



Budget & Precept Report 2026/2027

Full Council Meeting Monday 19 January 2026 (REVISED following meeting date)

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This document aims to outline the key considerations and decisions required for setting the precept for the parish council for the financial year 2026/2027. The precept is the amount of money that the parish council requests from the local council tax payers, and it is a critical component in ensuring the council can fund its activities and obligations.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The budget for 2026/2027 and Precept is required to be set at this Parish Council Meeting and demand relayed to Swindon Borough Council by 31st January 2026.
- 2.2 The previous years precept for 2025/2026 was £729,705 which equated to £194.67 per band D household (5.03% year on year increase from the previous year).
- 2.3 The parish councils Working Party met on 18th September 2025 to recommend its next year's projects and priorities list the Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GP).
(Copy attached again for reference – Appendix A).

The F&GP Committee met on 22nd September 2025 to agree recommendations and put these forward to the Full Council (FC Min Ref/248).

The F&GP Committee reviewed the first draft budget for 2026/2027 at the 17th December 2025 meeting and recommended to full council that the increase was reduced and brought back to the January meeting.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 Using the budget provided by the Parish Council in 2025/2026 as a starting point and taking into consideration priorities discussed over the last 12 months the 2026/2027 budget has been prepared and is attached to this report as **Appendix B.**
- 3.2 The council tax base has been increased from 3748.50 to 3880.1 which is a 3.5% increase, letter attached to this report as **Appendix C.** *(The tax base is determined by the local authority and can change each year depending on factors such as population growth or decline, and council tax banding).*

- 3.3 The parish council expect the tax base figure to continue to increase over the next 10 years with the new housing developments being built at North Wroughton, Middle & West Wichelstowe and possible new housing sites as per the Swindon Borough Council Local Plan.
- 3.4 As per last year's notification from Swindon Borough Council - the SBC Council Tax Support Grant is no longer being provided. The 2026/2027 reflects this again.
- 3.5 The prepared budget at **Appendix B** has been drafted to include the projects listed within **Appendix A** and also the following services:

Utilities, Insurance and Rental Costs

Increase on energy bills

Increase of Employers Liability Insurance and Asset Register adjustments such as accurate building valuations and new purchases

Increase on room rent for office and library space

Increase waste disposal costs

Professional fees, Training and Staff Costs

NI Increases

Staff SCP increase, NJC Increase and training

Legal fees for ongoing discussions re lease agreements ownership queries

Staffing Levels to remain the same for all departments for 26/27.

Neighbourhood Plan costs

Additional Funded Activities and Services

SLA for Youth Services

Community library service which covers staffing, stock, central booking system to link with other SBC libraries, various arts and crafts clubs, children and adult activities.

Friendship Group Café

Sole Trustee to the Ellendune Community Centre CIO

Improvements to the ECC , new entrance, office alterations providing a more accessible and safe building

Remembrance Service with road closure – new cost

Christmas light switch on event

Open Spaces, Grounds Maintenance and Contracts

Continued service of road sweeper

Expansion of services provided in Wichelstowe

Improved footpath to the Weir Field

Bowls Green and sports pitch maintenance

Tree works, play areas, church clock

New lease for replacement Grounds Team Vehicle

Allotment site improvements

New Projects

Weir Field Pavilion Business Plan (additional funds required)

Vehicle activated speed signage

ECC Kitchen replacement (additional funds required)

S137 Grant Funds

The parish council has also agreed to welcome grant applications from the community – new budget of £20,000 available to apply for.

4. Precept Calculation

- 4.1 The precept is the amount of money the parish council needs to raise through local council tax. It is calculated by assessing the total budgeted expenditure requirements and subtracting any expected income or reserves that can be utilized.

Total Estimated Expenditure for 2026/2027:	£934,798
Total Expected Income (excluding precept):	£142,350
Amount to be raised through Precept:	£792,448

- 4.2 The amount to be raised through the precept will be divided by the number of taxable properties in the parish (known as the "tax base").

Tax Base for 2026/2027:	3880.1
Precept per Band D Equivalent Property:	£204.24

- 4.3 It is recommended that the parish council should retain up to 3 months operating costs, with the current precept set at £729,705 this totals a requirement of £182,426.25, the parish council currently hold a total of £184,927.

- 4.4 The draft budget for 2026 /2027 is attached to this report as **Appendix A**.

- 4.5

Financial Year	Predicted Precept Requirement (£)	YoY Increase %	Band D Equivalent	Tax Base Figure (Taxable Properties)	Notes
2023/24	665,303	26.11	£194.57	3419.30 (+6.18%)	Equates to £3.74 per week
2024/25	694,765	4.42	£196.42	3537.10 (+3.45%)	Equates to £3.78 per week
2025/26	729,705	5.03	£194.67	3748.50 (+5.98%)	Equates to £3.74 per week
2026/27	792,448	4.92	£204.24	3880. (+3.5%)	Equates to £3.93 per week

5.0 Recommendation

- 5.1 The budget for 2026/2027 is approved as per Appendix A.
- 5.2 The Precept is set at £792,448 resulting in a £204.24 per annum charge per Band D household.
- 5.3 The Precept Form from Swindon Borough Council, copy attached, is signed.