

Draft Budget and Precept Request for 2026/27
For Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This paper outlines the final budget request proposed following discussions at finance committee and full council meetings.
- 1.2 Changes since the last discussion at a full council meeting, include a reduced pension commitment due to contributions changing in April 26 and an increased budget for public participation.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Budgets and Precept Requests for Derry Hill & Studley Parish Council and the former Calne Without Parish Council for the previous four years have been:

Year	Budget	Precept Request	Annual Precept for Band D Property
2025/26	£44,046	£44,046	£52.95
2024/25	£36,683	£32,980	£21.72
2023/24	£32,097	£32,097	£21.72
2022/23	£30,633	£30,633	£21.72

Notes:

1. The large budget increase in 25/26 was due to boundary changes and a smaller tax base.
2. The Budget for 2024/25 was part-funded from interest on Council Reserves.
3. Small budget increases have been accommodated, without increasing the Precept for each property due to an increasing tax base following new developments.

- 2.2 The Budget and Precept Request for 2026/27 will be the second for the new Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council following the implementation of the Community Governance Review changes.

3. Draft Budget for Derry Hill & Studley Parish Council 2025/26

- 3.1 The following Draft Budget for Running Costs has been amended since the last council meeting by the Finance Committee. (A spreadsheet version will also be circulated for ease of reference):

DERRY HILL AND STUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
BUDGET DEVELOPMENT 2026-27
RUNNING COSTS

Spending Category	Actual Spend 2021-22	Actual Spend 2022-23	Actual Spend 2023-24	Approved Budget 2024-25	Approved Budget 2025-26	Spend to Date (Apr to Nov 25)	Commentary	Proposed Budget 2026-27 Current cost base	Inflation Allowance	Proposed Budget 2026-27	Potential Reduction	Comments
1 Training	£1,606.61	£418.46	£1,301.36	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£747.00	Ongoing training only required so reduced budget [19] 10 full council meetings, 4 finance committee meetings, 1 HR meeting, 1 annual meeting, 3 engagement and participation meeting 2.5 hours each, current rate 12.45/hour	£1,000.00	0.00%	£1,000.00	£0.00	
2 Hall Hire	£270.99	£530.80	£797.60	£735.00	£460.00	£261.80		£591.37	2.50%	£606.15	£0.00	18/11/26 may be amended to reflect potential move of meetings to old meeting room £21.25/hour should know by the committee meeting.
3 Clerk	£11,970.11	£15,737.68	£15,604.45	£17,644.23	£18,838.30	£12,229.97	Updated for 2026/27 pay rate. Have included for pension uplift and N1 employer contribution. Have allowed for 2026/27 as inflation allowance.	£18,760.88	3.50%	£19,417.51	£0.00	Salary: £18,850 x 150/180 x 52/52/52/yr + 17.7% uplift for pension + employer contribution of [Salary - £5,000] * 19% might need to be reviewed again as see what impact reorganisation has on hours. (haven't included the 2 hours approved overtime allowed by staff contract.
4 Insurance	£780.14	£712.28	£747.18	£747.18	£850.00	£817.49	Second year of a three year term, £17.49	£817.49	0.00%	£817.49	£0.00	
5 Audit	£456.00	£596.00	£530.00	£566.50	£445.88	£665.00	Audit costs Internal audit 2025 External income related - £210 for £25-50k, £215 for £50-£120k, £420 for £150-£200k. (Fee scale updated with revised option).	£540.00	2.50%	£553.50	£0.00	Internal audit costs the same, external audit costs £315 income over £50,000 with CIC money.
IT Services	£2,954.60	£1,995.99	£2,872.92				Ongoing costs of: Web hosting @ £99.00; Office 365 Business Standard Licence @ £135.38; ESet Anti Virus Licence @ £10.50; Bac Certificate @ £50.00; Office 365 Business Premium Licence @ £172.80; ICO Registration @ £47.00; Doc Library plugin @ £74.80; Remote IT support - assume £1,000 based on pay-as-you-go arrangement as new clrs will require onboarding current 100	£1,689.46	2.50%	£1,731.70	£0.00	
IT Development	£1,958.16	£949.12					Website maintenance & limited development & support at £150 per quarter. Sourced at £444 per annum licence Patch Criteria as 1/28	£1,172.00	2.50%	£1,201.30	£0.00	price of scribe amended to £444, advised of price rev 18/10/25
32 Email System	£944.09	£873.60					£991.46 Patch Criteria as 1/28	£640.90	2.50%	£656.92	£0.00	
33 IT and email provision							2,872.92 £3,900.87 £3,384.61					
9 Bin Emptying	£1,377.00	£1,290.00	£2,157.00	£4,212.00	£2,106.00	£1,234.68	7 bins emptied weekly/5 dog waste bins @£8.50/ 2 rubbish bins @£4.00	£2,108.00	2.50%	£2,158.65	£0.00	
Election Provision	£646.03	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00	£780.00	Assume that new council will inherit a proportion of the current election reserve, but may need to replenish following May 25 elections.	£500.00	0.00%	£500.00		
11 Petty Cash	£113.89	£132.98	£1.46	£100.00	£0.00	£0.00	Reduced to £0	£0.00	0.00%	£0.00	£0.00	
12 Equipment and Facility Inspection and Maintenance	£453.95	£1,234.41	£2,483.98	£2,834.12	£1,511.88	£2,226.10	£2,226.10 £1,500.00 £1,500.00	£1,500.00	0.00%	£1,500.00	£0.00	
13 Credit Card & bank charges	£37.38	£183.22	£32.00	£32.00	£83.00	£81.75	Cost of credit card - £32 a year Have added for bank charges at £4.25 per month	£83.00	0.00%	£83.00	£0.00	
33 Office Supplies							£281.80 £300.00 £300.00	£250.00	0.00%	£250.00	£0.00	
14 Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)	£208.00	£171.00	£177.00	£185.85	£187.58	£190.00	Allow for last year + inflation	£190.00	2.50%	£194.75	£0.00	
15 Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC)	£1,054.04	£883.19	£860.00	£935.48	£665.00	£634.76	Revised estimate based on similar parish.	£634.76	2.50%	£650.63	£0.00	
17 Events, Advertising and Communication	£1,842.21	£2,015.09	£3,998.13	£3,000.00	£1,640.00	£2,574.65	Remembrance Sunday road closure @ £807 reduced printing cost as most messages can go in inspire magazine	£1,500.00	2.50%	£1,537.50	£0.00	updated following Oct full council meeting
33 Accountancy / payroll	£0.00	£135.00	£225.00	£0.00	£184.50	£45.00	Payroll costs at £45/quarter	£180.00	2.50%	£184.50	£0.00	
Additional allowance for Playground					£1,500.00	£0.00	grass cutting not needed this first year, but a very dry year, recommend keeping £500 for grass cutting and £1,000 for maintenance/depot reserve	£1,500.00	0.00%	£1,500.00	£0.00	
Inspire						£548.00	additional costs of up to 4 extra paper copies of the magazine	£2,400.00	%	£2,400.00		
Community groups grants							£5,000.00	£5,000.00		£5,000.00		
Projects							£5,000.00	£1,000 was allocated to public participation budget for day/road closure.				
Community Committee support								£1,000.00		£1,000.00		
TOTAL	£26,673.20	£25,282.85	£34,913.31	£36,683.23	£44,046.75	£23,622.99		£42,055.86	2.5%	£42,943.60		
							Change to 25/26 Budget:	-4.5%	-2.5%			

Estimated Tax Base of New Parish 772.47
Initial indication from WIC of tax base

Estimated Precept charge for New Parish £55.59 for a Band D Property

%age Increase: 5% Against 2025/26 band D rate of £52.95

Element	Budget	Early estimate from Wiltshire Council of this years tax base	Resulting Precept for Band D Property
Running Costs	£37943.60	772.47	
Grants to Community Groups	£5,000	772.47	
Total	£42943.60	772.47	£55.59

Comparisons with other local councils. (25/26)

Parish or Town Council	Precept for band D property for 2025/26 £ per year
Chippenham Town Council	£321.28
Calne Town Council	£260.19
Chippenham Without Parish Council	£130.36
Bromham Parish Council	£98.61
Rowde Parish Council	£97.73
Lacock Parish Council	£79.50
Compton Bassett Parish Council	£70.12
Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council	£52.95
Cherhill Parish Council	£49.21
Hilmarton Parish Council	£42.27
Heddington Parish Council	£41.25
Bremhill Parish Council	£36.22

4. Recommendation

That the Parish Council approves the final Budget and precept request for 2026/27 for the Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council.