

Notes to accompany 2026-27 Draft Budget

Introduction

The Finance Committee and Staffing Committee met in November, December and January to consider the budget lines as agreed under resolution 99/25-29. The amenities budget and staffing budgets were agreed by full council on 18.12.25

Outlined below are the recommendations from both committees and the Town Clerk for the Full Council to consider in relation to the budget lines in the accompanying draft budget.

Budget	2026-2027 Budget notes
ASSETS & AMENITIES	Assets & Amenities Budget - £163,119 (Approved 18.12.25) (please note that this figure differs by £2000 from the amount agreed on 18.12.25 as the £2000 allocation for Whitchurch Road Cemetery has been removed from this budget line and will be considered as part of contributions budget)
ADMINISTRATION Committee Recommendation	Considered at the Finance Committee meeting on 5.12.25 and 15.1.26 Administration budget - £51,462
CLLRS TRAVEL & TRAINING	Councillors Travel & Training - £1,140 (Approved 18.12.25).
STAFFING	Staffing Budget - £165,891 (Approved 18.12.25).
CONTRIBUTIONS Clerk's notes	Larger Contribution Requests are considered under agenda item 4a, figures against these budget lines are the Clerks recommendations. Under agenda item 4c the Council will consider whether to set up a new budget line which will incorporate these contribution requests along with the £30,000 from earmarked reserves for service support as agreed on 18.12.25.
Town Hall	No separate budget line has been included in the draft budget so any agreed contribution can be funded from Service Support line, if Council agrees to establish it.
Service Support	Service Support budget: For indicative purposes this budget line has been set at £44,000 which incorporates the previously agreed earmarked reserve amount of £30,000 as well as an additional allocation of £14,000 to support other organisations providing services in the town that meet the agreed criteria for an application to this budget line e.g Wem Town Hall, Wem Library.
Small Grants	Small Grants budget: To be considered under agenda item 4d, for indicative purposes in the budget an allocation of £4000 has been included in line with the recommendation. For indicative purposes a contributions budget of £54,500 has been allocated
EVENTS/ PROJECTS Clerk's notes Christmas Lights	The Clerks recommendation is that the Christmas Lights Budget is set at £8000 with £2,500 of this amount coming from existing earmarked reserves for purchase of new trees. This will mean that there will be no

Christmas Festival Events	earmarked reserves left for future electrical line replacements when required. Inflationary increase to £3100 Maintain the events budget at £3500 this includes erection and removal of bunting.
Business networking, Climate Change	Due to financial pressures and the fact that there is an unspent earmarked reserve for Wem Economic Forum this item should be removed. Likewise the allocation for climate change projects has been removed as it is included under the recreation budget For indicative purposes a projects/events budget of £14,600 has been allocated
SWIMMING POOL Clerk's notes	Contribution request of £75,000 approved 18.12.25 A 4% increase of all other budget lines has been allocated. For indicative purposes a budget of £94,032 has been allocated.
MISC Clerk's notes Town Hall	The Town Hall allocation has been removed from this budget line as it is subject to any decision made under agenda item 4c
Markets	Maintain at £1000 for the management of the outdoor market and development of markets generally.
Town Improvement Projects	This budget line is to be removed due to financial pressures on the budget For indicative purposes a budget of £1,000 has been allocated.
Expenditure Budget	Proposed 2026-27 Expenditure budget £545,744
Income	
Clerk's recommendation	It is the Clerk's recommendation that based on actual income received in the current financial year as at 31.12.25 (by setting the income budget based on these figures this can allow for some fluctuation should number of burials fall in 26-27 and reduction in interest rates) and assuming no significant increase in fees and charges non precepted income should be set at £45,320
Reserves allocation	£42,500 (£7,500 from general reserves and the balance from existing earmarked reserves)

Reserves Position

	Earmarked Reserves	General reserves
31.3.25	£193,546	£240,944
31.12.25	£175,667	£391,067
31.3.26 estimated	£162,000	£290,000 (rough estimate)

Guidance on reserves is that we hold 6 months expenditure in general reserves and the proposed budget will enable this as based on an expenditure budget of £545,744 this will require a 6 month general reserve of £272,872.