



Finance Committee

Budget and Precept for FY 2025-6

1 Budget and precept

The Finance Committee, together with the Clerk, have looked at the Budget that will be needed in the April 2025- March 2026 Financial Year (FY). A bottom-up approach was adopted to estimate the anticipated receipts or payments requirements for each budget line (“cost code”), based on payments in past years, payments to date and anticipated payments to the end of the FY, together with known or expected changes in future costs. Many hours were spent going through each cost code line by line judging the receipts or payments anticipated in the next FY. Having estimated the payments and receipts the final step was to set the precept as the amount (£199,586) needed to balance the anticipated payments against the anticipated receipts (including precept).

The resulting budget is at Table 1 of this document.

2 Precept level

Since the 2022-23 FY the precepts had been relatively constant (see Table 2) but inflation together with the need to move forward with initiatives means that a significant increase is needed for FY 2025-6.

Table 2	
FY	Precept
2022-3	£160,085
2023-4	£160,890
2024-5	£167,390
2025-6	£199,586

As for inflation note that the 2022-3 precept was set in December 2021 and, according to the online Bank of England inflation calculator, the £160,085 is now equivalent to £193,759. So, whilst the new precept of £199,586 may seem high compared to 2024-5, it is not far from what one might have expected based on inflation of the 2022-3 precept.

The proposed increase in the precept corresponds to an extra £18.08 per annum per Band D property in the Parish.

The major payments driving the budget, and hence the precept, increase are noted below.

3 Payments budget

The cost codes with an increase in expenditure budget of >£1,000, with an explanation are:



4060 Staff costs	+£24,420	+ 37%
Annual increments, employers NI, now assume all available staff time will be claimed in 2025-6.		
6180 Street Lighting – Electricity	+£9,563	+ 77%
Increase in electricity contract		
6040 Grass/Hedge Cutting, Weeding & Fertilising	+£5,500	+ 38%
Contract increase + now includes Jubilee Garden		
6240 Waste / Litter / Street Cleaning	+£5,000	+100%
Towards improved gutter and pavement management		
5060 WH Burial Ground staff costs	+£2,848	+114%
New burial ground post and increment		
6010 Community Car Park	+£2,500	+100%
OCC increased our rent		
6160 Street Lighting – maintenance / repairs	+£2,500	+ 20%
Higher contract cost and more repairs		
6090 Office equipment	+£1,500	+150%
Upgrades to laptops / file storage and a speaker system		

4 Ear Marked Reserves

Ear Marked Reserves (EMRs) are not used for day-to-day expenditure but for specific ('Ear Marked') projects. As in previous years anticipated income from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is not used in calculating the precept because it must go straight to an Ear Marked Reserve. Similarly anticipated income from the sale of the Old Jubilee Fire Station to the Goring & Woodcote Medical Practice is not used, because any income received must go into an EMR. So, neither of the above affect the setting of the precept.

5 CIL Ear Marked Reserves changes

As projects being pursued by Council move forward to their major expenditure stages it remains difficult to accurately estimate the costs and required spend profile from the EMRs, but the Bourdillon Playground refurbishment and setup of the Natural Burial grounds (new cost code EMR 347 EMR WHBG Natural Burials setup) seem closest to spending, so CIL has been reallocated as follows – also see Table 3. These changes are cost neutral and do not influence setting of the precept.

Cost code	Change	Result
345 EMR Community Infrastructure Levy	-£73,331	£ 5,760
346 EMR CIL Sheepcot improvements	-£19,957	£ 2,500
347 EMR CIL WHBG Natural Burial setup	+£15,000	£ 15,000
348 EMR CIL Playground refurbishment	+£78,288	£ 150,000



6 (non-CIL) Ear Marked Reserves changes

Reallocation of EMR funds now that the Environment Working Group has disbanded – also see Table 3. These changes are cost neutral and do not influence setting of the precept.

Cost code	Change	Result
440 EMR Environmental projects	-£10,000	£ 0 and close EMR
340 EMR Car Park Reserves	+£1,500	£15,403
435 EMR WHBG- 99Y Maintenance	+£1,000	£ 8,000
470 EMR Public Spaces Strategy	+£7,500	£18,507

7 Recommendations

- The Finance Committee recommends the budget allocations as shown in Table 1 for FY2025-6.
- The Finance Committee recommends a Precept of £199,586 for FY2025-6.
- The Finance Committee recommends the cost neutral EMR transfers in Table 3 below be made on 1 April 2025. (Note the result may be different from that shown above as there may be other EMR expenditure before then)

TABLE 1 Budget for FY2025-6

100 General Income		Previous FY				Current FY				Next FY	Next FY			
		2023-4		2023-4		2024-5		2024-5			2025-6	2025-6		Notes
		Receipts	full year	Payments	full year	Receipts	to 30/11	Payments	to 30/11			Increase	% Increase	
Code	Title	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	from 2024-5	from 2024-5		
1010	Bank Interest	1,200	3,392			2,000	2,836			9,000	7,000	350%	More funds now in higher interest acounts	
1030	Community Centre Car Park Income	7,000	9,727			10,000	8,267			11,000	1,000	10%	Assuming all spaces let	
1040	Events Income		533			0	140			100	100	-		
1050	Grants/S106/Donations					0	3,120			0	0	-		
1070	Miscellaneous Income / Other	200	67			120	921			100	-20	-17%		
1080	Precept	160,890	160,890			167,390	167,390			199,586	32,196	19%	Required to cover expenditure less other income	
1090	Property Income	9,500	12,577			11,000	1,733			10,000	-1,000	-9%	Any receipt on OJFS sale will go to 415 EMR Public Buildings - capital works	
1100	Loan Repayments											-		
1999	VAT Refund		8,221				7,648						Not relevant to net based precept	
SUB TOTAL (excluding VAT & CIL)		178,790	187,185			190,510	184,407			229,786	39,276	21%		
200 Burial Ground Income		2023-4		2023-4		2024-5		2024-5		2025-6		2025-6		
		Receipts	full year	Receipts	full year	Receipts	to 30/11	Receipts	to 30/11	Receipts	Increase	% Increase	Notes	
Code	Title	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	from 2024-5	from 2024-5		
2010	WHBG Grazing & Miscellaneous Income	60	61			65				0	-65	-100%	Paddock no longer rented out	
2020	WHBG Interments and Plots	15,500	19,787			16,275	14,140			17,000	725	4%		
2030	WHBG Memorials; Including Bench Donations	4,500	2,760			4,725	2,063			3,000	-1,725	-37%		
SUB TOTAL		20,060	22,608			21,065	16,203			20,000	-1,065	-5%		
INCOME TOTAL (excluding CIL & VAT)		198,850	209,793			211,575	200,610			249,786	38,211	18%	175,000 from OJFS sale will go directly to an EarMarkedReserve (EMR)	
300 Administration		2023-4				2024-5				2025-6				
		Payments	full year	Payments	full year	Payments	to 30/11	Payments	to 30/11	Payments	Increase	% Increase	Notes	
Code	Title	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	from 2024-5	from 2024-5		
3000	Office Rent					7,000	1,750	7,000	0	7,000	0	0%	Full year office rental	
3005	Office relocation					1,000	5,491	1,300	300	1,300	300	30%		
6095														
3010	Allowances, Expenses & Training		492	600	492	2,000	260	1,500	-500	1,500	-500	-25%		
3020	Awards and honours					0	875	0	0	0	0	-	covered by £1,000 to 425 EMR	
3040	Election Fees		7,365	7,400	7,365			0	-	0	-	-		
3050	Hire of Meeting Room		694	700	694	600		700	100	700	100	17%		
3060	Postage, copies, stationery and printing		505	1,000	505	1,000	264	600	-400	600	-400	-40%		
3070	Advertising & Publications		1,391	1,350	1,391	650	564	1,500	850	1,500	850	131%		
3080	Subscriptions		317	800	317	1,500	982	1,200	-300	1,200	-300	-20%		

3090	Legal Fees
3100	Rates and Taxes
3110	Website
3120	Annual Meeting of the Parish
SUB TOTAL	

700	
1,800	1,782
225	195
500	310
15,075	13,051

6,000	
0	1,210
200	
500	368
20,450	11,764

3,000	-3,000	-50%	
400	400	-	
1,000	800	400%	
500	0	0%	
18,700	-1,750	-9%	

400 General Finance and

Code	Title
4010	Audit and Accountancy
4020	Bank Charges
4040	Miscellaneous Expenditure
4050	S137 and Other (Non-Grant) Payments
4060	Staff Costs
4070	Transport S26-29 LGR Act 1997
4080	Loans to Local Organisations
4090	Grants under General Powers of Competence
SUB TOTAL	

2023-4	
Payments	full year
Budget	Actual
1,000	350
100	71
500	236
53,000	55,269
300	292
	5,000
54,900	61,218

2024-5	
Payments	to 30/11
Budget	Actual
1,500	2,680
100	35
200	
30	
66,000	40,849
750	
5,000	1,000
73,580	44,564

2025-6			
Payments	Increase	% Increase	Notes
Budget	from 2024-5	from 2024-5	
2,500	1,000	67%	
60	-40	-40%	
250	50	25%	
0	-30	-100%	
90,420	24,420	37%	Annual incremets, employers NI, now assume all available staff time will be claimed in 2025-6.
1,000	250	33%	
		-	
5,000		0%	
99,230	25,650	35%	

500 Burial Ground

Code	Title
5010	WHBG General Maintenance
5020	WHBG Mowing, Hedges, Trees
5030	WHBG Plot Preparation
5040	WHBG Waste
5050	WHBG - Utilities
5060	WHBG - Staff Costs
5070	WHBG subscriptions
5080	WHBG Administration
SUB TOTAL	

2023-4	
Payments	full year
Budget	Actual
500	102
4,000	2,935
5,000	6,651
1,500	1,237
1,700	1,654
12,700	12,579

2024-5	
Payments	to 30/11
Budget	Actual
500	680
4,500	2,804
5,000	4,060
1,500	446
50	545
0	1,889
	100
0	446
11,550	10,971

2025-6			
Payments	Increase	% Increase	Notes
Budget	from 2024-5	from 2024-5	
750	250	50%	
4,000	-500	-11%	
6,000	1,000	20%	
1,000	-500	-33%	
1,000	950	1900%	now budgeted separately
5,348	5,348	-	New burial ground post & increment
235	235	-	
0	0	-	
18,333	6,783	59%	

600 Facilities

Code	Title
6010	Community Centre Car Park
6020	Defibrillator
6030	General Maintenance & Repair
6040	Grass/Hedge Cutting, Weeding & Fertilising.
6050	Fences/Gates
6060	Pedestrian Safety Projects (non EMR)
6070	Inspections Surveys & Reports

full year
Actual

2023-4	
Payments	full year
Budget	Actual
2,400	3,497
200	180
4,500	4,409
14,500	13,886
1,000	
100	
2,500	1,061

2024-5	
Payments	to 30/11
Budget	Actual
2,500	5,065
250	383
4,000	2,843
14,500	15,072
1,000	69
3,000	
3,000	1,042

2025-6			
Payments	Increase	% Increase	Notes
Budget	from 2024-5	from 2024-5	
5,000	2,500	100%	OCC rent increased
500	250	100%	
5,000	1,000	25%	
20,000	5,500	38%	Contract increase and now includes Jubilee Garden
350	-650	-65%	
3,000	0	0%	
2,000	-1,000	-33%	

6080	Insurance		1,900	1,545		1,700	1,707		1,850	150	9%	
6090	Office Equipment		1,000	67		1,000	400		2,500	1,500	150%	Upgrades to Laptops / file storage and a speaker system
6100	Playground Equipment Maintenance		500			1,000	620		1,000	0	0%	
6110	Cleaning & Associated Supplies		4,500	198		500	58		500	0	0%	
6130	Security, Fire & Safety					250	138		110	-140	-56%	
6140	Software and back-ups		3,000	2,702		3,000	1,982		4,000	1,000	33%	
6150	Street Furniture inc Seats & Bins	1,322	1,000	2,076		4,000	3,158		2,000	-2,000	-50%	
6160	Street Lighting - maintenance / repairs		25,000	24,149		12,500	9,054		15,000	2,500	20%	Higher contract and more repairs
6180	Street Lighting - Electricity					12,500	11,072		22,063	9,563	77%	Increase in Electricity contract
6190	Telephone & Internet		400	335		500	329		500	0	0%	
6200	Traveller Eviction & Cleanup								0	0	-	
6210	Tree surveys		2,000	877		2,000	655		1,500	-500	-25%	
6220	Utilities - Gas, Water, Electricity	114	7,000	10,207		16,000	3,543		10,000	-6,000	-38%	
6230	Vandalism					500			500	0	0%	
6240	Waste / Litter / Street Cleaning		4,500	2,958		5,000	2,927		10,000	5,000	100%	towards improved gutter and pavement management
6250	Environemntal projects (non EMR)									0	-	delete cost code
6260	Village Planting, Hanging Baskets & Planters		6,000	4,320		5,000	4,202		5,000	0	0%	
SUB TOTAL			1,436	84,550	87,828	93,700	64,318		112,373	18,673	20%	

700 Neighbourhood

Code	Title	2023-4		2024-5		2025-6			
		Payments Budget	full year Actual	Payments Budget	to 30/11 Actual	Payments Budget	Increase from 2024-5	% Increase from 2024-5	Notes
7020	GNP Review Preparation					0		-	
7040	GNP evidence Website	120	110	120	82	150	30	25%	
SUB TOTAL		120	110	120	82	150	30	25%	

The 800 and 900 cost centre cost codes are solely to move money from EMRs and have no budget set

Expenditure TOTAL	167,345	174,786		199,400	131,699		248,786	49,386	25%	
To Ear Marked Reserves	32,505	32,505		12,175	12,175		1,000	0	-92%	£1k for Freedom of Goring
From precept to EarMarkedReerves	199,850	207,291		211,575	143,874		249,786			

Summary

TOTAL	2023-4				2024-5				2025-6	
	Receipts	full year	Payments	full year	Receipts	to 30/11	Payments	to 30/11	Receipts	Payments
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget
	198,850	211,229	199,850	207,291	211,575	200,610	211,575	143,874	249,786	249,786

TABLE 3

Reserves transfer for 1 April 2025		Curent 30/11/24	Transfers due on 1/4/25	from precept	Start 2025-6 (if no other expenditure)	
320	EMR Operating Reserve	71,464			71,464	
325	EMR Tree felling /pruning /replacement	11,512			11,512	
330	EMR Playground Equipment	27,000			27,000	
340	EMR Car Park Reserves	13,903	1,500		15,403	1,500 towards resurfacing
350	EMR Pedestrian Safety Projects	511			511	
355	EMR Street Lighting Replacement	37,865			37,865	
365	EMR Security	3,249			3,249	
370	EMR Public Spaces Strategy	11,007	7,500		18,507	
375	EMR Christmas trees (GGBN)	371			371	
385	EMR WHBG Reserved Plots	5,500			5,500	
410	EMR WHBG - 99Y Maintenance	7,000	1,000		8,000	Whitehill Burial Ground maintenance for 99
415	EMR Public Buildings - capital works	10,180			10,180	
425	EMR Freedom of Goring	440		1,000	1,440	Top up from precept
430	EMR Previous Financial Year	0			0	
435	EMR Sheepcot Recreation Ground	37,514			37,514	
440	EMR Environmental projects	10,000	-10,000		0	and delete code
	Total - non CIL	247,516	0	1,000	248,516	
345	EMR CIL (Community Infrastructure	79,091	-73,331		5,760	
346	EMR CIL Sheepcot improvements	22,457	-19,957		2,500	
347	EMR CIL WHBG Natural Burials setup	0	15,000		15,000	
348	EMR CIL playground refurbishment	71,712	78,288		150,000	
349	EMR CIL Traffic calming	14,812			14,812	
	Total - CIL	188,072	0	0	188,072	
	Total non CIL +CIL	435,588	0	1,000	436,588	