Modelled	Modelled	Modelled	2026/27
	2025/26 Expenditure	2025/26 Income	2025/26 Net Budget	2025/26 Client Numbers	2025/26 Average Unit Cost	Client Numbers	Average Unit Cost	2026/27 Client Numbers	2026/27 Average Unit Cost	Net Increase in Expenditure	Net Increase in Income	Net Revenue Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000		£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Physical Support 18-64	3,495	(416)	3,080	162	21.58	165	18.98	176	22.14	400	(159)	3,321
Physical Support 65+	17,815	(6,658)	11,157	740	24.07	702	25.28	719	26.57	1,287	388	12,832
Sensory Support 18-64	286	(1)	285	9	31.77	11	27.35	11	29.82	42	(8)	318
Sensory Support 65+	228	(36)	192	7	32.57	7	23.30	8	16.52	(98)	4	98
Memory & Cognition 18-64	423	(67)	356	16	26.47	17	25.43	15	31.20	58	(8)	407
Memory & Cognition 65+	10,311	(3,444)	6,867	289	35.68	276	40.58	285	37.11	277	202	7,345
Learning Disability 18-64	29,245	(1,803)	27,442	441	66.31	426	68.00	463	67.41	1,948	(337)	29,053
Learning Disability 65+	3,745	(536)	3,210	67	55.90	57	63.55	58	66.23	68	43	3,320
Mental Health 18-64	5,643	(148)	5,495	192	29.39	180	35.76	197	38.23	1,872	(50)	7,316
Mental Health 65+	1,841	(141)	1,700	73	25.22	75	28.85	81	32.74	821	(61)	2,460
Other	1,499	(68)	1,431	107	14.01	124	12.00	131	12.46	128	7	1,567
Totals	74,531	(13,316)	61,214	2,103	35.44	2,040	37.08	2,143	37.95	6,803	21	68,039

The revenue provision in respect of the commissioning budget is generated through a model initially developed in financial year 2017/18 and refined in subsequent financial years. The model works on demographic trends of actual residents receiving services, alongside inflationary pressures incurred in the current financial year, projected for CPI + 1%. Included within the modelled data are savings generated through business-as-usual activities. Forecast savings built into the amounts above are as follows:

Commissioning Savings	£ms
Targeted Reviews of existing packages	2.17
Accessing Continuing Health Care Contributions	0.20
Total Estimated Savings	2.37

Children's Social Care

Children's Social Care / Service Type	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Q3 Actuals	Q3 Actuals	Modelled	Modelled	Modelled	Modelled	2026/27
	2025/26 Expenditure	2025/26 Income	2025/26 Net Budget	2025/26 Client Numbers	2025/26 Average Unit Cost	Client Numbers	Average Unit Cost	2026/27 Client Numbers	2026/27 Average Unit Cost	Net Increase in Expenditure	Net Increase in Income	Net Revenue Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000		£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
UASC	1,135	(1,622)	(487)	29	39.47	23	49.05	26	49.37	172	219	(97)
Residential Care	6,042	0	6,042	17	349.94	22	464.32	24	499.41	5,716	0	11,758
Care Leavers	2,067	0	2,067	35	58.83	25	37.12	28	38.83	(967)	0	1,100
Parent & Baby Residential Placements	158	0	158	1	146.13	1	241.21	1	252.79	12	0	169
UASC Post 18	1,174	(908)	266	44	26.64	32	21.63	37	20.27	(421)	(170)	(324)
InHouse Fostering allowances & support	1,446	0	1,446	52	27.97	57	27.30	62	28.61	340	0	1,786
Adoption Placements & Allowances	121	0	121	13	9.25	13	12.08	13	12.66	46	0	168
Kinship / Connected Person	1,039	0	1,039	50	20.96	58	20.97	58	21.98	243	0	1,282
Independent Fostering Agencies	1,185	0	1,185	20	57.84	22	56.30	22	57.60	61	0	1,246
Special Guardianship	1,230	0	1,230	106	11.60	104	11.95	106	12.53	102	0	1,333
Disability Support	1,355	0	1,355	105	12.91	93	7.92	93	8.05	(610)	0	746
Residential Disability	2,792	(50)	2,742	10	282.30	10	323.18	10	279.47	(19)	50	2,773
Additional Placement Costs	400	0	400				0.00	0	0.00	1	0	400
Residence / Child Arrangement Orders	97	0	97	11	8.48	11	10.20	11	10.69	15	0	113
Totals	20,241	(2,580)	17,660	494	41.01	470	48.50	491	50.75	4,693	99	22,453

The revenue provision in respect of commissioning budget is generated based on the adult social care model. The model works on demographic trends of actual residents receiving services, alongside inflation pressures incurred in the current financial year, projected for CPI + 1%. Included within the modelled numbers are savings generated through business and these amounts principally relate to demographic changes and placement adjustments:

Commissioning Savings	£ms
Placement reviews	0.95

Appendix E

General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27: Non-Social Care Commissioning Investments

Two investments have been supported as part of the planned revenue budget:

Investments into the Revenue Budget	£ms
Children's Services: Conversion of successful CIN pilot into revenue	0.34
Adults: Investment into the Safeguarding Board	0.08
Total investment proposed:	0.42

In historic financial years, the Council has implemented ambitious savings plans, against the backdrop of escalating social care pressures. For financial year 2026/27, a number of historic savings, which upon review have been deemed to be unachievable due to either marketplace factors (outsourcing of care homes and resources centres, increases in planning income), or decreased due to escalating inflationary pressures (staff efficiencies, eroded through national living wage rises, employer NI contribution changes), have been rebased or removed from the base budget. Relevant accounting adjustments have been processed through the revenue, capital, and Dedicated Schools Grant budgets to ensure alignment with relevant overarching accounting guidance:

Budget Realignments	£ms
Removal of Unmet Historic Savings Targets	
Transformation savings	1.00
Care Homes - externalisation of service	1.48
Externalisation of Resource Centres	0.47
Development & Regulation - unachievable fee income	0.41
Community Services - removal of unachievable income contributions	0.07
Councilwide unachievable historic efficiency targets	0.67
Adjustment of Accounting Treatment	
Transfer of revenue costs from capital	1.01
Transfer of revenue from the Dedicated Schools Grant	0.32
Reallocation of costs to ASC Discharge Fund	-0.49
Reallocation of costs to Public Transport Grants	-0.38
Realignment of green waste income budget	-0.30
Realignment of consultants & subscription budgets	-0.02
Total realignments proposed:	4.25

Appendix F

General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27: Non-Social Care Commissioning Savings

Specific non-social care commissioned savings are detailed below. Social care commissioning savings relate to business-as-usual package reviews and forecast demographic changes; these are detailed in Appendix D. Standard fees and charges are uplifted annually, and disclosure is within Appendix C.

Saving	Saving Detail	2026/27
		£ms
Bone Lane Museum	Vacating the Bone Lane Museum Store (rental saving)	-0.02
Library Service	Deletion of vacant establishment hours and posts	-0.05
Resources Directorate	Deletion of establishment posts and vacant hours	-0.20
Economic Development	Removal of external consultancy budget	-0.04
Electric Vehicle Charge Points Income	Additional income through increased charges	-0.01
Garden Waste Charges Uplift	Additional income through increased charges	-0.05
Henwick Worthy - Additional Sports Hire Income	Additional income through increased charges	-0.03
Thatcham Town Council - Increased Contribution to Henwick Worthy	Additional income through increased charges	-0.03
Land Charges Income	Additional income through increased charges	-0.06
Standardised Fees & Charges Increases at CPI + 1%		
Adult Social Care	See fees and charges	-0.03
Education	See fees and charges	-0.02
Community Services	See fees and charges	-0.05
Environment	See fees and charges	-0.44
Development & Regulation	See fees and charges	-0.04
Finance, Property & Procurement	See fees and charges	-0.04
Strategy & Governance	See fees and charges	-0.06
Total Savings: Non Social Care Commissioning		-1.16

Appendix G

General Fund Revenue Budget 2026/27: Revenue Capital Financing Requirement

The revenue capital financing requirement is the revenue budget required to fund the debt financing of historic capital programme content and the projects in the planned capital programme for 2026/27.

The scale of the revenue capital financing requirement is driven by:

- Availability of external resources to fund capital projects (external grants, Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 monies)
- Availability of Balance Sheet resources to fund projects (otherwise known as internal borrowing)

The availability of Balance Sheet resources to fund capital expenditure and minimise required external debt financing is being constrained via consumption by the H N HNB deficit held on the Balance Sheet in Unusable Reserves under statutory override accounting arrangements.

The 2026/27 capital financing revenue provision budget includes the financing of EFS, which is subject to prescribed MRP. The table below details the division of financing costs provided as part of the net revenue budget proposal:

	2025/26	2026/27
Capital financing of historic and planned capital programme £ms	£14.32	£14.17
Capital financing of exceptional financial support £ms	£1.25	£2.71
Additional borrowing required from HNB deficit £ms	£0.53	£1.26
Total revenue budget requirement	£16.10	£18.15
Revenue pressure (budget investment required)	£3.30	£2.04

In respect of capital financing, underpinning assumptions and key prudential indicators are documented in the Capital Strategy and the Treasury Management Strategy, which form part of the revenue budget papers for Council approval. Alongside the prudential indicators, the Council adopts fiscal rules, a key consideration being that capital financing is a percentage of net revenue stream (i.e. revenue funding available to support the net revenue budget). Historically, the Council has operated with a 10% revenue capital financing provision as a percentage of net revenue stream. For 2026/27, the actual percentage is 11% and more than the historic fiscal rule. The implications arising are referred to in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

Appendix H

Financial Year 2026/27: Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

The DSG is a ring-fenced grant which can only be spent on school/pupil activity. The DSG consists of four funding blocks:

Schools Block

The Schools Block funding received by a Local Authority is allocated to each school based on formula factors such as pupil numbers, deprivation, prior attainment, and school-specific elements like sparsity. Local Authorities cannot divert these funds for other purposes, ensuring that such amounts flow directly into school budgets.

DSG Schools Block acts as a pass-through funding mechanism, ensuring that financial resources are allocated directly to mainstream schools to support pupils' education.

Central Schools Services

The costs in this block are central Council staff and systems costs, which support schools in respect of centrally allocated services.

Early Years Block

The Early Years Block within the DSG provides funding to Local Authorities to deliver early years entitlements across all types of early years settings, including Private Voluntary and Independents, maintained nursery schools, and school-based nursery classes. It supports the delivery of funded hours for 0–5-year-olds, plus specific supplements such as Early Years Pupil Premium and Disability Access Fund. Funding levels are determined nationally and adjusted based upon census data.

High Needs Block

A specific ringfenced funding stream designed to support Authorities in meeting statutory duties for children and young people with special educational needs.

Proposed Dedicated Schools Grant Budget Financial Year 2026/27

The proposed budget is supported by the following Central Government funding (settlement issued December 2025). The funding streams detailed below are inclusive of allocations for academy schools and these amounts are passported by the Authority to the schools:

DSG School Block	
Categories	(£'m)
Schools block	147.14
Central school services block allocation	1.11
High needs block allocation	29.00
Early years block	32.92
Total DSG allocation	210.16

The following table summarises the forecast budget per block for financial year 2026/27:

DSG Income By Block	Budget 2025/26	Q3 Forecast	Budget 2026/27	Budget % Growth	Forecast % Growth
		Outturn 2025/26			
Schools Block	84.73	84.73	74.09	-12.56%	-12.56%
Central School Services Block	1.07	1.06	1.18	10.22%	11.04%
Early Years Block	27.37	27.03	32.26	17.87%	19.37%
High Needs Block	41.24	41.74	49.45	19.90%	18.48%
High Needs Block Shortfall	-14.05	-14.55	-16.98	20.88%	16.74%
Total (Excluding Academies)	140.36	140.01	139.99	-0.26%	-0.01%

The schools block consists of the passported individual school budgets, after accounting for the transfer of academy funds. The budget for the School Block after Academy Recoupmnt is £74.09m.

Central Schools Block (CSSB) Proposed Budget:

Central Schools Block (CSSB) Budget Requirement	Budet 2025/26 £m	Budget Requirement 2026/27 £ m	Change £ m	Change %
School admissions	0.24	0.24	0.00	1%
National Copyright Licences	0.18	0.20	0.02	11%
Servicing of Schools Forum	0.06	0.06	0.00	1%
Education Welfare	0.25	0.25	0.00	1%
Support for Inclusion	0.00	0.07	0.07	
Statutory & Regulatory duties	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Provision of Education Data	0.19	0.20	0.01	6%
Finance Support for the Educations service	0.09	0.09	0.00	5%
Strategic planning of the Education Service	0.07	0.07	0.00	6%
Support for Inclusion	0.00	0.00		
Total Budget Requirement	1.07	1.18	0.11	10%
Income from DSG	-1.07	-1.11	-0.04	4%
Net Surplus / Deficit	0.00	0.07	0.07	1%

Early Years Block Proposed Budget:

The passthrough rate has increased to 97% from 96% in 2026/27. This has resulted in providers receiving an increased funding rate and the Local Authority retaining less than anticipated in respect of central cost. Despite this, the early years block has a budgeted surplus of £0.1m.

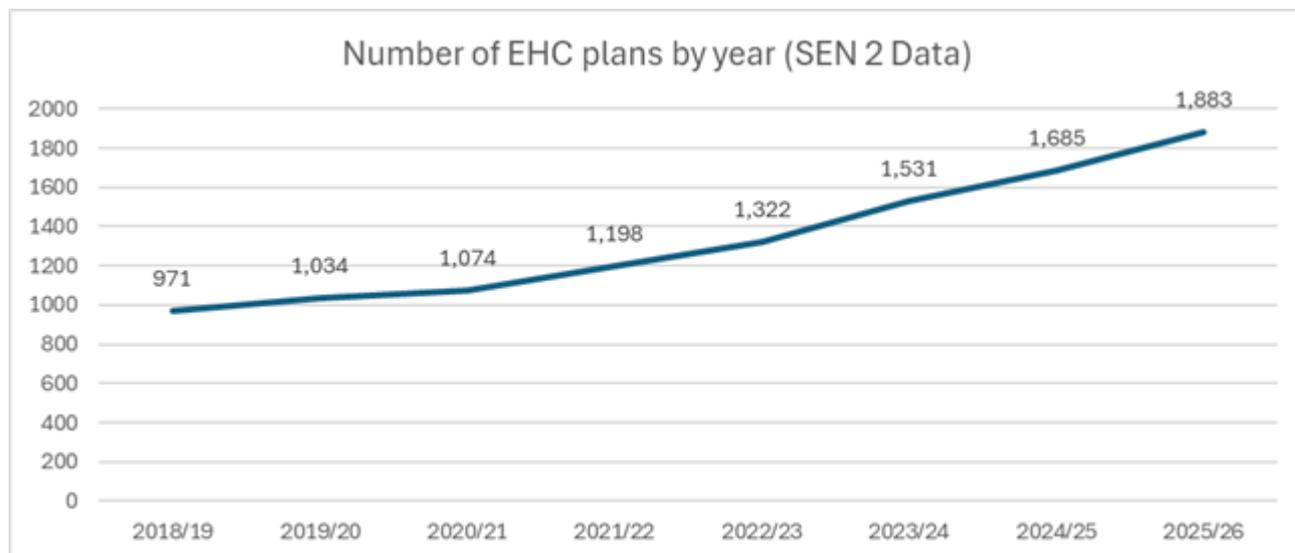
Early Years Block Budget		£m
Funds Delegated to Early Years Providers		
PVI Providers		8.03
Nursery classes in Mainstream Schools		2.17
Maintained Nursery Schools		1.21
2 Year Old Funding		0.76
2 Year old working parents		6.33
Additional 2 year old working parents hours to adjust for new 30 hour entitlement		2.21
Under 2's		8.47
Additional under 2 year old working parents hours to adjust for new 30 hour entitlement		1.77
Pupil Premium Grant and deprivation funding		0.42
Total Delegated Funds		31.37
Centrally Managed Funds		
Centrally Managed Funds		0.00
Central Expenditure on Children Under 5's		0.46
Early Development Intervention Team (EDIT)		0.11
SEN Inclusion Fund		0.11
Disability Access Fund		0.12
SSRs		0.09
Total Centrally Managed Funds		0.89
Total Expenditure		32.26
Early Years DSG Block Funding In Year		-32.56
In year surplus		-0.30
Early Years DSG Block Funding carried forward		0.18
Overall Net Surplus Position		-0.12

High Needs Block:

The table below summarises the variance between the income and expenditure on the HNB. The forecast deficit for 2026/27 is £16.98m. When combined with the Q3 2025/26 outturn forecasted closing balance (being £14.55m), the expected closing balance of the HNB is forecast to be a deficit of £31.53m as of 31 March 2027:

High Needs Block	2025/26 Budget £m	2025/26 Forecast £m	2026/27 Estimate £m	% Growth From 2025/26 Budget	% Growth from 2025/26 Forecast
Place Funding	7.19	7.10	7.08	-2%	0%
Top Up Funding	30.16	30.50	33.83	12%	11%
PRU Funding (Top Ups only)	2.45	2.43	2.62	7%	8%
Other Statutory Services	2.89	3.19	3.68	27%	15%
Non Statutory Services	1.99	1.87	2.02	2%	8%
Support Service Recharges	0.18	0.18	0.22	23%	23%
Total expenditure	44.87	45.27	49.45	10%	9%
HNB Allocation	-30.83	-30.72	-32.48	5%	6%
In year Overspend	14.04	14.55	16.98	21%	17%

High Needs Block (HNB) cost pressures remain a national issue, with many Local Authorities, including West Berkshire, having significant overspends and therefore setting deficit budgets. The HNB continues to be under considerable strain, due to an increased demand for independent and non-maintained special school placements and increased EHCPs (Educational Health Care Plan), in mainstream schools. The graph below shows the upward trend in Educational Health Care Plans on an annual basis.



The Heads Funding Group and Schools Forum have reviewed and support the proposed budget, including the HNB deficit, which for 2026/27 is budgeted to be £16.98m in addition to a Central School Services block deficit of £0.07m. A deficit recovery plan is currently being developed to mitigate the scale of the deficits, however, the HNB deficit is a national issue with many upper tier Authorities holding significant deficits on their Balance Sheets. The statutory accounting override applied to the HNB has been extended by Central Government until 31 March 2028.

Financial Year 2026/27: Budget Consultation Responses

West Berkshire Council Equity Impact Assessment

Revenue Budget Proposals Overview

January 2026

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Section 1: Summary details

Directorate and Service Area	Resources (Finance, Property and Procurement)
What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	Approval of the Revenue Budget for 2026/27 which includes a number of proposed savings generated by changes to service delivery and/ or increased fees and charges.
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	The Council sets a revenue budget every year to ensure that it has sufficient financial resources to deliver its strategic objectives.
Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	<p>This considers the Revenue Budget proposals, for 2026/27. The Council is required to set a balanced budget on an annual basis. This document provides an overview of potential impacts, with further assessment of the specific potential impacts of individual proposals being details at Appendix I of the Revenue Budget paper.</p> <p>The Council must ensure that its strategies, policies, functions and services, current and proposed have given due regard to equality and diversity as set out in the Public Sector Equality Duty (Section 149 of the Equality Act), which states:</p> <p>(1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act; b. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; This includes the need to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic; ii. take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it

	<p>c. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, with due regard, in particular, to the need to be aware that compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.</p> <p>(2) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.</p> <p>(3) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.</p> <p>The following list of questions are helpful to consider when reviewing whether the decision is relevant to equality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the decision affect service users, employees or the wider community? • Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently? • Is it a major policy, or a major change to an existing policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered? • Will the decision have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality? • Does the decision relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics? • Does the decision relate to an area with known inequalities? • Does the decision relate to any equality objectives that have been set by the council? <p>The relevance of a decision to equality depends not just on the number of those affected but on the significance of the impact on them.</p>
Completed By	Sarah Clarke
Authorised By	
Date of Assessment	26/01/2026

Section 2: Detail of proposal

<p>Context / Background</p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>The budget contains a variety of savings and investment proposals. Those that may have a direct impact on residents have been consulted upon as part of the budget consultation exercise between December 2025 and January 2026.</p> <p>Individual proposals have specific equality impact assessments completed as part of the budget consultation exercise. The cumulative impact of budget savings proposals do not contribute overall to inequality in the district. There are a balanced range of savings proposals that will impact across many different groups across the district. There is an insignificant cumulative impact to service users across the district.</p>
<p>Proposals</p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p>	<p>It is possible that some of the individual savings proposals may have an adverse impact on the lives of some residents, service users, and/or staff.</p> <p>Where potential impacts have been identified, consideration has been given as to whether steps could be taken to mitigate the adverse impacts of these proposals. Staff may be impacted through any pause on investment activity or through recruiting to posts more slowly, but this should not have an adverse impact upon the lives of employees.</p>
<p>Evidence / Intelligence</p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact</p>	<p>Savings proposals with a direct impact on residents have been consulted upon as part of the budget consultation exercise between December 2025 and January 2026.</p> <p>Specific equity impact assessments were completed for individual proposals as part of the budget consultation exercise. The Council received a total of 291 responses to the budget consultations (147 in respect of the general consultation, 147 responses to the proposed fee increases at Henwick Worthy, and 41 responses in respect of the proposal to close the Adult Respite in the Community service.</p>

<p>on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.</p>	<p>The general survey sought the views of residents, communities and other parties considered on how services should be prioritised and funded.</p>
<p>Alternatives considered / rejected</p> <p>Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.</p>	<p>Details of alternative options proposed are detailed in the individual consultation proposals and associated documents, which are produced at Appendix I.</p>

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See the EqlAs relating to savings and income proposals, the budget consultation and the resultant responses and recommendations	See individual proposals at Appendix I	See individual proposals at Appendix I	See individual proposals at Appendix I
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See the EqlAs relating to savings and income proposals, the budget consultation and the resultant responses and recommendations	See individual proposals at Appendix I	See individual proposals at Appendix I	See individual proposals at Appendix I
Gender Reassignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Religion or Belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Rural communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Areas of deprivation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Displaced communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Care experienced people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The budget includes a proposal to introduce a council tax discount for care leavers			

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
The Armed Forces Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

Review Date	See individual proposals
Person Responsible for Review	See individual proposals
Authorised By	Sarah Clarke

EDI employee related EQiA's should now be sent to Human Resources hrenquiries@westberks.gov.uk

Balancing our budget 2026/27 – General survey

Consultation Summary Report

Why we consulted?

Councils across the country continue to face unprecedented financial pressures, and West Berkshire Council is no exception. The council is responding to increasing demands in adults' and children's social care services supporting our most vulnerable residents, and in other areas such as homelessness and home to school transport. The increases in demand, combined with higher inflation and increasing costs, are financially impacting the council and its suppliers.

In 2026/27, we need to find £6.4 million in savings or income generation. This figure assumes that Council Tax increases by the maximum 4.99%.

To fill the remaining gap, we have a range of options available, including changing how we provide services and making internal savings, for example: re-tendering contracts for better value for money, streamlining processes, and introducing new charges or increasing existing charges for some services.

In February 2026, we will set our budget for the financial year ahead (2026/27). To help shape that process, we asked local residents, communities and other parties for their views on how we could fund and prioritise the services we provide. We are also sought their views on two specific proposals.

For more information, please visit <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/balancing-our-budget>

Approach

We published the 'Balancing our Budget' consultation on our website on Monday, 1 December 2025 with feedback requested by midday on Monday, 12 January 2026.

Respondents were directed to a central index pageⁱ, which outlined the overall background to the exercise, and provided links to our 'Balancing our Budget 2026/27' survey, as well as the individual proposals on our Consultation and Engagement Hubⁱⁱ. Feedback was then invited through an online survey, and a hardcopy made available on request.

As well as publishing the exercise on our website, we also emailed members of the West Berkshire Community Panel (around 2,500 people).

We issued a press release on Monday, 1 December 2026 and further publicised our consultations through our social media accounts and residents' e-newsletters. We also placed posters in our main offices.

Consultation Response

Number of Responses

In total, 147 responses were received.

Balancing our budget 2026/27 – General survey

Consultation Summary Report

Summary of Main Points

93.9% of respondents identified themselves as West Berkshire residents.

The top five services prioritised by respondents were:

1. Roads and Transport
2. Education
3. Children's Social Care
4. Waste and Recycling
5. Housing and Homelessness

This is closely followed by:

6. Economic Development and Regeneration
7. Adult Social Care

The options to help protect and improve the services we provide for local people that respondents were most supportive of were:

1. Growing the Local Economy
2. Focussing more on early prevention
3. Increasing Income through Commercial Activities

The least supported option was Increasing Existing Fees and Charges.

The main areas of comment were about:

- Economic growth
- Efficiency, transparency, and financial accountability
- Fees and charges
- Governance, decision-making, and leadership
- Human Resources e.g., staffing levels, staff pay and benefits, senior management structure
- Infrastructure e.g., roads, transport, housing
- Prevention and social care
- Prioritise core and essential services, instead of “nice-to-haves”

Summary of Responses by Question

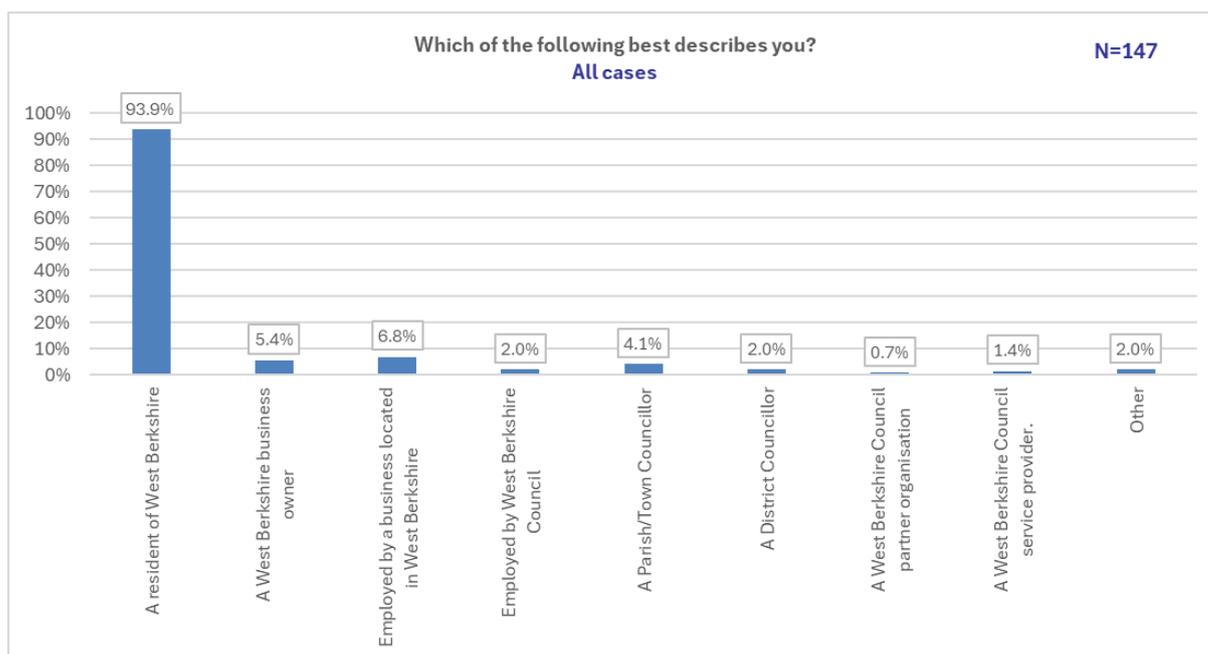
1. **Which of the following best describes you?** (N.B % will not total 100% as respondents were able to select more than one)

	Responses	Percent of Cases
A resident of West Berkshire	138	93.9%
A West Berkshire business owner	8	5.4%
Employed by a business located in West Berkshire	10	6.8%
Employed by West Berkshire Council	3	2.0%
A Parish/Town Councillor	6	4.1%

Balancing our budget 2026/27 – General survey

Consultation Summary Report

	Responses	Percent of Cases
A District Councillor	3	2.0%
A West Berkshire Council partner organisation	1	0.7%
A West Berkshire Council service provider	2	1.4%
Other	3	2.0%



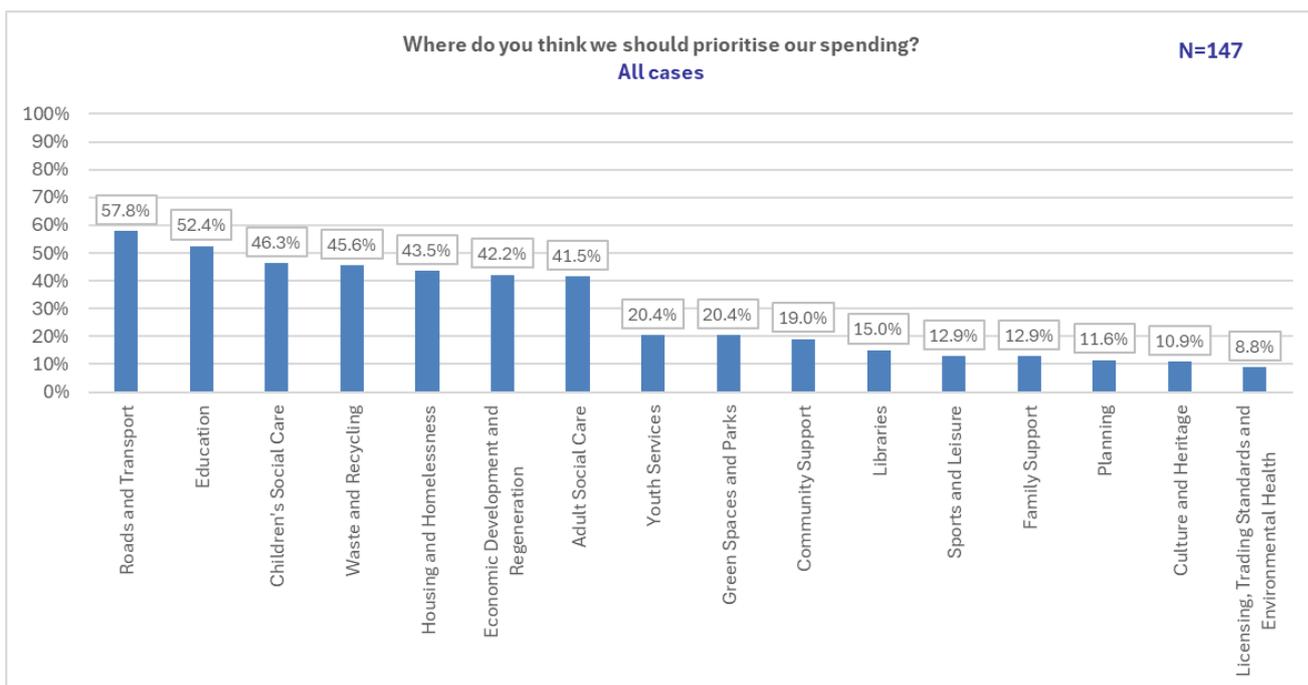
2. **Where do you think we should prioritise our spending? Please choose your top five.** (N.B % will not total 100% as respondents were able to select more than one)

	Responses	Percent of Cases
Roads and Transport	85	57.8%
Education	77	52.4%
Children's Social Care	68	46.3%
Waste and Recycling	67	45.6%
Housing and Homelessness	64	43.5%
Economic Development and Regeneration	62	42.2%
Adult Social Care	61	41.5%
Youth Services	30	20.4%
Green Spaces and Parks	30	20.4%
Community Support	28	19.0%
Libraries	22	15.0%
Sports and Leisure	19	12.9%

Balancing our budget 2026/27 – General survey

Consultation Summary Report

	Responses	Percent of Cases
Family Support	19	12.9%
Planning	17	11.6%
Culture and Heritage	16	10.9%
Licensing, Trading Standards and Environmental Health	13	8.8%



Summary of Comments Received:

Prioritise Essential Services

- Strong support for prioritising statutory and essential services.
- Preventative services should be protected because they reduce long-term costs.
- Some feel the council should “focus on the basics” and stop or scale back non-essential activities that don't benefit the whole community.
- Some requested that the council stop spending on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) and other non-essential programmes.

Waste and Recycling

- Waste and recycling services are seen as essential for health, environment, and quality of life.
- Some call for a return to weekly waste collection or a reverse of the three-weekly change.
- Reuse and recycling are valued.

Balancing our budget 2026/27 – General survey

Consultation Summary Report

Roads, Transport, and Infrastructure

- Potholes and poor road maintenance cause high costs for residents and safety risks.
- Requests for full, proper, and timely pothole repairs and resurfacing.
- Concerns about new developments increasing traffic noise and pollution e.g., Sandford.
- 20mph schemes are not seen as a priority.
- Some feel that school transport costs are unfair and all families should pay to spread costs.

Housing, Homelessness, and Community Wellbeing and Safety

- Support for helping homeless people access safe accommodation and re-enter society.
- Affordable housing is needed for young people, workers, and older adults to prevent population decline.
- Concern about lack of activities for young people contributing to anti-social behaviour.
- Libraries valued for learning, digital access, and social connection.
- Licensing, trading standards, and environmental health keep people safe.

Financial Management and Council Spending

- Reduce internal costs e.g., councillor and staff benefits.
- Prioritise spending on residents.
- Some want more focus on increasing council income.
- Concerns that unpopular decisions may be reversed for political reasons rather than budgetary.

Sports, Leisure, and Public Health

- Investment in sports, green spaces, parks, and leisure is seen as important for community health.
- Keeping facilities free helps reduce long-term health and social care costs.
- Parks, green spaces, and leisure facilities should remain free to use and well maintained.

Economic Development and Local Business Support

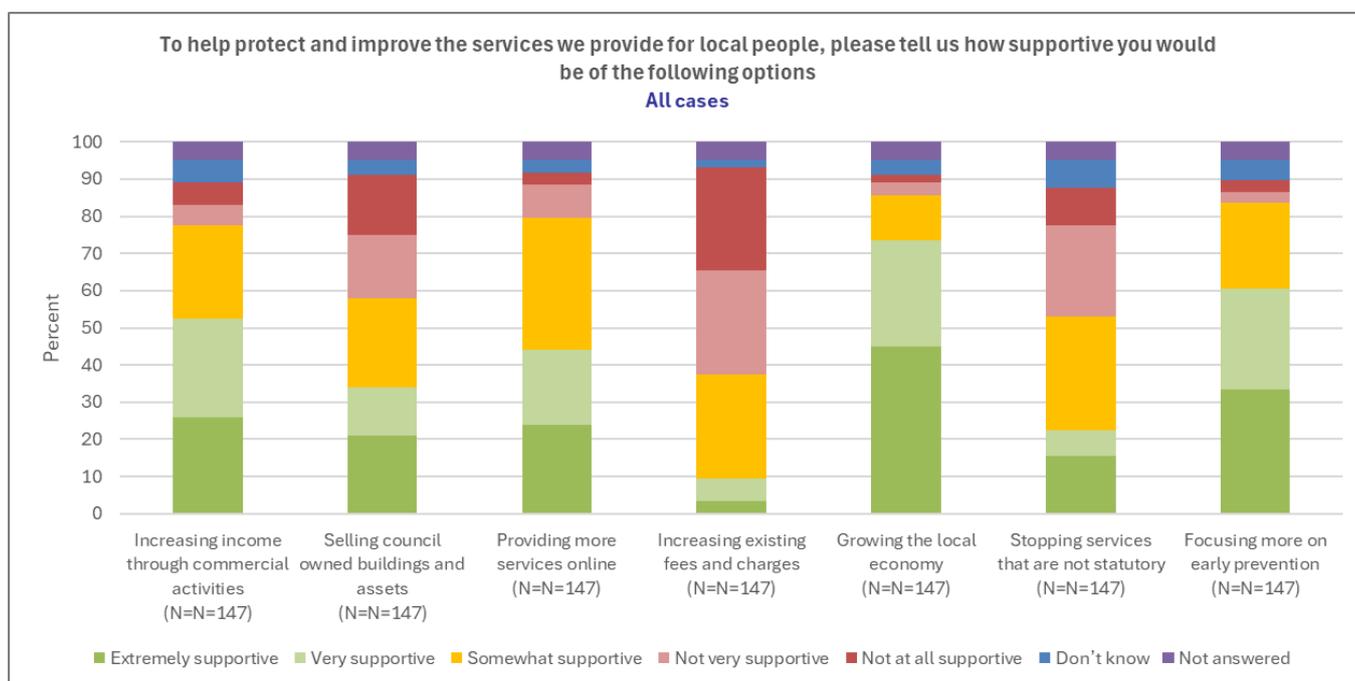
- Request for regeneration in West Berkshire to attract business.
- Prioritise services that make West Berkshire a good place to live.
- Lower commercial rents could help growth.
- Licensing, trading standards, and environmental health supports local businesses.

Balancing our budget 2026/27 – General survey

Consultation Summary Report

3. To help protect and improve the services we provide for local people, please tell us how supportive you would be of the following options.

	Percent						
	Extremely supportive	Very supportive	Somewhat supportive	Not very supportive	Not at all supportive	Don't know	Not answered
Increasing income through commercial activities	25.9	26.5	25.2	5.4	6.1	6.1	4.8
Selling council owned buildings and assets	21.1	12.9	23.8	17.0	16.3	4.1	4.8
Providing more services online	23.8	20.4	35.4	8.8	3.4	3.4	4.8
Increasing existing fees and charges	3.4	6.1	27.9	27.9	27.9	2.0	4.8
Growing the local economy	44.9	28.6	12.2	3.4	2.0	4.1	4.8
Stopping services that are not statutory	15.6	6.8	30.6	24.5	10.2	7.5	4.8
Focusing more on early prevention	33.3	27.2	23.1	2.7	3.4	5.4	4.8



Balancing our budget 2026/27 – General survey

Consultation Summary Report

Summary of Comments Received:

Fee and Charges

- Raising fees reduces participation and revenue, increasing costs overall.
- Fees should only rise with inflation.
- Further fee increases may provoke a backlash.
- Rising fees feel like extra taxation.
- Increase in fees and charges should be the last resort.
- Increase fees for non-essential services.
- Stop cutting services and increasing fees.

Focus on Core Services

- Focus on doing the basics well.
- Core, universal services come first e.g., waste, roads, statutory duties and education.
- Potholes should be fully repaired and roads resurfaced where needed, as safe roads are a statutory duty. Poor road maintenance creates high costs for residents and increases accident risks.
- Focus on providing core services, statutory duties, and those that add value.
- Stop spending on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
- Challenge unsustainable statutory costs.
- Cutting non-statutory services without understanding consequences could be harmful.

Efficiency, Cost Management and Accountability

- The council should improve efficiency, not charge residents more.
- Shorten the decision-making process.
- Too much money is spent on council expenses with little accountability.
- Re-negotiate contracts and manage suppliers better.
- Be proactive, not reactive.
- Management structure is top-heavy, and these posts should be cut before frontline services are impacted.

Asset Management

- Assets create wealth. Selling them doesn't.
- Selling assets is short-term gain and only moves the problem down the road.
- Prefer using or renting buildings, not selling assets.
- Repurpose or sell underused council-owned buildings for income generation.
- Sell assets that are expensive to maintain (evaluate cost vs value/need).
- Sell council owned assets for market value.
- Sell office space and shift staff to remote-working.

Economic Growth and Income Generation

- Boosting the local economy is the best way to raise revenue without increasing costs for taxpayers.
- Grow the number of local businesses but don't increase tax on existing ones.
- Increase income from commercial activities but be mindful of risks.

Balancing our budget 2026/27 – General survey

Consultation Summary Report

- Explore commercial income, using community focus groups for feedback.
- Support economic growth with incentives for start-ups.

Digital and Operational Changes

- Move most services online with a digital-first approach, supported by community help.
- Keep face-to-face services because many struggle with online access.
- Some online shifts can save money, but alternatives must remain.

Prevention and Social Care

- Early prevention can save money if benefits are reliable.
- Prevention should be evidence-based, with outcomes clearly measured.
- Early prevention work is important but must not reduce support for people with high needs.
- Voluntary groups should be part-funded to help meet social care needs.
- Challenge legal requirements for social care.

Community and Public Benefit

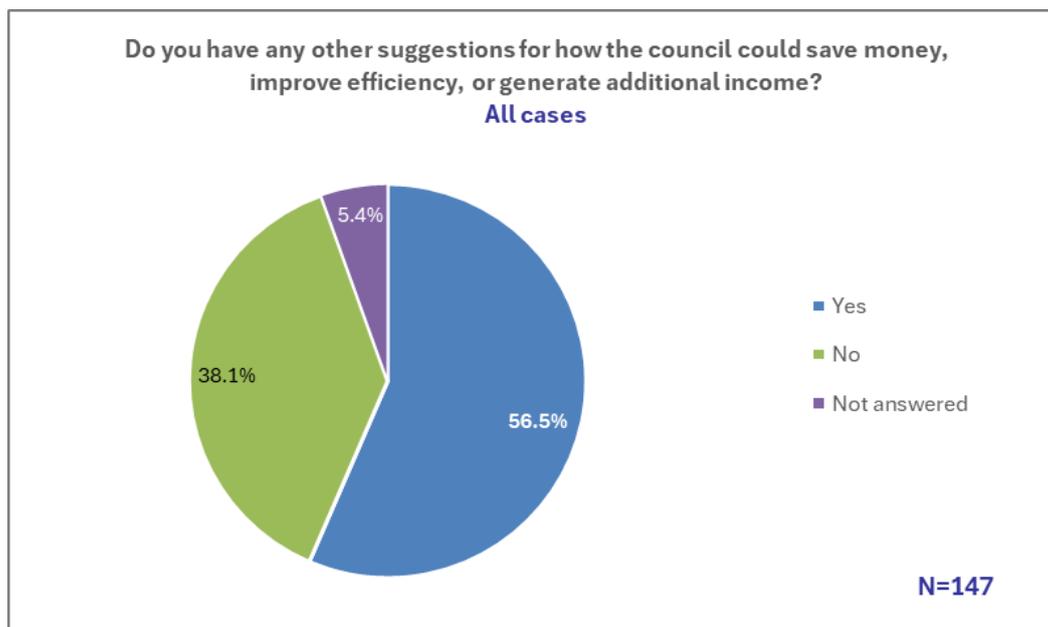
- Public services should prioritise community benefit, not operate like a business.
- Invest more in free-to-use sports, leisure, parks, and green spaces to boost health and cut future health and social care costs.
- Charging sports clubs is short-sighted and delivers little financial benefit.

4. Do you have any other suggestions for how the council could save money, improve efficiency, or generate additional income?

	Frequency	Percent (All cases)	Percent (Responses only)
Yes	83	56.5	59.7
No	56	38.1	40.3
Total	139	94.6	100.0
Not answered	8	5.4	
Total	147	100.0	

Balancing our budget 2026/27 – General survey

Consultation Summary Report



5. What are your suggestions for how the council could save money, improve efficiency, or generate additional income?

Summary of Comments Received:

Efficiency, Cost Management and Accountability

- Implement stricter financial diligence and accountability.
- Outsource or use in-house services based on cost-effectiveness.
- Cut council expenses instead of reducing public services.
- Review all services for necessity, effectiveness, and value for money.
- Review existing contracts to decrease costs.
- Hold contractors accountable.
- Reduce demand from service users rather than cut provider payments
- Look at best practice.
- Consultants may be needed to review spending.

Fees, Income Generation and Taxation

- Stop increasing fees whilst reducing services
- Raising fees reduces participation and revenue, increasing costs overall.
- Increase Council Tax for higher bands or wealthy households.
- Revaluate Council Tax bands where properties that have been extended.
- Explore sponsorships and partnerships with local businesses.
- Ensure council owned properties are making a profit
- Consider commercial ventures managed by experienced professionals.
- Charge for certain services, e.g., libraries, parking for bigger vehicles, soil-improver and community events.
- Increase developers' contribution.
- Charge staff for using the Station Car Park.
- Sell all WBC property.

Balancing our budget 2026/27 – General survey

Consultation Summary Report

Service Prioritisation

- Focus on essential services e.g., road maintenance, waste collection, social care for those most in need.
- Scrap all net-zero projects.
- Reduce/stop spending on non-essential projects e.g., pedestrianisation, peace park, cycle lanes, 20mph zones, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Public services should prioritise community benefit.

Infrastructure

- Prioritise road repairs and pothole fixes over cosmetic changes and traffic schemes.
- Scrap or limit 20mph schemes unless supported by evidence.
- Ensure infrastructure is in place before approving new developments.
- Improve efficiency in waste and recycling collection e.g., larger bins, optimised schedules.
- Reduce recycling collection to 3-weekly (provide bigger bins).
- Reinstate 2 weekly bin/recycling collection or provide refund for reduced service.
- Make the tip accessible for all without booking.
- Hold developers to account and require affordable housing and adequate infrastructure.
- Reduce cost of Home to School Transport.

Community Engagement and Volunteering

- Increase the use of volunteers.
- Encourage retired residents and people receiving benefits to volunteer to support services.
- Promote community involvement in environmental maintenance.
- Seek sponsorship and donations from local businesses and the community.

Staffing

- Merge departments where functions overlap.
- Introduce performance-related pay.
- Stop working from home.
- Freeze or reduce high-level salaries.
- Review and restructure management to eliminate unnecessary layers.
- Review pension schemes.
- Use qualified, experienced professionals to manage commercial ventures.
- Reduce agency spending.
- Invest in council staff and resources to avoid increasing cost of outsourcing.
- Reduce holiday allowance.

Policy, Governance and Decision-making

- Reduce number of councillors and meetings.
- Freeze or reduce councillor allowances.
- Lobby central government for more funding and policy flexibility.

Balancing our budget 2026/27 – General survey

Consultation Summary Report

- Consider joining larger unitary authorities for economies of scale.
- Be transparent with residents and back policy changes.
- Councillors should work together, not along party lines.
- Quicker decision-making.
- Close Parish/Town councils.

Prevention, Social Care and Benefits

- Tighten controls on benefit fraud and review care packages regularly.
- Focus social care spending on those that really need it.
- Provide childcare support for low-income families to enable work.
- Explore voucher systems for essentials instead of cash benefits.
- Focus on preventive services to reduce long-term costs e.g., health, social care, education.

Economic Development

- Attract businesses to the area by reducing business rates.
- Attract young people to the area.
- Encourage big companies to contribute more to local communities.
- Promote regeneration through reduced parking charges and improved town centres.
- Implement a district village growth policy.

6. Do you have any further comments?

Summary of Comments Received:

Fee and Charges

- Raising fees for services e.g., sports, leisure, parking, bins, is seen as counterproductive as it reduces participation, lowers revenue, and increases long-term costs.
- Improve efficiency instead of charging more.
- Don't increase parking charges and Council Tax.
- Invest more in free-to-use sports, leisure, parks, and green spaces to boost health and cut future health and social care costs.

Efficiency, Transparency, and Financial Accountability

- Better financial management, transparency and efficiency.
- Criticism of wasteful spending on projects e.g., Faraday Road, Victoria Park café, and high social care costs.
- Council is perceived as being poorly managed.
- Look for opportunities to improve efficiency, modernise services.
- Work with voluntary groups and neighbouring authorities for efficiency.
- Stop borrowing

Focus on Core Services

- Prioritise essential statutory services e.g., roads, waste, social care.
- Road maintenance and pothole repairs are seen as critical statutory duties.

Balancing our budget 2026/27 – General survey

Consultation Summary Report

- Protect frontline services and ensure fairness across the district.

Community Focused Approach

- Public services should prioritise community benefit, not operate like businesses.
- Equal distribution of spending across rural and urban areas.
- Engage residents meaningfully in consultations e.g., listen to consultation responses the first time when decision-making.
- Hold consultation meetings outside normal working hours.

Preventative and Long-Term Value

- Focus on prevention and early intervention, especially in education and mental health.
- Fund EHCPs promptly, expand school nurture units, and recruit newly qualified teachers to reduce costs.

Staffing

- Reduce staff costs, including pensions.
- Stop inflation-busting salary increases.

Climate, Net Zero and Waste

- Questions about value for money on solar farms and climate projects.
- Reduce staffing for Net Zero initiatives.
- Charge for bigger bins.
- Waste collection should be simplified.
- Bring back fortnightly waste collections.

Economic Growth

- Reduce business rates and parking charges to attract shoppers and businesses.
- Make West Berkshire attractive for young people.

Governance, Decision-making and Leadership

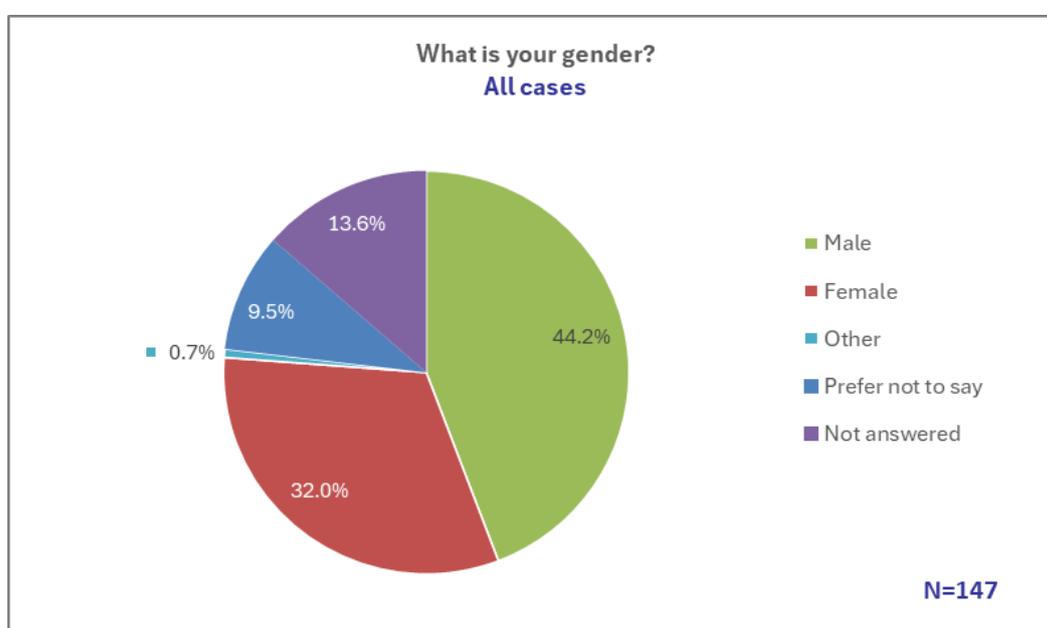
- Ensure leaders have strong financial skills and can make tough decisions.
- Abolish Parish/Town councils.
- Only consult when the decision can be affected.
- Cut councillor expenses
- Transparency and fairness in decision-making.
- Listen to consultation responses for the first time when making decisions.

Balancing our budget 2026/27 – General survey

Consultation Summary Report

7. What is your gender? (Optional)

	Frequency	Percent (All cases)	Percent (Responses only)
Male	65	44.2	51.2
Female	47	32.0	37.0
Other	1	0.7	0.8
Prefer not to say	14	9.5	11.0
Total	127	86.4	100.0
Not answered	20	13.6	
Total	147	100.0	



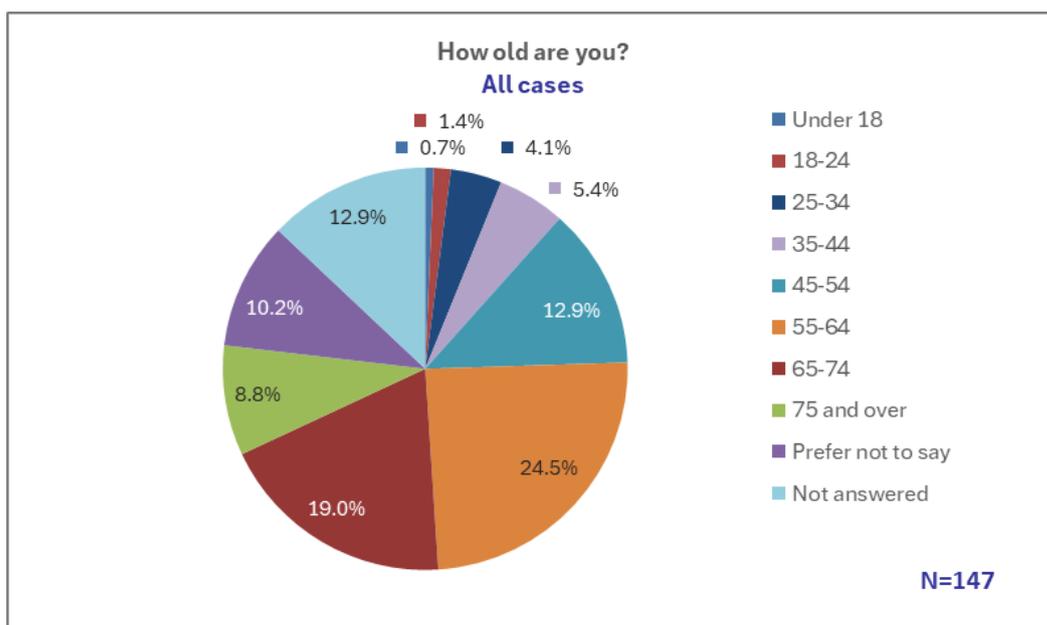
8. How old are you? (Optional)

	Frequency	Percent (All cases)	Percent (Responses only)
Under 18	1	0.7	0.8
18-24	2	1.4	1.6
25-34	6	4.1	4.7
35-44	8	5.4	6.3
45-54	19	12.9	14.8
55-64	36	24.5	28.1
65-74	28	19.0	21.9
75 and over	13	8.8	10.2
Prefer not to say	15	10.2	11.7

Balancing our budget 2026/27 – General survey

Consultation Summary Report

	Frequency	Percent (All cases)	Percent (Responses only)
Total	128	87.1	100.0
Not answered	19	12.9	
Total	147	100.0	



9. Please tell us your postcode, excluding the last two letters, e.g. RG14 5

Responses were received from the following areas:

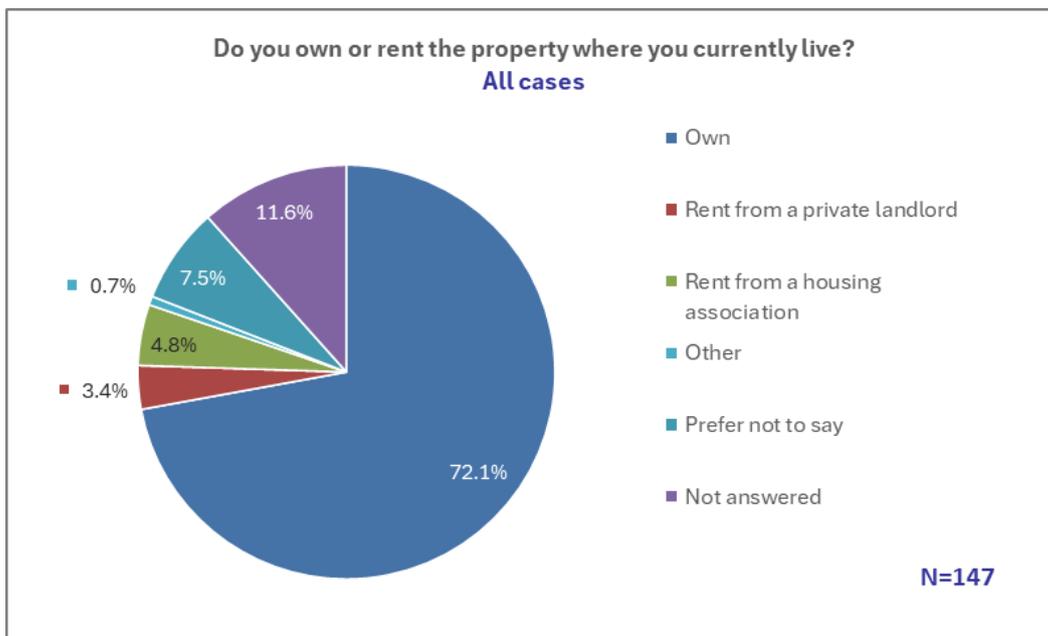
- RG8
- RG7
- RG31
- RG30
- RG20
- RG19
- RG18
- RG17
- RG15
- RG14

10. Do you own or rent the property where you currently live?

	Frequency	Percent (All cases)	Percent (Responses only)
Own	106	72.1	81.5
Rent from a private landlord	5	3.4	3.8
Rent from a housing association	7	4.8	5.4
Other	1	0.7	0.8
Prefer not to say	11	7.5	8.5
Total	130	88.4	100.0
Not answered	17	11.6	
Total	147	100.0	

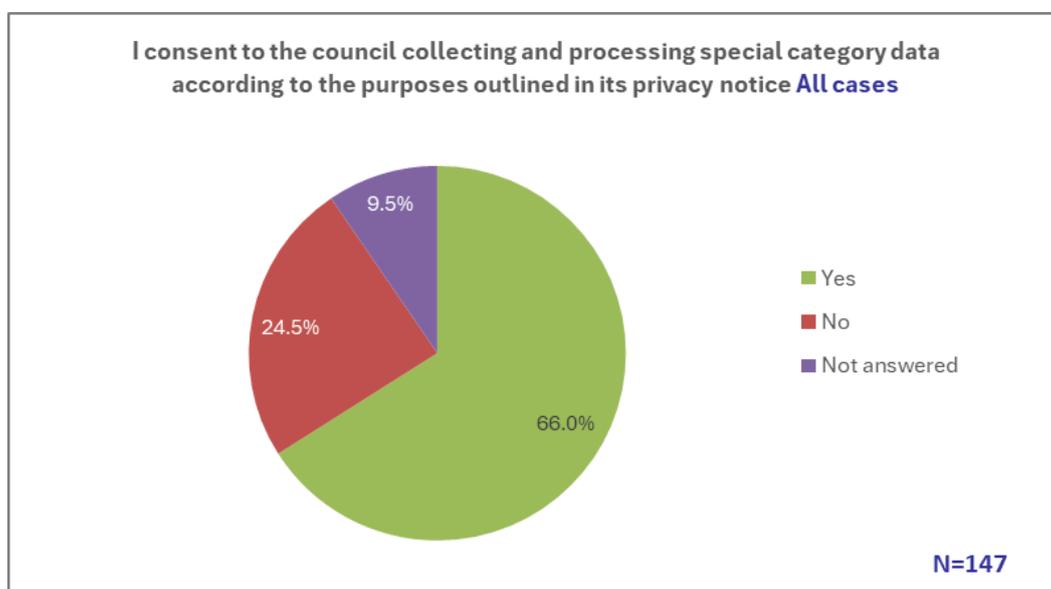
Balancing our budget 2026/27 – General survey

Consultation Summary Report



11. I consent to the council collecting and processing special category data according to the purposes outlined in its privacy notice.

	Frequency	Percent (All cases)	Percent (Responses only)
Yes	97	66.0	72.9
No	36	24.5	27.1
Total	133	90.5	100.0
Not answered	14	9.5	
Total	147	100.0	



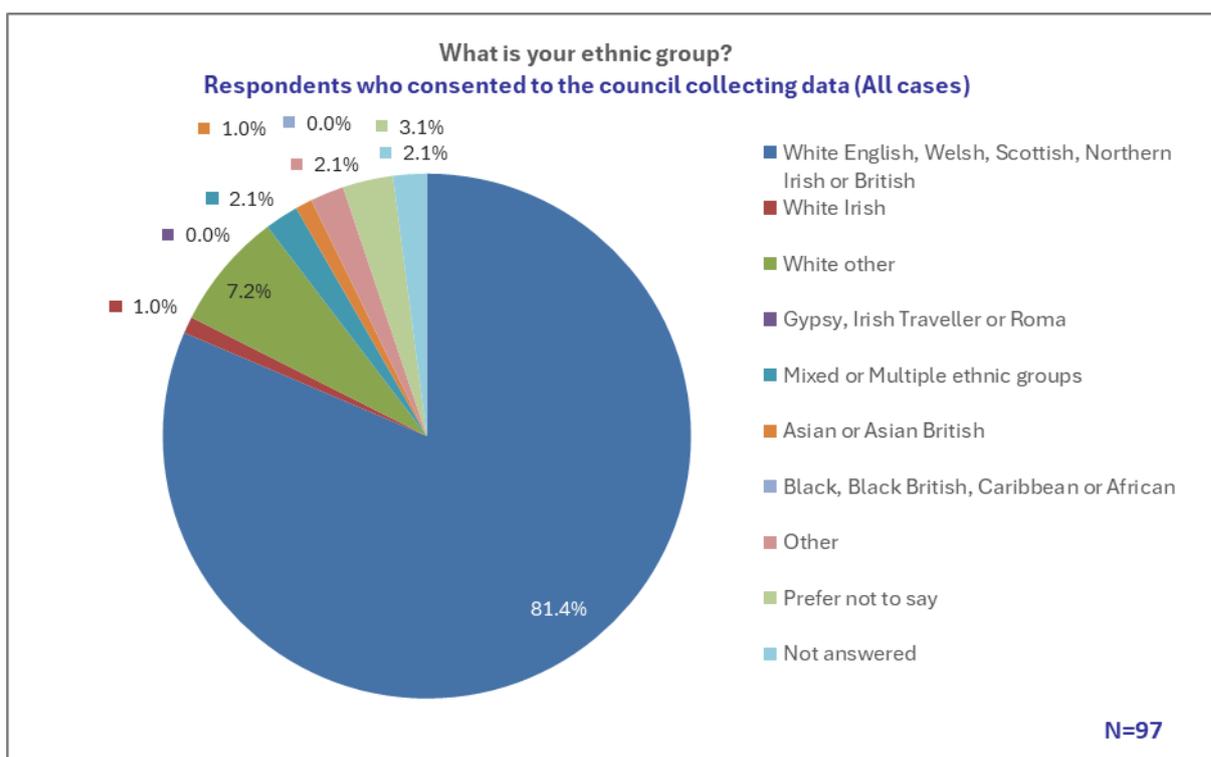
Balancing our budget 2026/27 – General survey

Consultation Summary Report

N.B. The following two questions are out of 97 (not 147), as respondents that have not consented to the council collecting and processing special category data have been excluded.

12. What is your ethnic group? (Optional)

	Frequency	Percent (All cases)	Percent (Responses only)
White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	79	81.4	83.2
White Irish	1	1.0	1.1
White other	7	7.2	7.4
Gypsy, Irish Traveller or Roma	0	0.0	0.0
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	2	2.1	2.1
Asian or Asian British	1	1.0	1.1
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	0	0.0	0.0
Other	2	2.1	2.1
Prefer not to say	3	3.1	3.2
Total	95	97.9	100.0
Not answered	2	2.1	
Total	97	100.0	

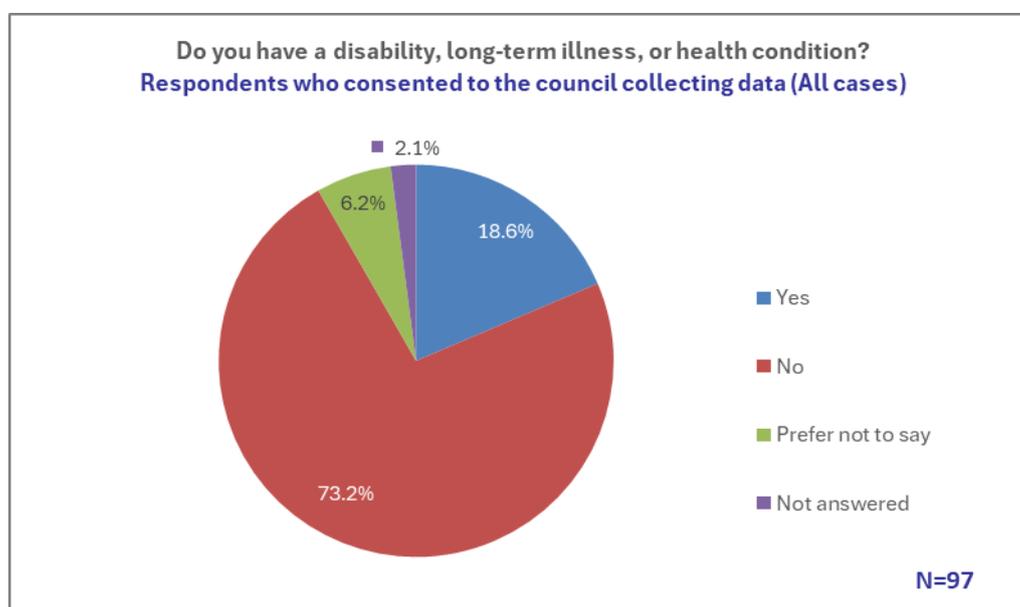


Balancing our budget 2026/27 – General survey

Consultation Summary Report

13. Do you have a disability, long-term illness, or health condition? (Optional)

	Frequency	Percent (All cases)	Percent (Responses only)
Yes	18	18.6	18.9
No	71	73.2	74.7
Prefer not to say	6	6.2	6.3
Total	95	97.9	100.0
Not answered	2	2.1	
Total	97	100.0	



Sarah Winter and Jenny Legge
Performance, Research and Consultation Team
Strategy and Governance
13/01/2026

Please note: In order to allow everyone who wished the opportunity to contribute, feedback was not sampled. Therefore, this wasn't a quantitative, statistically valid exercise. It was neither the premise, purpose, nor within the capability of the exercise, to determine the overall community's level of support, or views on the proposals, with any degree of confidence.

The feedback captured therefore should be seen in the context of 'those who responded', rather than reflective of the wider community.

ⁱ <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/balancing-our-budget>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/consultations>

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Budget proposals 2026/27: To cease directly providing adult respite in the community services, which will be commissioned from alternative providers

Consultation Summary Report

Why we consulted?

Councils across the country continue to face unprecedented financial pressures, and West Berkshire Council is no exception. The council is responding to increasing demands in adults' and children's social care services supporting our most vulnerable residents, and in other areas such as homelessness and home to school transport. The increases in demand, combined with higher inflation and increasing costs, are financially impacting the council and its suppliers.

In 2026/27, we need to find £6.4 million in savings or income generation. This figure assumes that Council Tax increases by the maximum 4.99%.

To fill the remaining gap, we have a range of options available, including changing how we provide services and making internal savings, for example: re-tendering contracts for better value for money, streamlining processes, and introducing new charges or increasing existing charges for some services.

In February 2026, we will set our budget for the financial year ahead (2026/27). To help shape that process, we asked local residents, communities and other parties for their views on how we could fund and prioritise the services we provide. We are also sought their views on two specific proposals.

For more information, please visit <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/balancing-our-budget>

Approach

We published the 'Balancing our Budget' consultation on our website on Monday, 1 December 2025 with feedback requested by midday on Monday, 12 January 2026.

Respondents were directed to a central index pageⁱ, which outlined the overall background to the exercise, and provided links to our 'Balancing our Budget 2026/27' survey, as well as the individual proposals on our Consultation and Engagement Hubⁱⁱ.

Each individual proposal page included further details on the specifics of what the proposal contained and what we thought the impact might be, along with any other elements we'd considered. Feedback was then invited through an online survey, and hard copies of the proposal documents and surveys were made available on request.

Each individual in receipt of services from ARC were written to separately.

As well as publishing the consultations on our website, we also emailed members of the West Berkshire Community Panel (around 2,500 people),

Budget proposals 2026/27: To cease directly providing adult respite in the community services, which will be commissioned from alternative providers

Consultation Summary Report

Finally, we issued a press release on Monday, 1 December 2026 and further publicised our consultations through our social media accounts and residents' e-newsletters. We also placed posters in our main offices and made them available to Services to put up as required.

Proposal Background

West Berkshire Council's Adult Social Care Service currently provides an Adult Respite in the Community Service (ARC).

This service was originally set up to provide a short-term respite service but is being used as a regular service for nine clients that could be supported differently using alternative services.

Legislative and Statutory Requirements

The Care Act 2014 governs what services the council should provide as part of an individual's care package, what services the council doesn't need to provide, and how the council can charge for these services.

Proposal Details

To close the Adult Respite in the Community (ARC) Service and offer the nine client's alternative provision that could also meet their needs.

This proposal will save the council £28,300 per year.

Consultation Response

Number of Responses

In total, 41 responses were received.

There were 2 late submissions via email. The comments included have been considered.

We received 0 petitions.

Summary of Main Points

55.88% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed.

7.32% of respondents were people who use the service.

61.76% of respondents felt the changes might have a negative effect on people.

Respondents praised the need for the service and the benefits to both individuals and carers.

Respondents commented on the need for a smooth transition to minimise disruption and an alternative service needs to be of the same standard.

Budget proposals 2026/27: To cease directly providing adult respite in the community services, which will be commissioned from alternative providers

Consultation Summary Report

Concerns for individuals who may not understand what is happening would have a negative impact on carers also.

Respondents said that respite services should not be lost, they are important for people's mental health and wellbeing.

Summary of Responses by Question

1. Which of the following best describes you?

	Number	%
A resident of West Berkshire	36	87.50%
A user of the Adult Respite in the Community service	3	7.32%
A West Berkshire business owner	1	2.44%
Employed by a business located in West Berkshire	4	9.76%
Employed by West Berkshire Council	6	14.63%
A Parish/Town Councillor	0	0.00%
A District Councillor	0	0.00%
A West Berkshire Council partner organisation	0	0.00%
A West Berkshire Council service provider	3	4.88%
Other - please specify	8	7.32%

Other

Employee of ARC

Parish Council

A user in receipt of Adult Social care in West Berkshire.

A clinical NHS employee.

Employed by a Supermarket - part time hours amount of which the ARC user can cope with

ARC

ARC worker

I am an Adult Respite carer [casual]

A worker of the ARC service

There were two further submissions after the deadline. The comments have been considered in the response.

Budget proposals 2026/27: To cease directly providing adult respite in the community services, which will be commissioned from alternative providers

Consultation Summary Report

- 2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to cease directly providing adult respite in the community services, which will be commissioned from alternative providers?**

	Number	%
Strongly agree	9	26.47%
Agree	3	8.82%
Neither agree nor disagree	3	8.82%
Disagree	7	20.59%
Strongly Disagree	12	35.29%
Total	34	99.99%

- 3. Is there anything you think we should be aware of in terms of how this proposal might impact people? For example, do you think it will affect some individuals more than others?**

	Number	%
Yes	22	64.71%
No	12	35.29%
Total	34	100%

- 4. What do you think we should be aware of in terms of how this proposal might impact people?**

Service users need continuity and consistency and a potential change in service could have a negative impact. As the service users are used to the venues, they attend these should be continued to being with for continuity.

One respondent felt that Shared Lives (the proposed alternative) would not be able to do all the social events that ARC currently provides.

Individuals will be sensitive to any changes, and this will need to be managed well.

- 5. Do you think our proposed change might have a negative effect on you or other people?**

	Number	%
Yes	21	67.76%

Budget proposals 2026/27: To cease directly providing adult respite in the community services, which will be commissioned from alternative providers

Consultation Summary Report

	Number	%
No	38.24%	13
Total	100	34

6. What suggestions, if any, do you have for how we could minimise the negative effect should we proceed?

In summary:

- People will need support to transition to an alternative provision.
- Standards need to be maintained in a new service.
- Maintain respite services for the health and wellbeing of carers.
- Where there are friendship groups this should be maintained.

7. Do you have any suggestions on how we might save money or increase income in the Adult Respite in the Community service?

	Number	%
Yes	11	35.35%
No	23	67.65%
Total	34	100%

8. What suggestions do you have for how we might save money or increase income in the Adult Respite in the Community service?

Reduce the number of sessions offered from 2 to 1 per month.
 Utilise students to support individuals.
 Partner with other organizations.

9. Do you have any further comments?

Feedback included recognition that the service is appreciated by both users and family, the use of capital assets need to be managed effectively, if making a saving by switching the provider is possible it should be done, respite should not be lost as it is important for people's mental health and wellbeing.

10. What is your gender? (Optional)

	Number	%
Male	15	48.39%
Female	14	45.16%
Other	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	2	6.45%

Budget proposals 2026/27: To cease directly providing adult respite in the community services, which will be commissioned from alternative providers

Consultation Summary Report

	Number	%
Total	31	100%

11. How old are you? (Optional)

	Number	%
Under 18	0	0.00%
18-24	0	0.00%
25-34	1	3.23%
35-44	5	16.13%
45-54	6	19.35%
55-64	6	19.35%
65-74	8	25.81%
75 and over	1	3.23%
Prefer not to say	4	12.90%
Total	31	100%

12. Please tell us your postcode, excluding the last two letters, e.g. RG14 5

RG8 8
 RG18 9
 RG31 7ZL
 RG14 5
 RG7 5
 RG315
 RG18 3
 RG7 6
 rg31 6
 RG14 3aa
 RG14 1
 RG18 4BZ
 RG20 0
 RG20 4
 RG18
 RG18 3
 RG14 6
 RG7 3
 RG14 7
 RG14
 rg147eb
 RG14 7

Budget proposals 2026/27: To cease directly providing adult respite in the community services, which will be commissioned from alternative providers

Consultation Summary Report

rg31 4
RG8 7
rg198
RG14 2
Rg14 1rj
Rg14 7
RG14 6

13. What is your ethnic group? (Optional)

	Number	%
White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	1	4.00%
White Irish	22	88.00%
White other	0	0.00%
Gypsy, Irish Traveller or Roma	1	4.00%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British	1	0.00%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	0	0.00%
Other ethnic group	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	0	
Total	25	100%

14. Do you have a disability, long-term illness, or health condition? (Optional)

	Number	%
Yes	13	52.00%
No	11	44.00%
Prefer not to say	1	4.00
Total	25	100%

Officer conclusion and recommendation can be found in the associated Overview of Responses and Recommendations document.

Melanie O'Rourke
Service Director
Adult Social Care
13/01/26

Budget proposals 2026/27: To cease directly providing adult respite in the community services, which will be commissioned from alternative providers

Consultation Summary Report

***Please note:** In order to allow everyone who wished the opportunity to contribute, feedback was not sampled. Therefore this wasn't a quantitative, statistically valid exercise. It was neither the premise, purpose, nor within the capability of the exercise, to determine the overall community's level of support, or views on the proposals, with any degree of confidence.*

The feedback captured therefore should be seen in the context of 'those who responded', rather than reflective of the wider community.

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Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget proposals 2026/27: To cease directly providing adult respite in the community services, which will be commissioned from alternative providers			Service Director: Melanie O'Rourke		20/01/2026 (Corporate Board)																																		
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Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget proposals 2026/27: To cease directly providing adult respite in the community services, which will be commissioned from alternative providers		Service Director: Melanie O'Rourke Author: Melanie O'Rourke	20/01/2026 (Corporate Board)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employed by a Supermarket - part time hours amount of which the ARC user can cope with - ARC - ARC worker - I am an Adult Respite carer [casual] - A worker of the ARC service <p>- 1 response came in after the deadline. The comments have been included in the response.</p> <p>We received 0 petitions.</p>		
Key issues raised:	<p>55.88% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed. 7.32% of respondents were people who use the service. 61.76% of respondents felt the changes might have a negative effect on people.</p> <p>Respondents praised the need for the service and the benefits to both individuals and carers. Respondents commented on the need for a smooth transition to minimise disruption and an alternative service needs to be of the same standard. Concerns for individuals who may not understand what is happening would have a negative impact on carers also. Respondents said that respite services should not be lost, they are important for people's mental health and wellbeing.</p>		
Equality issues:	No changes to the Equalities Impact Assessment.		
Suggestions for minimising any negative effects of	Suggestion	Council response	
	People will need help to transition to alternative provision	This would be managed on an individual basis.	

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Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget proposals 2026/27: To cease directly providing adult respite in the community services, which will be commissioned from alternative providers		Service Director: Melanie O'Rourke Author: Melanie O'Rourke	20/01/2026 (Corporate Board)
the proposed change:	There are well trained workers within the ARC service.	There is potential for them to become Shared Lives Carers	
	Alternative provision needs to be of the same standard.	A transfer would be carefully managed to ensure standards were not compromised.	
	It needs to be properly run and have regular checks with the provider.	Shared Lives in an 'in-house' service and has close oversight from Adult Social Care which would identify and remedy if any issues that arose.	
	It appears that this is only a small group that could be merged with other services.	The intention is to use the Shared Lives service which has capacity to support these individuals.	
	Respite services should not be lost they are important for people's mental health and wellbeing.	The intention is not to lose respite services but to deliver them in a different way.	
	Where there are friendship networks through ARC these should be maintained.	This can be scoped as part of a transition plan.	
Suggestions for other savings options:	Suggestion	Council response	
	Reduce the sessions to 1 per month rather than 2.	If the assessed need identifies more than 1 session per month we have a duty under the Care Act 2014 to provide this.	
	Could students be used to reduce costs?	Students would only be able to support for a short period of time and would not offer consistency.	
	Partner with other organisations such as Alzheimer's Society.	This would still incur costs to the local authority, and any partner would need to be aligned to the needs of people with Learning Disabilities.	
Suggestions for income generation:	Suggestion	Council response	
	Raise council tax	The council is limited in how much income can be raised through Council Tax. An Adult Social Care precept is factored into Council Tax to respond to the pressures.	
	Keep services open but charge more.	There are limitations as to how much we can charge for services based on individuals' financial circumstances.	

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Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget proposals 2026/27: To cease directly providing adult respite in the community services, which will be commissioned from alternative providers	Service Director: Melanie O'Rourke Author: Melanie O'Rourke	20/01/2026 (Corporate Board)
Officer conclusion and recommendation as a result of the responses:	It is noted that the largest proportion of responses were against the proposal and valued the service provision. The service has evolved into a long-term respite service over a period of time rather than a short-term resource and currently supports 9 people. Concerns generally related to disruption to individuals and carers. However, officers are confident that alternative solutions can be found that meets individuals or group's needs.	

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West Berkshire Council
Equity Impact Assessment

Contents

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Section 1: Summary details

Directorate and Service Area	Adult Social Care & Public Health
What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	Adult Respite in the Community (ARC) ARC is a service that provides respite to primarily learning disability (LD) clients in the community.
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	existing
Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	The original concept was for it to be used as a short term service but it is being used as a regular service for 11 LD clients that could be supported differently. To end ARC service as this service is no longer an efficient use of resources and the service can be offered through other existing services.
Completed By	Richard Pask
Authorised By	Melanie O'Rourke
Date of Assessment	14.11.25

Section 2: Detail of proposal

<p>Context / Background</p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>The Care Act 2014 governs what services the Council should provide as part of an individual's care package, what services the Council does not need to provide and how the Council can charge for these services. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance</p> <p>The Adult Respite in the Community Service (ARC) is a service that provides respite to primarily learning disability (LD) clients in the community.</p> <p>The original concept was for it to be used as a short term service but it is being used as a regular service for 11 LD clients that could be supported differently.</p> <p>To end ARC service as this service is no longer an efficient use of resources and the service can be offered through other existing services.</p>
<p>Proposals</p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p>	<p>The Adult Respite in the Community Service (ARC) is a service that provides respite to primarily learning disability (LD) clients in the community.</p> <p>The original concept was for it to be used as a short term service but it is being used as a regular service for 11 LD clients that could be supported differently.</p> <p>To end ARC service as this service is no longer an efficient use of resources and the service can be offered through other existing services.</p>
<p>Evidence / Intelligence</p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service</p>	<p>There are currently 11 clients using this service and the service can be provided via other alternative services that are available. Services can be provided by shared lives, within their current budget, or through leisure services or the voluntary sector which again would be nil cost.</p>

<p>users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.</p>	
<p>Alternatives considered / rejected</p> <p>Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.</p>	<p>The alternative is to do nothing, but this is a n expensive service for a very small number of clients that could be delivered through other services.</p>

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (* Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Most of the clients using this service are between 18 to 65. Ending this service will mean a change in their service.	Ensure alternative provision is available	Jo England/Melanie O'Rourke	April 2026
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All the clients that use this service have a learning disability. Ending this service will mean a change in their service.	Ensure alternative provision is available	Jo England/Melanie O'Rourke	April 2026
Gender Reassignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (* Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Rural communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Areas of deprivation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Displaced communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Care experienced people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All the clients that use this service are Adult Social Care clients. Ending this service will mean a change in their service.	Ensure alternative provision is available	Jo England/Melanie O'Rourke	April 2026
The Armed Forces Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

Review Date	1 December 2026
Person Responsible for Review	Richard Pask/Jo England
Authorised By	Melanie O' Rourke

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground

Consultation Summary Report

Why we consulted?

Councils across the country continue to face unprecedented financial pressures, and West Berkshire Council (“the Council”) is no exception. The Council is responding to increasing demands in adults’ and children’s social care services supporting our most vulnerable residents, and in other areas such as homelessness and home to school transport. The increases in demand, combined with higher inflation and increasing costs, are financially impacting the Council and its suppliers.

In 2026/27, we need to find £6.4 million in savings or income generation. This figure assumes that Council Tax increases by the maximum 4.99%.

To fill the remaining gap, we have a range of options available, including changing how we provide services and making internal savings, for example: re-tendering contracts for better value for money, streamlining processes, and introducing new charges or increasing existing charges for some services.

In February 2026, we will set our budget for the financial year ahead (2026/27). To help shape that process, we asked local residents, communities and other parties for their views on how we could fund and prioritise the services we provide. We are also sought their views on two specific proposals.

For more information, please visit <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/balancing-our-budget>

Approach

We published the ‘Balancing our Budget’ consultation on our website on Monday, 1 December 2025 with feedback requested by midday on Monday, 12 January 2026.

Respondents were directed to a central index pageⁱ, which outlined the overall background to the exercise, and provided links to our ‘Balancing our Budget 2026/27’ survey, as well as the individual proposals on our Consultation and Engagement Hubⁱⁱ.

Each individual proposal page included further details on the specifics of what the proposal contained and what we thought the impact might be, along with any other elements we’d considered. Feedback was then invited through an online survey, and hard copies of the proposal documents and surveys were made available on request.

As well as publishing the consultations on our website, we also emailed members of the West Berkshire Community Panel (around 2,500 people), we also emailed the consultation documents to all regular users of the artificial pitch facility.

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground

Consultation Summary Report

Finally, we issued a press release on Monday, 1 December 2026 and further publicised our consultations through our social media accounts and residents' e-newsletters. We also placed posters in our main offices and made them available to Services to put up as required.

Proposal Background

Henwick Worthy Sports Ground offers a wide range of outdoor sports facilities including a floodlit artificial pitch suitable for football and hockey. The pitch is available for hire every day from 10am to 10pm. Peak hours are defined as weekday evenings from 6pm to 10pm, and all day on Saturday. Bookings can be made for half or full pitch use.

The site is owned and managed by West Berkshire Council, but is maintained by Krinkels UK Ltd, the Council's grounds maintenance contractor. There is no formal volunteer programme associated with the pitch operations, although our regular community sports clubs often contribute to the sporting offer at the site through coaching and match-day support to help manage teams and supporters.

From 1 October 2024 to date, the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground has been booked 1,429 times, generating £86,663 in income. This reflects strong and consistent community demand, with usage spanning local football clubs, schools, and recreational groups. The facility plays a key role in supporting grassroots sport and active lifestyles across the district.

In the 2024/25 financial year, our expenditure on this facility was £262,479, our total income was £176,886, made up from booking income, grants and contributions from Thatcham Town Council, and rental payments from local sports clubs. Our total net expenditure (the total spend minus any income) was £85,594.

We carried out benchmarking of artificial pitch hire charges across a range of providers in the public, private, and charitable sectors, to inform our proposal. While charges vary significantly, the analysis indicates that:

- demand for artificial pitches remains high, particularly during weekday evenings (peak times)
- the competitive landscape and usage levels suggest there is scope to increase our hire fees above the rate of inflation without adversely affecting demand

It is important to note that true comparisons are difficult due to:

- variations in pricing structures, including pitch size (full, half, 5-a-side etc.), sport type, and booking duration
- discounting and incentivisation schemes, such as community rates, block booking discounts, and school partnerships
- seasonal pricing, with different rates applied in summer and winter months

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground

Consultation Summary Report

- Despite these differences, the benchmarking shows that full pitch peak-time hire charges (60 mins) range from £60 to £159 per hour, with most being between £105 and £125 per hour.

Legislative and Statutory Requirements

There are no legal or statutory requirements.

Proposal Details

To increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground by 35%:

Artificial Full Pitch (11 a side) Peak-time Charges

Period	Current cost	Proposed cost
30 mins	£46.00	£62.00
60 mins	£92.00	£124.00
90 mins	£140.00	£189.00

Artificial Half Pitch (5 a side) Peak-time Charges

Period	Current cost	Proposed cost
30 mins	£26.00	£35.00
60 mins	£51.00	£68.85
90 mins	£78.00	£105.30

We also propose to extend the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground to include all day Sunday.

Off-peak charges are unaffected by this proposal but will, as in previous years, be uplifted by inflation rounded up or down to the nearest £1. It is hoped that this will encourage more daytime and other off-peak usage of the facility by community groups, schools, and casual users. We will do additional promotion of the facility to these groups.

No reduction in service hours or removal of facilities is proposed. The artificial pitch will remain fully operational.

It is anticipated that this proposal would generate an additional income of approximately £32,600 annually.

While future usage levels may fluctuate, the revised fee structure provides a robust financial buffer and a clear path towards meeting strategic income goals.

Whilst the proposed uplift is financially significant it would support the continued investment in pitch maintenance and upgrades, and the long-term sustainability of the service.

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground

Consultation Summary Report

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground

Consultation Summary Report

Consultation Response

Number of Responses

In total 103 responses were received.

Summary of Main Points

The consultation on the proposed 35% increase in artificial pitch fees and reclassification of Sundays as peak time revealed strong opposition from stakeholders. Respondents highlighted significant risks, including reduced accessibility for children and low-income families, financial strain on clubs, and negative impacts on health, wellbeing, and community cohesion.

Newbury and Thatcham Hockey Club raised very strong opposition. As they are a primary user, it is worth specifically documenting their concerns. They have stated that the proposed changes will increase their costs by around £20,000 next season, with nearly 40% of this due to Sundays being reclassified as Peak times. This would force the club to either cut services, raise fees significantly, or consider relocating. As Sundays are mainly for junior and disability sessions, the change risks pricing out families and discouraging young players, undermining participation and inclusivity.

Concerns were raised about transparency and fairness, particularly as grass pitch fees remain unchanged.

Respondents suggested easing the impact of the proposed fee increase by applying smaller, inflation-level rises or introducing the increase gradually over time. They recommended offering targeted subsidies for juniors and disability sessions, along with block booking discounts and loyalty schemes to keep participation affordable. Other ideas included generating income through advertising, charging higher rates for non-local users, and encouraging community fundraising initiatives to reduce reliance on fee increases. Improving facilities was also highlighted, such as building additional pitches, allowing smaller pitch bookings, and making better use of underutilised courts. Finally, respondents stressed that any changes should align with health, inclusion, and Sport England objectives to support the Council's Leisure Strategy and maintain equitable access to sport.

Summary of Responses by Question

1. Which of the following best describes you?

(N.B % will not total 100% as respondents were able to select more than one)

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground

Consultation Summary Report

	Number	%
A resident of West Berkshire	94	91.26%
A user of the artificial pitch	71	68.93%
A West Berkshire business owner	6	5.83%
Employed by a business located in West Berkshire	3	2.91%
Employed by West Berkshire Council	1	0.97%
A Parish/Town Councillor	1	0.97%
A District Councillor	0	0.00%
A West Berkshire Council partner organisation	0	0.00%
A West Berkshire Council service provider	0	0.00%
Other - please specify	4	3.88%

2. Have you ever hired the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground?

	Yes		No	
	Number	%	Number	%
During peak time, i.e. weekday evenings (6pm to 10pm) and all-day Saturday	41	40.59%	60	59.41%
During off-peak time	43	42.57%	58	57.43%

3. How often do you hire the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground?

Respondents skipped this question if they had never hired the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground.

During peak time, i.e. weekday evenings (6pm to 10pm) and all-day Saturday

	Number	%
Very frequently	22	56.41%
Frequently	7	17.95%
Occasionally	5	12.82%
Rarely	1	2.56%
Very rarely	4	10.26%
Total	39	100.00%

During off-peak time

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground

Consultation Summary Report

	Number	%
Very frequently	17	40.48%
Frequently	7	16.67%
Occasionally	12	28.57%
Rarely	3	7.14%
Very rarely	3	7.14%
Total	42	100.00%

4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following proposals?

To increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground by 35%. For example, the 60mins/full pitch charge would increase from £92 to £124

	Number	%
Strongly agree	6	6.25%
Agree	13	13.54%
Neither agree nor disagree	3	3.13%
Disagree	8	8.33%
Strongly Disagree	66	68.75%
Total	96	100.00%

To extend the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground to include all day Sunday

	Number	%
Strongly agree	8	8.33%
Agree	7	7.29%
Neither agree nor disagree	5	5.21%
Disagree	7	7.29%
Strongly Disagree	69	71.88%
Total	96	100.00%

Summary of 'Please explain the reasons for your response(s):

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground

Consultation Summary Report

Local parents and sports enthusiasts emphasised the vital role of clubs like Newbury and Thatcham Hockey Club in promoting health, social skills, and resilience for children and adults. Team sports are seen as essential for countering the negative effects of excessive screen time and supporting mental well-being.

The proposed significant rise in artificial pitch hire fees at Henwick, for some sessions and the further financial impact of reclassifying Sundays as peak time, would significantly impact grassroots hockey and football. Clubs fear they will have to raise membership costs, making participation unaffordable for many families and threatening the survival of community sports programs and events.

Higher costs contradict public health goals, risk widening inequalities, and could lead to reduced physical activity, harming mental health and increasing NHS burdens.

Respondents suggest maintaining off-peak rates for junior sessions, improving facility management, and exploring fairer funding options instead of imposing steep hikes.

5. Is there anything you think we should be aware of in terms of how these proposals might impact people? For example, do you think they will affect some individuals more than others?

	Number	%
Yes	74	77.08%
No	22	22.92%
Total	96	100.00%

6. What do you think we should be aware of in terms of how these proposals might impact people?

The responses emphasised the immense value of local sports clubs, particularly Newbury and Thatcham Hockey Club, in fostering community connections, physical health, and mental well-being.

The proposed increase in artificial pitch hire fees, including reclassifying Sundays as peak time, is strongly opposed. Respondents argue that this change would significantly raise costs for clubs, forcing them to increase membership fees and match charges. For families, especially those with multiple players or lower incomes, this could make participation unaffordable, leading to reduced membership and even club closures. The impact would be particularly severe on junior hockey sessions, grassroots football, and inclusive programs for children with disabilities.

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground

Consultation Summary Report

Concerns extend beyond affordability to broader social and health implications. Higher costs risk excluding disadvantaged groups, worsening inequalities, and undermining efforts to combat childhood obesity and mental health challenges. Many respondents highlight that sport is a lifeline for neurodiverse individuals and those struggling with well-being. Limiting access could increase anti-social behaviour and place additional strain on public health services, contradicting national and local strategies aimed at promoting active lifestyles.

The response also criticises the lack of consideration for the Hockey Club as the primary user of the facility and questions the fairness of targeting artificial pitches while grass pitches remain unaffected.

Overall, contributors stress that the proposed changes could turn community sport into an elitist activity, erode volunteer-driven programs, and damage the social fabric that these clubs have worked hard to build.

7. Do you think our proposed changes might have a negative effect on you or other people?

	Number	%
Yes	83	86.46%
No	13	13.54%
Total	96	100.00%

8. What suggestions, if any, do you have for how we could minimise the negative effect should we proceed?

Many respondents suggest not increasing charges at all, arguing that recreational facilities should remain affordable and accessible to promote health and well-being. If an increase is unavoidable, they recommend keeping it in line with inflation or introducing a smaller, gradual rise rather than a steep hike. Several propose not making Sundays peak time, or at least protecting Sunday mornings for junior sessions, and ensuring any changes do not penalise children's or disability sports.

Other ideas include discounts or subsidies for block bookings, repeat users, and long-term contracts, as well as loyalty schemes for regular clubs. Flexible pricing models, such as lower rates for junior and inclusive sessions, were suggested to maintain accessibility. Respondents also recommend spreading increases across all users rather than targeting specific times and providing clear justification for any rise.

Additional proposals include using underutilised facilities like tennis/netball courts, building a second pitch with external funding, and generating revenue through advertising or sponsorship instead of raising hire fees.

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground

Consultation Summary Report

9. Do you have any suggestions on how we might save money or increase income at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground?

	Number	%
Yes	66	68.75%
No	30	31.25%
Total	96	100.00%

10. What suggestions do you have for how we might save money or increase income at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground?

Several suggestions focused on generating income through new services and better use of existing facilities. Introducing paid parking, opening a café on weekends, and allowing catering vans or food stalls during events were seen as easy wins. Sponsorship and advertising opportunities, partnerships with local businesses, and hosting community events such as charity matches, school competitions, and parkruns were also highlighted as ways to bring in revenue.

Increasing hire fees moderately, charging groups that currently use pitches for free, and offering referral incentives or discounts for block bookings could encourage more consistent usage.

Improving management and reducing waste were key cost-saving ideas. Better control of pitch access to prevent unpaid use, avoiding unnecessary floodlight operation, and considering in-house management instead of outsourcing were suggested.

Energy efficiency measures such as switching to LED lighting, installing solar panels, and adding EV chargers could reduce long-term costs while creating new income streams. Investing in drainage and reviewing ground staff practices would help avoid unnecessary cancellations and lost revenue.

Facility improvements were seen as essential to boost income. Repurposing underused tennis and netball courts for football, hockey, or padel was a recurring theme, alongside floodlighting smaller pitches for year-round use. Building a second hockey pitch and adding more 3G football surfaces were considered high priorities to meet demand and attract more bookings.

Flexible pricing strategies, such as lower rates for juniors and underrepresented groups, were suggested to increase participation. Overall, respondents emphasised balancing community access with smart investments to maximise usage and revenue.

11. Do you have any further comments?

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Consultation Summary Report

Concerns were raised that higher fees would force clubs to raise their own charges, leading to reduced membership, fewer services, and even club closures, ultimately resulting in less revenue for the council. Several comments highlighted the importance of maintaining affordable access, particularly for juniors and underrepresented groups, and warned that pricing people out of facilities would harm physical and mental health at a time when healthcare systems are already under strain.

A common response called for the Council to consider the long-term benefits of sport and exercise, rather than short-term financial gains, and to conduct a full cost-benefit analysis to understand the wider social and health impacts.

Respondents also criticised the scale of the proposed increase, describing it as excessive, unfair, and poorly planned. Many argued that benchmarking against other local authorities and exploring alternative revenue streams would be more appropriate than imposing steep charges. Suggestions included charging businesses and trainers who currently use facilities for free, introducing dog licenses, and improving utilisation of existing pitches through better planning and floodlighting.

Several comments stressed that sport should be encouraged, not penalised, and warned that the Council risks losing demand and damaging community engagement if prices rise too sharply. Overall, the feedback urged the Council to prioritise inclusivity, transparency, and long-term community wellbeing over short-term profit.

12. What is your gender? (Optional)

	Number	%
Male	50	53.76%
Female	36	38.71%
Other	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	7	7.53%
Total	93	100.00%

13. How old are you? (Optional)

	Number	%
Under 18	0	0.00%
18-24	2	2.15%
25-34	9	9.68%
35-44	23	24.73%

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	Number	%
45-54	28	30.11%
55-64	10	10.75%
65-74	7	7.53%
75 and over	3	3.23%
Prefer not to say	11	11.83%
Total	93	100.00%

14. Please tell us your postcode, excluding the last two letters, e.g. RG14 5

After reviewing the list of postcodes, the majority fall within the RG14 and RG18 postal regions. RG14 appears most frequently, followed closely by RG18. There are also several entries for RG19 and RG20, but these occur less often than RG14 and RG18. A few outliers include RG7, RG8, RG26, and RG31, which are mentioned only once or twice.

In summary, most people in this list are concentrated in the RG14 (Newbury area) and RG18 (Thatcham area) regions, with smaller clusters in RG19 and RG20.

15. I consent to the council collecting and processing special category data according to the purposes outlined in its privacy notice.

	Number	%
Yes	76	79.17%
No	20	20.83%
Total	96	100.00%

16. What is your ethnic group? (Optional)

	Number	%
White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	3	3.95%
White Irish	67	88.16%
White other	1	1.32%
Gypsy, Irish Traveller or Roma	3	3.95%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	0	0.00%
Asian or Asian British	0	0.00%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	2	2.63%
Other ethnic group	0	0.00%

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	Number	%
Prefer not to say	0	0.00%
Total	76	100.00%

17. Do you have a disability, long-term illness, or health condition? (Optional)

	Number	%
Yes	18	23.68%
No	56	73.68%
Prefer not to say	2	2.63%
Total	76	100.00%

Officer Conclusions and Recommendations: Officer conclusions and recommendations can be found in the associated Overview of Responses and Recommendations (ORR) document.

Paul Hendry
Countryside Manager
Environment
21/01/2026

Please note: *In order to allow everyone who wished the opportunity to contribute, feedback was not sampled. Therefore this wasn't a quantitative, statistically valid exercise. It was neither the premise, purpose, nor within the capability of the exercise, to determine the overall community's level of support, or views on the proposals, with any degree of confidence.*

The feedback captured therefore should be seen in the context of 'those who responded', rather than reflective of the wider community.

ⁱ <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/balancing-our-budget>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/consultations>

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Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground			Service Director: Jon Winstanley																																			
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Total budget 2025/26:		Initial proposed saving / Anticipated additional income 2026/27:	Approx. £25,000	Recommended saving / Anticipated additional income 2026/27:	£8,000																																	
No. of responses:	<p>In total, 103 responses were received. The breakdown of responses is as follows:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Number</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A resident of West Berkshire</td> <td>94</td> <td>91.26%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A user of the artificial pitch</td> <td>71</td> <td>68.93%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A West Berkshire business owner</td> <td>6</td> <td>5.83%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Employed by a business located in West Berkshire</td> <td>3</td> <td>2.91%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Employed by West Berkshire Council</td> <td>1</td> <td>0.97%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A Parish/Town Councillor</td> <td>1</td> <td>0.97%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A District Councillor</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A West Berkshire Council partner organisation</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A West Berkshire Council service provider</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other - please specify below:</td> <td>4</td> <td>3.88%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						Number	%	A resident of West Berkshire	94	91.26%	A user of the artificial pitch	71	68.93%	A West Berkshire business owner	6	5.83%	Employed by a business located in West Berkshire	3	2.91%	Employed by West Berkshire Council	1	0.97%	A Parish/Town Councillor	1	0.97%	A District Councillor	0	0.00%	A West Berkshire Council partner organisation	0	0.00%	A West Berkshire Council service provider	0	0.00%	Other - please specify below:	4	3.88%
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Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground	Service Director: Jon Winstanley Author: Paul Hendry	
	<i>(N.B % will not total 100% as respondents were able to select more than one option)</i>	
Key issues raised:	<p>The consultation on the proposed 35% increase in artificial pitch fees and reclassification of Sundays as peak time revealed strong opposition from stakeholders. Newbury and Thatcham Hockey Club raised very strong opposition. They have stated that the proposed changes will increase their costs by around £20,000 next season, with nearly 40% of this due to Sundays being reclassified as peak charging days.</p> <p>The proposed fee increase is expected to reduce accessibility due to affordability, particularly for children, juniors, and low-income families many of whom use the facility on Sundays. Sundays appear critical for youth hockey, and the changes could significantly affect participation. Financial pressure on clubs is another major concern, as higher membership fees may price out families and potentially lead to club and age group closures. Health and wellbeing could also suffer, as increased costs discourage participation, negatively impacting physical fitness and mental health. Community and social interaction, which clubs provide, may decline, threatening their sustainability. Furthermore, the proposal undermines equality and inclusion, conflicting with Sport England objectives and inclusive sport policies. Educational institutions i.e. local schools and colleges may reduce sports provision due to higher costs, and in the long term, reduced grassroots participation could harm talent development and damage the council's reputation.</p>	
Equality issues:	<p>The proposal is likely to have an impact on several protected and vulnerable groups. Children and juniors, who rely heavily on affordable access for training and matches, would be most affected, particularly on Sundays when youth sessions are scheduled. Lower-income families face increased financial barriers due to higher fees, which could make participation unaffordable, while disabled and inclusive groups, such as those involved in disability hockey, risk losing vital opportunities if sessions become financially unviable. These changes undermine efforts to promote equality and inclusion in sport, contradicting national objectives set by Sport England and England Hockey. These are addressed in the EIA for the proposal.</p> <p>Beyond affordability, the proposal threatens community cohesion and social inclusion. Volunteer-led initiatives aimed at engaging children from state schools could be impacted, reinforcing perceptions of hockey as elitist and inaccessible. Schools may also reduce sports provision due to rising costs, limiting opportunities for competitive and team sports. Overall, the changes risk widening inequalities in health, wellbeing, and educational outcomes, while damaging grassroots development and Newbury's reputation for inclusive community sport.</p>	

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Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground		Service Director: Jon Winstanley Author: Paul Hendry	
Suggestions for minimising any negative effects of the proposed change:	Suggestion	Council response	
	Many respondents asked for no rise, a freeze, or only inflation-linked (c. 10%) / much smaller stepped increases spread over time.	The council has only ever increased fees at this site by approximately the rate of inflation. Artificial pitches require lighting and maintenance, and energy costs have risen significantly in recent years. Utilities costs have risen significantly above inflation for several years up to 2024/25.	
	Do not make Sunday peak (especially Sunday mornings used for junior development; some suggest off-peak after 6pm).	It is noted the particular impact of Sundays being considered as peak. This is one of our busiest days and Sundays are generally considered as peak periods in the private and public leisure sector. Many councils classify weekends (including Sundays) as peak, especially for artificial pitches and sports halls, though some councils keep Sunday mornings off-peak for junior training.	
	Uniform/consistent approach: avoid penalising one day/group; if increases are unavoidable, apply across all users, not just Sundays.	See above. The impact of Sundays as peak time is noted.	
	Protected groups and youth sport: keep junior and disability sessions lower/subsidised; discounts for charities; avoid penalising children's sport.	There may be an option to look at a discounted or loyalty pricing structure for protected groups or youth sports, if the proposed price increases are implemented.	
	Protect key development times (e.g., Sunday mornings) and maintain access for junior and disability sessions.	Many councils classify weekends (including Sundays) as peak, especially for artificial pitches and sports halls, though some councils keep Sunday mornings off-peak for junior training. There may be an option to apply discounted rates for certain groups.	

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Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground		Service Director: Jon Winstanley	
	Review “peak/off-peak” definitions using utilisation data; several note Sunday evenings are quiet.	We may review utilisation in the evenings to see if there is an option to retain off peak at this time.	
	Increase booking flexibility: allow one-third pitch bookings and smarter shared-half use so smaller teams aren’t forced into larger, costlier slots.	This is something we can consider in conjunction with the clubs and regular users.	
	Consider a second pitch at Henwick (pursue grants/external funding).	This is potentially a matter for the Henwick Masterplan which is considering the overall future use of the site. Also has relevance to the Playing Pitch Strategy.	
	Re-mark tennis/netball courts and add simple adaptations so they can host junior hockey; make better use of under-booked assets.	This facility has capability for hockey use as it is a ‘Gen 2’ surface suitable for mixed use. We do however need to consider the demand for tennis. This was a former tennis facility but we have lost the demand for tennis over the years. We need to provide opportunity to grow this demand once again.	
	Improve wider facilities and train an on-site team to look after the venue.	Future management models for this site have been discussed but not progressed at this stage. Savings from a new management model are not guaranteed at least not in the short term.	
	Provide a clear rationale for any changes, including a full cost-benefit analysis (health, social value) and an overall financial review (not just short-term revenue).	We appreciate the suggestion to provide a clear rationale for the proposed changes. While we absolutely recognise the importance of balancing financial sustainability with health and social value, it is very challenging for a local authority to quantify the wider social and welfare benefits of sports facilities in a way that is universally accepted. These benefits, such as improved mental health, community cohesion, and long-term health savings, are real but difficult to measure precisely.	

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Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground		Service Director: Jon Winstanley Author: Paul Hendry
		At the same time, without a viable and financially sustainable facility, there is no sports provision at all. Maintaining the facility to a safe and high standard requires significant ongoing investment, and this means we must ensure income covers costs over the long term. Our goal is to strike a balance, keeping facilities accessible while ensuring they remain operational and fit for purpose for years to come.
	Address concerns about consultation credibility by publishing utilisation and pricing evidence, and responding transparently to feedback	Our responses here are comprehensive and transparent. Benchmarking can only provide a partial picture, as comparator facilities vary significantly in their characteristics and cost structures.
	Better promotion of available slots; advertising/sponsorship opportunities; fundraising; consider higher charges for non-residents; and manage any demand dip proactively.	We agree that loyalty discounts, resident or regular-user incentives, and better promotion of available slots are all valuable ideas that can help improve accessibility and engagement. Advertising, sponsorship, and community fundraising are also important opportunities we will continue to explore.
Suggestions for other savings options:	Suggestion	Council response
	As a resident within very close proximity to Henwick is has also been noticed recently that the floodlights on the pitch have been coming on during the weekday and staying on until the site closes at 22:00, in which for the majority of the time the surface is not being used.	Usage is actively monitored, and demand is consistently high, with all available hours fully booked. While lighting is required throughout occupancy for safety, we have invested in improved technology to keep energy costs as low as possible. We will monitor lighting use however so thank you for this suggestion. We are considering the conversion of lighting to LED.

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Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground		Service Director: Jon Winstanley Author: Paul Hendry
	A point should also be made to the constant condition of the artificial pitch enclosure (not the surface itself), which is frequently covered in litter, and damaged/broken equipment, and left unlocked the majority of the time, which results in groups utilising the pitch in an ad-hoc basis, while not paying for it.	We acknowledge that unofficial use of the facility is a periodic issue, ranging from boot camps to individual training sessions. Unfortunately, this is very difficult to police under current staffing constraints. We are looking at current locking and unlocking arrangements and are exploring/trialling digital locks at the site.
	Maybe consider installation of solar panels and heat systems to lower long term costs of power to the changing rooms etc.	This is a good point which we will raise with colleagues and in the Environment team, they are involved in sustainable energy options elsewhere.
	To save money across the district you should put an immediate freeze on nonessential spending and cancel the Lib Dem vanity projects.	The Council has already introduced a range of stringent measures to help manage the challenging financial situation. This includes a freeze on non-essential spending. New projects are also scrutinised by various boards to ensure they can deliver suitable benefits for the community or value-for-money before the Council allocates funding and resources to them.
	Explore solar for floodlighting and broader partnerships (e.g., Newbury College Football Academy); improve marketing to fill slack times (walking football, etc.)	This is a good point which we will raise with colleagues and in the Environment team, there are involved in sustainable energy options elsewhere. We have worked closely with the Football Academy but there isn't enough capacity on the artificial pitch and their use of grass pitches had to be closely managed to prevent surface damage. The Masterplan exercise underway may present opportunities for a future partnership.
	Community work parties	We have used the Probation Service in the past but there is very little financial advantage as they are very much restricted in what work they carry out.

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Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground		Service Director: Jon Winstanley Author: Paul Hendry
	Fire the useless councillors making ridiculous decisions in our community	West Berkshire councillors are typically conscientious and diligent people who are passionate about serving their community. If residents have specific concerns about their ward councillor they can discuss this with them or use their vote at the next local elections.
	Instead of wasting money on Newbury Town FC for a new 3G pitch then direct them to use the Henwick Worthy pitches for their matches.	The Playing Pitch Strategy clearly identifies a strong need for more sports facilities in West Berkshire. Our focus is not on prioritising one over the other, but on creating solutions that allow both to be provided efficiently and sustainably.
	Reduce the number of staff at Market Street, Newbury, RG14 5LD	The Council has been implementing a number of solutions to reduce its costs and manage the difficult financial situation. For example, many teams have held vacancies or deleted posts from their structure. The use of agency staff has also been significantly reduced in recent years.
	Review management model (in-house vs. contracted) and align pricing across all sports surfaces for consistency.	This is an interesting point we have considered previously. Managing sports pitches in-house offers very limited financial advantage compared to contracted services because of the significant overheads involved, including staffing, maintenance, compliance, and operational costs. These overheads often outweigh any perceived savings, making external management a more cost-effective and sustainable option for delivering high-quality facilities. Future management models may ultimately have to be considered however.
	Sell the operation entirely/returning the facility back to open space.	The Playing Pitch Strategy identifies a need for more, not less, formal sports provision across the district to meet current and future demand. Returning this facility to open space would reduce opportunities for structured sport and contradict the strategic objectives aimed at increasing participation and improving health outcomes. Our focus must remain on retaining and optimising formal sports facilities rather than reducing them.

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Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground		Service Director: Jon Winstanley Author: Paul Hendry
Suggestions for income generation:	Suggestion	Council response
	Retain key junior windows on Sundays; pilot off-peak after 6pm and publish utilisation data.	Will consider all options for mitigating the impact of peak usage.
	Introduce quarter-pitch bookings, loyalty/block-booking discounts, and a regular vs. ad-hoc tariff.	We agree that loyalty discounts, resident or regular-user incentives, and better promotion of available slots are all valuable ideas that can help improve accessibility and engagement.
	Spread any increase across all users rather than penalising particular days/sports; ensure proportional/fair distribution	I understand this refers to the fact that grass pitches are not being considered for a fee increase. This is because, particularly at locations other than Henwick, the quality of our grass pitches does not justify an increase without significant capital improvements, improvements that may not achieve the desired results given the nature of the land
	Introduce loyalty/season tickets, block-booking discounts, and differentiated rates for regular vs. ad-hoc users; lower tariffs for children and under-represented groups.	We agree that loyalty discounts, resident or regular-user incentives and discounting for youth and family use are worthwhile and important considerations.
	Consider non-resident pricing and ensure grass-pitch charges and floodlight use are priced consistently across clubs.	We agree that loyalty discounts, resident or regular-user incentives and discounting for youth and family use are worthwhile and important considerations.
	Some argue the facility should be free/nominal cost as a public health asset; others propose selling the operation entirely.	Maintaining fees at current levels or nominal levels as in this suggestion, is not practical or sustainable for the council at present because the cost of operating and maintaining these facilities continues to rise. Inflation, staffing, utilities, and essential maintenance all require significant funding, and current income levels

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Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground		Service Director: Jon Winstanley Author: Paul Hendry
		do not cover these costs. Without appropriate fee adjustments, the council would need to divert funds from other critical services or reduce the quality and availability of the facilities. Additionally, keeping fees artificially low undermines the ability to invest in improvements, making the facilities less attractive and potentially reducing usage over time. A balanced approach is necessary to ensure financial sustainability while still supporting public health objectives
	Review demand (e.g., Sunday evenings often quiet)	We're keen to encourage use of the facility during quieter periods and will explore targeted marketing strategies to achieve this
	Allow smaller booking units (e.g., quarters), enable shared halves, and add lights to make sub-pitch bookings viable.	We will open a discussion with the main user and other clubs to consider whether there is a value in this.
	The new tennis/netball courts are frequently described as under-used; open them to other sports (junior hockey, football 5-a-side) or convert (e.g., padel).	We intend to persevere with marketing this facility primarily for tennis use, as it was developed to replace the former tennis courts and meets that specific need. However, we recognise the importance of maximising usage, so we will look to accommodate other sports during available time slots where practicable.
	Improve/floodlight the smaller artificial area and open it more widely; invite netball leagues and other clubs	This is a consideration within the emerging Henwick Masterplan document; we are also mindful of impacts of light on neighbours.
	Strong demand to build a second full-size, floodlit hockey pitch; would double capacity and keep more hockey activity at Henwick	This is a consideration within the emerging Henwick Masterplan document
	Add outdoor/indoor cricket nets, enhance drainage, and invest in	An interesting suggestion which we can explore with users.

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Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground		Service Director: Jon Winstanley Author: Paul Hendry
	netball courts to broaden year-round use	
	Advertise the hire space better; attract schools, academies, and clubs (e.g., Reading/Chelsea youth camps).	Agreed we will look at marketing opportunities.
	Run community events (charity matches, fetes, “party in the park”), enable food/drink vendors, and pursue sponsorship (e.g., local businesses)	We will certainly consider sponsorship and marketing opportunities, and other income streams as part of this exercise.
	Consider parking fees (e.g., £0.50–£1) and charge personal trainers/groups currently using space for free.	This is an option but without on street residential parking restrictions then we are concerned about displacement. This is worthy of further investigation however.
	Introduce loyalty/season tickets, block-booking discounts, and differentiated rates for regular vs. ad-hoc users; lower tariffs for children and under-represented groups.	We agree that loyalty discounts, resident or regular-user incentives and discounting for youth and family use are worthwhile and important considerations.
	Consider non-resident pricing and ensure grass-pitch charges and floodlight use are priced consistently across clubs.	We agree that loyalty discounts, resident or regular-user incentives and discounting for youth and family use are worthwhile and important considerations.
	Kick-off a marketing drive for the tennis/netball courts and smaller	We’re keen to encourage use of the facility during quieter periods and will explore targeted marketing strategies to achieve this

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Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground		Service Director: Jon Winstanley	
	pitch; invite netball leagues and schools.		
	Floodlight the smaller area; add refreshments and EV chargers; upgrade drainage and amenities.	This is a consideration within the emerging Henwick Masterplan document; we are also mindful of impacts of light on neighbours. We have installed/about to instal an EV charger in the car park and will certainly explore solar opportunities. We are currently looking at advertising opportunities and may well bring clubs into discussions regarding sponsorship.	
	Develop events and sponsorship packages; explore solar to reduce running costs.	See above	
	Provide a café and food vans to generate income.	While the idea of providing a café or food vans to generate income is understandable, there are several practical challenges. These include the need for appropriate infrastructure such as power and water supply, compliance with food hygiene and safety regulations, and the cost of managing or contracting the service. Additionally, demand can be highly seasonal and unpredictable, making it difficult to ensure consistent revenue. Introducing food vending could also require additional staffing and oversight, which adds to operational complexity. For these reasons, this option is not currently considered a sustainable solution.	
	Review demand (e.g., Sunday evenings often quiet)	We will continue to review the demand for the site at different times and explore if this can be reflected in future pricing models.	
Officer conclusion and recommendation as a result of the responses:	<p><u>Conclusion</u></p> <p>The consultation has highlighted significant concerns regarding the proposed 35% increase in artificial pitch fees and the reclassification of Sundays as peak time. Respondents emphasised the potential negative impacts on accessibility for children, juniors, and low-income families, as well as the broader implications for health, wellbeing, and community cohesion. Clubs fear financial strain that could lead to reduced participation or even reduced sessions and provision for some groups, undermining equality, inclusion, and long-term coaching development.</p>		

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Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground

Service Director: Jon Winstanley

Author: Paul Hendry

While these concerns are valid and must be acknowledged, the Council also has a responsibility to ensure that facilities remain financially sustainable and aligned with strategic objectives. A balanced approach is therefore essential, one that considers phased or inflation-linked increases, targeted discounts for juniors and inclusive sessions, and exploration of alternative revenue streams. This will help maintain affordability and community engagement while supporting the ongoing viability of the facility.

Recommendations

Main Recommendation for Implementation

1. Phased Implementation

Having fully reviewed the views of respondents, it is recommended that the planned fee increases are introduced gradually over three years (10.5% approx. per annum), allowing customers and other stakeholders time to adapt to above-inflation rises. This approach will mitigate immediate financial impacts and maintain participation levels. The proposed fees for the next three years are shown in the table below:

Artificial Full Pitch (11 a side) Peak-time Charges

Period	Current cost	Proposed cost consulted on	New Proposed Cost 2026/27	New Proposed Cost 2027/28	New Proposed Cost 2028/29
30 mins	£46.00	£62.00	£51.00	£56.00	£62.00
60 mins	£92.00	£124.00	£102.00	£112.00	£124.00
90 mins	£140.00	£189.00	£155.00	£171.00	£189.00

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Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground	Service Director: Jon Winstanley Author: Paul Hendry	
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<u>Artificial Half Pitch (5 a side) Peak-time Charges</u>					
Period	Current cost	Proposed cost consulted on			
30 mins	£26.00	£35.00	£29.00	£32.00	£35.00
60 mins	£51.00	£68.85	£56.00	£62.00	£69.00
90 mins	£78.00	£105.30	£86.00	£95.00	£105.00

Secondary Recommendations for Further Exploration

2. Sunday Peak Time Review
Reassess the reclassification of Sundays as peak time, given its impact on youth and disability sessions. Consider maintaining off-peak pricing for these groups or introducing targeted discounts. It is not recommended that Sunday is reclassified as peak time, until further assessments have been carried out.

3. Further Benchmarking & Engagement
Conduct additional benchmarking against comparable facilities and engage further with the Hockey Club and other stakeholders to ensure transparency and fairness in pricing.

4. Discounting & Loyalty Schemes
Explore discounts for juniors, disability sessions, and block bookings, alongside loyalty incentives for local community users to support inclusion and retention.

5. Alternative Revenue Streams

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Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground	Service Director: Jon Winstanley Author: Paul Hendry	
	<p>Investigate advertising and sponsorship opportunities and consider granting the Hockey Club greater autonomy in managing the facility to unlock operational efficiencies. The Club may wish greater autonomy over sponsorship opportunities.</p> <p>6. Parking Charges Assess the feasibility of introducing car parking charges, while addressing displacement risks through potential street parking restrictions.</p> <p>7. Income Target Adjustment Revise income targets downward to reflect the phased approach and time required for implementation and engagement.</p> <p>8. Policy Alignment Ensure all changes align with the Council’s Leisure Strategy and Sport England objectives, supporting health, wellbeing, and equality.</p>	

West Berkshire Council
Equity Impact Assessment

Budget proposals 2026/27: Henwick Worthy Sports Ground

January 2026

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Section 1: Summary details

Directorate and Service Area	Environment Department – Countryside Team
What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	Budget proposals 2026/27: To extend and increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	New
Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	<p>The Council consulted on increasing the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground by 35% and secondly to reclassify Sundays as peak time.</p> <p>The consultation received strong opposition from stakeholders. For example, Newbury and Thatcham Hockey Club raised very strong opposition. They have stated that the proposed changes will increase their costs by around £20,000 next season, with nearly 40% of this due to Sundays being reclassified as peak charging days.</p> <p>The proposed fee increase may reduce accessibility due to affordability, particularly for children, juniors, and low-income families many of whom use the facility on Sundays. Sundays appear critical for youth hockey, and the changes could significantly affect participation. Financial pressure on clubs is another major concern, as higher membership fees may price out families and potentially lead to club and age group closures. Health and wellbeing could also suffer, as increased costs discourage participation, negatively impacting physical fitness and mental health. Community and social interaction, which clubs provide, may decline, threatening their sustainability. The proposal may undermine equality and inclusion, and could be seen to be at conflict with Sport England objectives and inclusive sport policies. Educational institutions i.e. local schools and colleges may reduce sports provision due to higher costs, and in the long term, reduced grassroots participation could harm talent development and damage the council’s reputation.</p>

Completed By	Kofi Adu-Gyamfi, Service Lead – Climate Change
Authorised By	Jon Winstanley, Service Director – Environment Department
Date of Assessment	22 January 2026

Section 2: Detail of proposal

<p>Context / Background</p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>Councils across the country continue to face unprecedented financial pressures, and West Berkshire Council (“the Council”) is no exception. The Council is responding to increasing demands in adults’ and children’s social care services supporting our most vulnerable residents, and in other areas such as homelessness and home to school transport. The increases in demand, combined with higher inflation and increasing costs, are financially impacting the Council and its suppliers.</p> <p>Henwick Worthy Sports Ground offers a wide range of outdoor sports facilities including a floodlit artificial pitch suitable for football and hockey. The pitch is available for hire every day from 10am to 10pm. Peak hours are defined as weekday evenings from 6pm to 10pm, and all day on Saturday. Bookings can be made for half or full pitch use.</p> <p>The site is owned and managed by West Berkshire Council, but is maintained by Krinkels UK Ltd, the Council’s grounds maintenance contractor. There is no formal volunteer programme associated with the pitch operations, although our regular community sports clubs often contribute to the sporting offer at the site through coaching and match-day support to help manage teams and supporters.</p> <p>From 1 October 2024 to date, the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground has been booked 1,429 times, generating £86,663 in income. This reflects strong and consistent community demand, with usage spanning local football clubs, schools, and recreational groups. The facility plays a key role in supporting grassroots sport and active lifestyles across the district.</p> <p>In the 2024/25 financial year, our expenditure on this facility was £262,479, our total income was £176,886, made up from booking income, grants and contributions from Thatcham Town Council, and rental payments from local sports clubs. Our total net expenditure (the total spend minus any income) was £85,594.</p>
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<p>Proposals</p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p>	<p>Proposal Details</p> <p>To increase the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground by 35%:</p> <p><u>Artificial Full Pitch (11 a side) Peak-time Charges</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Period</th> <th>Current cost</th> <th>Proposed cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>30 mins</td> <td>£46.00</td> <td>£62.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60 mins</td> <td>£92.00</td> <td>£124.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>90 mins</td> <td>£140.00</td> <td>£189.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>Artificial Half Pitch (5 a side) Peak-time Charges</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Period</th> <th>Current cost</th> <th>Proposed cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>30 mins</td> <td>£26.00</td> <td>£35.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60 mins</td> <td>£51.00</td> <td>£68.85</td> </tr> <tr> <td>90 mins</td> <td>£78.00</td> <td>£105.30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>We also propose to extend the peak-time hire charges for the artificial pitch at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground to include all day Sunday.</p> <p>This was decided on as the best course of action because it can help the Council to meet the increasing operational and maintenance costs associated with this facility. The charges in recent years have not kept up with the significant investments that the Council has been making in the facility.</p>	Period	Current cost	Proposed cost	30 mins	£46.00	£62.00	60 mins	£92.00	£124.00	90 mins	£140.00	£189.00	Period	Current cost	Proposed cost	30 mins	£26.00	£35.00	60 mins	£51.00	£68.85	90 mins	£78.00	£105.30
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<p>Evidence / Intelligence</p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you</p>	<p>Benchmarking of artificial pitch hire charges across a range of providers in the public, private, and charitable sectors, was carried out to inform our proposal. While charges vary significantly, the analysis indicates that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demand for artificial pitches remains high, particularly during weekday evenings (peak times) • the competitive landscape and usage levels suggest there is scope to increase our hire fees above the rate of inflation without adversely affecting demand. 																								

<p>make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.</p>	<p>It is important to note that true comparisons are difficult due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • variations in pricing structures, including pitch size (full, half, 5-a-side etc.), sport type, and booking duration • discounting and incentivisation schemes, such as community rates, block booking discounts, and school partnerships • seasonal pricing, with different rates applied in summer and winter months • Despite these differences, the benchmarking shows that full pitch peak-time hire charges (60 mins) range from £60 to £159 per hour, with most being between £105 and £125 per hour.
<p>Alternatives considered / rejected</p> <p>Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.</p>	<p>Alternatives considered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do nothing: this involves keeping the fees unchanged at 25/26 rates. This option was not deemed acceptable in the context of the rising operational costs and the Council's financial challenges. • Increase charges by inflation only: this option was not recommended because it will not help the Council to meet the operational costs and to continue investing in the facility for the safe enjoyment by customers. • Staggered increases to get to the charges consulted on over 3 years: this option is potentially deliverable, if decision makers give approval. It does not address the short-term funding gap. However, it provides a pathway to getting to a suitably funded facility in the medium term, whilst managing the concerns of site users about a sudden hike in fees.

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposed fee increase may reduce accessibility due to affordability, particularly for children, juniors, and low-income families many of whom use the facility on Sundays. Sundays appear critical for youth hockey, and the changes could significantly affect participation.	A staggered increase in fees over three years could help mitigate the impacts. If the proposed fee increase is to be applied in a single jump, then the Council could consider introducing a discount for younger customers. Delaying the reclassification of Sundays as peak time until further assessments are carried out can also help mitigate the short-term impacts.	Paul Hendry, Countryside Manager	Participation level and impact monitoring to be completed in June and December 2026.

Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Some disabled and inclusive groups, such as those involved in disability hockey, may risk losing vital opportunities if sessions become financially unviable.	A staggered increase in fees over three years could help mitigate the impacts. If the proposed fee increase is to be applied in a single jump, then the Council could consider introducing a discount for disability sports customers and groups. Delaying of the reclassification of Sundays as peak time until further assessments are carried out can also help mitigate the short-term impacts.	Paul Hendry, Countryside Manager	Participation level and impact monitoring to be completed in June and December 2026.
Gender Reassignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Religion or Belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
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Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (* Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Rural communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Areas of deprivation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lower-income families face increased financial barriers due to higher fees, which could make participation unaffordable.	A staggered increase in fees over three years could help mitigate the impacts. If the proposed fee increase is to be applied in a single jump, then the Council could consider introducing a discount for customers from low-income demographics or in receipt of benefits. Delaying the reclassification of Sundays as peak time until further assessments are carried out can also help mitigate the short-term impacts.	Paul Hendry, Countryside Manager	Participation level and impact monitoring to be completed in June and December 2026.
Displaced communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Care experienced people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The Armed Forces Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

Review Date	June 2026
Person Responsible for Review	Paul Hendry, Countryside Manager
Authorised By	Kofi Adu-Gyamfi, Service Lead – Climate Change

Financial Year 2026/27: Adequacy of Reserves and Robustness of Budget Estimates (Section 25 statement)

s151 Officer Statement

The purpose of this Section 25 Report is to set out the assessment made by the Section 151 Officer and conclusion regarding the Council's ability to set a balanced budget for financial year 2026/27. In making decisions regarding the revenue budget and setting the council tax, the Council has various legal and fiduciary duties, as summarised below:

Legal and Fiduciary Duties

The Council is required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to make specific estimates of gross revenue expenditure and anticipated income leading to the calculation of the council tax requirement and setting of the overall budget and council tax. The amount of council tax requirement should be sufficient to meet the council's legal and financial commitments and ensure proper discharge of its statutory duties, resulting in a balanced budget.

Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires that the Local Authority when making its budget calculations, the Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer), must report to Council on the robustness of the underpinning estimates made for calculation purposes and the adequacy of financial reserves to support the budget proposed. Council has a statutory duty to have regard to the s151 Officer's report when making decisions on the budget adopted.

Section 28 of the Local Government Act 2003 imposes a statutory duty on the Council to monitor expenditure and income against budgeted assumptions throughout the financial year. If monitoring establishes that the budgetary situation has deteriorated the Council must take such action necessary to deal with the situation, for example, reduction in spending, increase income, or where possible utilise reserves.

Section 114 of the Local Government Act 1988 requires that where the s151 believes that the expenditure of the Local Authority is likely to exceed (or is proposed to exceed), the resources (including sums borrowed), available to meet that expenditure, the 151 has a duty to make a report to Council.

In exercising its fiduciary duty, the Council should be satisfied that the proposals put forward:

- Are a prudent use of resources available
- The proposals strike a fair balance between the interests of local tax and rate payers, current and future, alongside the community's interests in adequate and efficient services, whilst complying with statutory duties.

Assessment of whether a legal budget can be set

The financial position of the Council remains challenging. The Council is in receipt of Exceptional Financial Support (EFS), for financial year 2024/25 (£13million) and received a provisional agreement for £3million of EFS for financial year 2025/26, in February 2025.

The provisional £3million of EFS for 2025/26 allowed the Council to set a balanced budget and avoid the issue of a s114 notice.

There are a number of significant factors driving the financial position of the Council, as follows:

- Funding constraint: A reduction in government funding support via the settlement from central government. Detailed in appendix A of the MTFS.
- Funding constraint: A significant reduction to the Council's tax base (council tax). Detailed in appendix B of the MTFS.
- Expenditure pressure: Increasing commissioning costs for both adults and children's social care. Detailed in appendix D of the Revenue Budget Financial Year 2026/27 report.
- Expenditure pressure: Increasing capital financing costs, not necessarily driven by future planned capital programmes, but driven through High Needs Block (HNB) deficit financing and the financing of Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) associated with EFS.
- Reserves dependant on EFS. The reserves sufficiency statement is included in appendix E of the MTFS.

An amended request for EFS in relation to financial year 2025/26 and a further request to support the revenue budget in 2026/27 was made to central government in December 2025. The revised 2025/26 EFS request has increased from the original £3million to £20 million. As detailed in the reserves sufficiency statement, the Council is operating with low levels of usable revenue reserves, and a General Fund constructed from the original 2024/25 EFS request. The in year (2025/26) financial pressures (reported via quarterly budget monitoring to Executive), will significantly reduce the available General Fund to a level well below the s151 recommended 5% of net revenue budget. The revised 2025/26 request, (if approved), should provide greater resilience to the reserves, allowing for capacity to build volatility / risk reserves in support of the demand led services in 2026/27, whilst maintaining a General Fund minimum provision.

In respect of 2026/27, the net revenue expenditure budget (after increases in fees and charges and application of identified savings) is £210.9 million compared to Core Spending Power of £177.9 million. £3.0 million of reserves (created through application of EFS), is planned to support the net revenue budget with an EFS request of £30million required to enable the setting of a balanced revenue budget. EFS remains an interim financial support arrangement, subject to annual government approval. It is noted over the life of the MTFS, the requirement for EFS to balance the forecast revenue position, creates additional debt (via MRP), which has a General Fund impact on an annual basis and longer term financing implications.

Conclusions on setting a balanced budget

In determining whether it is reasonable to set a balanced budget for financial year 2026/27, the following has been considered:

- The utilisation of historic EFS and subsequent MRP impacts.
- The 2025/26 EFS request providing funds to enable the Council to be considered a going concern as at 31.3.2026, with sufficient opening balances to support the 2026/27 net revenue budget.
- The application for EFS to balance the gap between proposed net revenue expenditure and core spending power.

Assessment on whether the budget is reasonable and prudent

This s25 statement focuses on the statutory and fiduciary considerations a s151 Officer must make in determining if the budget being set is reasonable and prudent. In setting the budget the Council has a duty to:

- Continue to make provision to enable the meeting of statutory duties.

- Ensure governance processes are robust and support decision making.
- The MTFS reflects the significant challenges faced, whilst remaining responsive to wider economic factors, setting savings strategies which are monitored and delivered against.
- Understands the profile of existing and forecast liabilities, allowing for provision of repayment.
- Has appropriate levels of reserves and monitors liquidity.
- Prepares the annual statement of accounts in an accurate and timely manner.

Robustness of Estimates

The Council is operating in an extremely challenging financial environment, the robustness of estimates underpinning the proposed revenue budget have been reviewed as follows:

General Fund Revenue Budget	
Risk	
Non delivery of savings	The savings included in the MTFS have been through an enhanced officer and member challenge process. Savings will be monitored monthly in 2026/27 to ensure expected outcomes and enable early corrective action if savings are not delivered as planned.
Funding is lower than forecast	Enhanced procedures are being adopted to monitor and forecast collection rates and impacts on the tax base. 2026/27 marks a revaluation year for the ratable base (business rates), with appeals likely. Enhanced monitoring, supported by an externally commissioned, specialist partner will enable early identification of issues.
Property	The council is undertaking an asset review with a view to creating an asset disposal strategy and supporting plan. The impact of any disposals will be assessed on a business case basis prior to completion and approval by members. There is a risk of voids and capital works relating to the property portfolio (operational assets and investment holdings), as the Council does hold an aging asset estate.
Income, fees and charges budgets	The 2026/27 budget relies in part upon generation of fees and charges across Council services. The Council has historically operated a cost plus budgeting basis, with a number of income budgets requiring review and rebasing. Fees and charges will be reviewed and rebased as part of new budget setting processes for 2027/28.
Expenditure budgets	Significant growth has been factored into the 2026/27 net revenue budget. The Council has operated a cost plus budgeting basis, this process relies heavily on the base budgets accurately reflecting service delivery. The base budgets have not been reviewed and realigned in a number of financial years. Expenditure budgets are now being subject to greater review as part of the Financial Review Panel and will be subject to realignment as part of the 2027/28 budgeting process.
Pay and price inflation	The Council has budgeted for pay inflation of 3.5% and contractual inflation (unless specified in a contract) at CPI + 1%. Social care commissioning in particular is sensitive to price inflation with packages being driven by specific care needs as opposed to generic inflation.
Overspends on the capital programme	The future capital programme has been set with an envelope of £10million, inclusive of a £1.5million contingency budget. Significant slippage from 2025/26 will be unfunded in 2026/27 as capital financing capacity is being consumed by financing of EFS.
Interest rate rise increasing financing costs	Whilst economic forecasts propose interest rate reductions, the capital financing is based on current PVLB projections, if rates were to increase this would put further pressure on budgets. The Council (due to EFS) is carrying an MRP requirement which would be subject to charge at the PVLB rate as at 31.3.xx annually. The capital financing indicators, at current rates forecasts demonstrate financial distress.
Capital Financing Costs exceed budgeted levels	Capital financing costs are dependant on capital programme delivery, and revenue pressures generating a need for EFS. EFS from 2025/26 has become the main driver of the in year Capital Financing Requirement moves. Treasury indicators show that the Liability Benchmark will exceed CFR in financial year 2027/28 based on delivery of the proposed capital programme, existing EFS financing requirements and future EFS requirements, which in turn are dependant on the revenue budget being delivered as a minimum online. The Council currently operates an annuity based MRP policy, which in turns means the call on General Fund increases annually.
Local Government Reorganisation	No provision has currently been made to cover costs associated with Local Government Reorganisation. The Council is part of the Ridgeway proposal and any required funding in 2026/27 with regard to development of further proposal or initial works will be a call on reserves.
Exceptional Financial Support declined by central government	The MTFS shows a reoccurring requirement for EFS over the medium term. If EFS were declined, the Council would be required to enact a savings proposal in scale unseen in prior financial years. This puts the Council at risk of 114.

Growth of the Revenue Budget

Net Expenditure Growth Trends (£millions)	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Base Budget	138.5	151.3	163.6	167.1	184.2
Base Budget Growth	10.6	16.5	17.5	24.5	31.2
Savings Applied including one off savings reversed back into the subsequent years base budget	-5.3	-9.1	-16.5	-8.2	-4.5
Net Revenue Budget Approved/Proposed	143.8	158.8	164.6	183.4	210.9
Published / forecast outturn - overspends	4.7	3.10	6.80	8.50	
Growth - gross annual growth plus overspend, less savings	10.0	10.5	7.8	24.8	26.8

Historically the Council has delivered savings to help mitigate growth in the expenditure base. As years progress the complexity of saving required to mitigate rising costs is increased. Ambitious and challenging savings strategies have been identified in recent years, however, in some instances due to marketplace factors, savings have been undeliverable. Moving forward to balance the expenditure pressures, whilst also taking into consideration constrained funding, the Council will need to ensure savings allocated to the revenue budget are delivered. The current MTFS is set with future years savings targets of £15million annually, which is not insignificant. However, the targets set still result in the Council requiring increasing EFS in the medium term. EFS comes with a significant cost in the form at MRP.

EFS and Capital Financing

EFS as a percentage of CFR movement	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Movement in CFR	26.8	34.3	33.9	40.7	46.7
EFS Allocation	13.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	47.0
EFS as a percentage of CFR movement	48.5%	58.3%	88.5%	98.3%	100.6%

Comparison of CFRs and Liability Benchmark	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Closing CFR	319.7	354.0	387.9	428.6	475.3
Loans CFR	310.3	345.6	380.5	422.3	470.3
Liability Benchmark	259.9	309.3	369.1	435.4	490.0

The treasury indicators above show the impact of EFS and increasing revenue pressures. In 2026/27 the Council remains compliant with the prescribed Prudential Code indicators, and the locally set fiscal rule of capital financing budgets remaining within 10% of the Council's net revenue stream. However, in 2027/28 the indicators are compromised with the liability benchmark exceeding the Loans CFR and the CFR itself. In the context of the Prudential Code, it is rare for the Liability Benchmark to exceed the Loans CFR as the Loans CFR represents the theoretical maximum level of borrowing permitted. When this occurs, it indicates negative investable resources (i.e. CFR minus investable resources like reserves and cash balances). The Liability benchmark includes a £10million liquidity buffer, this combined with low reserves will drive the benchmark above the main CFR. If the benchmark is higher than external loans (loans CFR), it signals an immediate need to take on long term borrowing to fund capital and liquidity, as essentially the Authority has depleted all internal resources and is fully exposed to interest rate and refinancing risks for the full CFR. Furthermore, the ratio of capital financing to net revenue stream exceeds the 10% fiscal rule in 2027/28 (forecast ratio 12.1%). Capital financing impacts are largely felt a year in arrears due to MRP being applied at outturn, therefore 2027/8 impacts are driven by 2026/27 and preceding activity. In order for the indicators (and it should be noted the indicators remain compromised through the MTFS post 2027/28), significant

adjustment to spending plans in 2026/27 would be required. The indicators as forecast are dependent on the proposed revenue budget being delivered online, with no further impacts on reserves (reserve forecasts are a driver of the liability benchmark and indicators), and no increased requirement in 2026/27 for EFS.

Reserves

Reserves	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Opening Balances as at 1.4.xx annually	10.60	15.83	12.81	11.23	9.91
In year anticipated utilisation - planned in budget setting	-2.27				
Provision for any in year overspends and outturn adjustments	-12.50	-33.02	-41.58	-46.32	-45.18
Allocation of requested Exceptional Financial Support to balance budget	20.00	30.00	40.00	45.00	45.00
Allocation of requested Exceptional Financial Support to maintain General Fund				1.54	2.10
Projected Closing General Fund Balance	15.83	12.81	11.23	11.45	11.83
151 Recommend General Fund minimum level	9.20	10.55	11.05	11.44	11.83
Cumulative Exceptional Financial Support to balance budget and maintain General Fund	20.00	30.00	40.00	47.00	48.00

The reserves statement is included in appendix E of the MTFS. It should be noted that (excluding schools balances, Public Health, and the Insurance reserves), the reserves are generated through EFS and require (based on forecasts above) EFS to be maintained at the recommended 151 level. There currently is an un-forecast risk to the Council's General Fund from the schools' balances which have been diminishing over recent years. Under accounting regulations, once the overall schools' balances decline into deficit this will become chargeable against the Council's General Fund, increasing any EFS requirement. Detailed work is underway with the schools to enhance reporting and quantify the level of risk.

Conclusion

The Council's financial position is precarious. Funding is constrained and growth in the Council's tax base has not kept pace with increasing revenue costs. The 2026/27 net revenue budget has been subject to realignment of the council tax base and historic savings, which alongside annual standard growth (pay inflation, contractual inflation, social care demand), has created a funding gap, proposed to be supported by EFS. Should central government not support the revised 2025/26 (£20million) and 2026/27 (£30million) EFS requests this would put the council into a s114 position. In the medium term the Council remains under considerable financial pressure, with compromised financial indicators, highlighting a sustainability and s114 risk. The finances will remain under tight scrutiny, with monthly monitoring and reporting of the 2026/27 budget to be implemented.

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