

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council

25th February 2026

Medium Term Financial Plan and Draft Budget 2026-27 including Treasury Management Strategy, Capital Strategy and Investment Strategy

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Simon Nock Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Debra Goodall
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Wards Affected	ALL
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	All
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	
An appendix to this report contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph(s) 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides Cabinet with the draft 2026/27 revenue budget, capital programme and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2028/29. The updated draft position presented incorporates consultation feedback, settlement certainty, and fees and charges proposals alongside planned capital expenditure, a review of earmarked reserves and a proposed strategy relating to the flexible use of capital receipts. If approved and subject to any amendments and clarification requests being incorporated, this position will form the bases of the final budget proposal for consideration and agreement by all elected members at the meeting of full council on the 25th of February 2026.
- 1.2 Unusually this year, the council's determination and setting of the council tax for the district will take place in two parts. The first will comprise setting the council's budget and district (excluding precepts). The Council's own proposed council tax increase for the coming year as set out in this report. Due to potential delays in the County Council's determination of its precept (without which the full council tax setting process determining the full level of council tax set, affecting all residents of the district cannot complete), a second meeting of full council will be convened on the 6th March 2026 which

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will incorporate the County Council agreed increases to complete the final council tax setting position and enable council tax billing to be generated.

- 1.3 The draft budget is balanced for the coming year and forecast to remain so across the following two-year period of the MTFP, indicative (at this stage) of a forecast sustainable financial position across the medium term.
- 1.4 This report is the culmination of a significant programme of financial planning that first reported a stage one position to cabinet in the autumn. A second report was considered by Cabinet 7th January 2026 following the Chancellors Autumn Statement and the Provisional Settlement. Following receipt of confirmation from Government the final settlement position under a new funding regime, formal approval is now sought for this final draft District budget position to be recommended to full council. The phased approach and reporting of emerging positions through the process reflects the council's commitment to transparency and the public interest within the complex and changing financial landscape affecting Local Authority finances nationally.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is asked to Resolve that:

- 1) **The updated position and assumptions are noted in respect of the 2026/27 annual budget and for the Medium-Term Financial Plan up to 2028/29.**
- 2) **Cabinet has considered and noted the comments and implications set out in the Section 151 Officer's Robustness (Section 25) paras 3.39 – 3.66. Statement of the 2026/27 to 2028/29 Medium Term Financial Plan in its commitment to maintaining the delivery of good quality services and investment to meet local needs within a sustainable financial position.**

Cabinet is asked to Recommend to Council that:

- 3) **The Growth proposals of £67,639 in 2026/27, £64,719 in 2027/28 and £64,719 in 2028/29, as set out in Appendix D be approved**
- 4) **The Directorate Pressures of £565,655 in 2026/27, £545,295 and £741,514 in 2027/28 and 28/29 respectively, be approved as set out in Appendix D**
- 5) **The Savings proposals of £621,899 in 2026/27, £665,991 in 2027/28 and £690,206 as set out in Appendix D be approved**
- 6) **The Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2029/30, as set out in Appendix C, including bids of £4.738m for new capital projects, as set out in**

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Appendix E, be approved

- 7) Earmarked Reserves of £12.245m as set out in Appendix B be carried forward into 2026/27, be approved**
- 8) The new allocations within the carried forward earmarked reserves as set out in paragraph 3.30, namely the creation of a new Financial Resilience Reserve of £2.5million, a Local Government Reorganisation Reserve of £1m, a Community Investment Fund of £1.250m and a reserve for Particulate Monitoring of £102k be approved.**
- 9) Increases relating to Worcestershire Regulatory Services of £25K for Food Standards Agency related work on an ongoing basis are approved.**
- 10) The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy as set out in appendix J be approved**
- 11) the proposed Council Tax increase of 2.99% for the 2026-2027 be approved.**
- 12) The updated fees and charges for Commercial Waste Services be approved for adoption in the 2026/27 financial year.**

3. KEY ISSUES

Introduction

- 3.1** The Council sets its budget as an integral part of 3-year Medium Term Financial Plan every year, with the final Council Tax Resolution being approved by Council, following County Council determination of their precept.

This year's process takes account of the following factors:

- The starting point from the 2026/27 MTFP was a forecast deficit position of £1.03m and £399k respectively for 2026/27 and 2027/28.
- That position has since been updated to reflect:
- The settlement confirmation
- The out-turn position for 24/25 and any consequential impact that has on the current 25/26 forecast position.
- The current and emerging risk environment
- The assumptions underlying the financial planning process were agreed in the Budget Setting Proposal report that was presented to Cabinet on 10 September 2025 and any recommended changes to those assumptions are set out in Paragraph 3.8.

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- The cost-of-living crisis and ongoing inflationary pressure continues to impact the organisation and our residents, driving several cost and demand driven pressures on services
- The latest level of inflation is 3.4% as at December 2025
- Due to the business rates reset, no growth is assumed in the base funding for business rates.
- Overall District Council's Core Spending Power (CSP) is comparatively lower than unitary bodies.
- Overall, compared to 2025/26, the Council had a net increase of CSP of £0.5m in 2026/27, £0.4m in 2027/28 and £0.4m in 2028/29. However, this includes elements of transitional funding of £0.4m in 2026/27, £0.5 in 2027/28 and £0.3m in 2028/29. Any transitional safeguards are temporary, and Bromsgrove may face further reductions in CSP as these protections taper and ultimately come to an end.
- The final Local Government Settlement confirmation received 9th February 2026.

3.2 This report sets out:

- The starting position for the 2026/27 MTFP
- Explanation of any movement and update in the starting position since the in relation to year end out-turn,
- The Council's Base Assumptions including Inflation, Interest Rates, and income
- Confirmation of the final settlement figures
- Council Priorities
- Strategic Approach
- The Budget Position 2026/27 – 2028/29
- Fees and Charges update
- Outcome of the review of reserves
- Impact on Reserves and Balances
- Capital Programme
- The Treasury Management Strategy, Capital Strategy and Investment Strategy for 2026/27
- The Section 151 Officers Robustness Statement (section 25 report)

3.3 The Final settlement confirmation on the 9th of February 2026 preceded by the provisional local government settlement on 17th December 2025, the Chancellor's Statement on 26 November 2025 and the Finance Policy Statement on 24 November 2025 confirmed several key points as set out later in this report.

3.4 As part of the Budget process, the following reports have been approved in the January 2026 cycle of meetings:

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- The Council Tax Base 2026/27
- The Council Tax Support Scheme 2026/27
- The Discretionary Council Tax Reduction Policy
- Council Tax – Empty Homes Discounts and Premiums
- Non-Domestic Rates – Discretionary Rates Relief Policy
- Pay Policy
- Preliminary Fees and Charges Report

The Starting Position for the 2026/27 MTFP

- 3.5 The Council set a three-year MTFP 2025/26 to 2027/28 in February 2025. The position reflected a balanced budget for 2025/26 with a forecast deficit position of £1.03m in 2026/27 and deficit of £399k in 2027/28.
- 3.6 The budget process for any coming financial year is always set ahead of the known outcome of the current financial year. As a result, it is important we consider the actual prior year out turn, in terms of understanding the nature and impact of any potential recurring costs or systemic underspends

The Council's Base Assumptions including Inflation and Grants

- 3.7 It is important to set out the base assumptions under which the budget is constructed. These assumptions can then be stress tested against a range of “what if” variable scenarios to test the robustness of the overall budget, our financial resilience and ability to weather a storm.
- 3.8 Tax Base and Corporate Financing underlying assumptions are as follows:
- Council Tax – Figures assume the full 2.99% current allowable increase in year one (increase of c£300k) and across all following years. Tax base growth assumes an increase of 50 properties at £13k increasing to 50 properties in 2027/28 at current increase values totalling £39k.
 - Business Rates Increases – business rates have previously assumed growth in the base based on the combined Herefordshire pooling figures. Due to the Fairer Funding review no increase / growth has been built in as no pooling will take place and no growth is expected above the 10% levy applying to all councils for 100% of baseline need growth. This is an area of sensitivity, also affected by last minute adjustments to the funding formula. Therefore, a prudent assumption is applicable.
 - Government Grants and New Homes Bonus – Government Grants and New Homes Bonus will be merged into larger ring-fenced grants to reduce complexity. The Council has received the following revenue grant funding

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which is not part of the above ring-fenced grants:

- Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging (EPR) of £1,766,905. EPR must be spent on waste related services in line with the PACKUK guidance. The Council is currently reviewing how it can maximise use of the grant to relieve pressure on core budgets.
- Inflation is now at 3.4% at December 2025.
- Fees and Charges have been reviewed by individual services with a minimum uplift of at least 2% in each area (where statutory caps apply) and an average of 3.8% across all areas.
- The largest change however will link to upcoming Waste Requirements. The Council is required to implement these proposals from April 2026. £950k (this amount was agreed to increase to 1million from 26/27 as agreed by Council) was budgeted in 2025/26 on an ongoing basis for this.
- The outcome from the Fairer Funding Review of additional support grant and retained business rates results in a reduction of £2m phased in over the three years as follows; 2026/27 £500k; 2027/28 £900k; 2028/29 £2m.
- The Government have consolidated several grants together including the previous New Homes Bonus and the merging of Homelessness Prevention Grants, Rough Sleeping Initiatives and Temporary Accommodation Support. The Grants received have been higher than anticipated, resulting in additional grant of £200k
- A contingency of £500k has been built into the MTFP for the next two years as part of earmarked reserves to support preparatory work in relation to Local Government Re-organisation. This has been based on discussions with the other District Councils and the County Council and consideration as to costs relating estimated backfill of posts. It is not yet clear whether this will be enough to all cover the cost of the significant preparatory cover the work required for the setting up any new Unitary structures.

The national picture including Settlement Dates

- 3.9 The Chancellors Statement was announced later than previous years on 26 November 2025. This is a multi-year settlement covering 2026/27 to 2028/29.

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The settlement is underpinned by the outcomes of the **Fair Funding Review**, which aims to redistribute resources more equitably based on assessed local need. Key elements of the new funding framework include:

- **Revised Needs-Based Formula:** Incorporating updated demographic and service demand data across areas such as adult social care, children's services, housing, and other local services.
- **Resource Adjustment Mechanism:** Reflecting councils' ability to raise income locally, particularly through council tax and retained business rates.
- **Area Cost Adjustments:** Accounting for regional variations in service delivery costs.
- **Grant Consolidation:** Multiple small grants will be merged into larger ring-fenced grants to reduce complexity.
 - New Homes Bonus will be scrapped and returned to the core settlement.
 - Homelessness Prevention Grants, Rough Sleeping Initiatives and Temporary Accommodation Support will be merged into a single housing related grant.
 - Discretionary Housing Payments and Household Support Fund – proposed for consolidation.

3.10 The changes arising from the Fairer Funding review and grant consolidation will be phased in over three years to limit the scale of immediate financial shocks. For Bromsgrove District Council, the changes reflect the application of the new needs-based funding formula and stability is largely provided by transitional funding. While transitional funding provides some short-term stability, this protection is temporary, and the council will need to continue to plan for a lower underlying funding baseline in future years.

In addition, a range of national policy changes have been announced. While most have limited direct financial impact on Bromsgrove District Council, they form part of the wider funding and policy context within which the Medium-Term Financial Plan must be managed and are summarised below:

- **High-value Property Surcharge from April 2028.**
Properties worth £2m+ will pay an annual surcharge but revenue will be directed to central government. As a result, this does not generate any additional income for Bromsgrove.
- **Council Tax Flexibility**
District Councils retain ability to increase council tax within referendum limits, but no new blanket powers announced. For Bromsgrove, this means that ongoing financial sustainability remains reliant on maximising allowable council tax increases alongside income generation and savings, as no additional local tax-raising powers have been introduced.

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- No new additional core funding uplift beyond inflation for district councils. When combined with ongoing service pressures and demand, this places continued pressure on Bromsgrove's revenue budget and reinforces the need for efficiency savings and prudent financial planning.
- £18m for the upgrade and refurbishment of 200 children's play areas across England was announced, with priority given to the most deprived communities. This investment is part of the Government's "Pride in Place" programme, it is competitive and targeted at areas of the highest level of deprivation and therefore cannot be assumed within Bromsgrove's base budget or medium-term funding assumptions.
- Rent Convergence will be reintroduced for social housing rent from 2026. This will allow councils and housing associations to increase rents for properties below 'formula rent' by an additional weekly amount, on top of the standard CPI + 1% annual increase. As Bromsgrove does not operate a Housing Revenue Account, this policy has no direct financial impact on the Council's budgets.

3.11 In parallel, the **English Devolution White Paper**, published in late 2024, sets out a roadmap for local government reorganisation. This includes the creation of **Strategic Authorities** and a move towards **universal coverage** of devolved governance structures across England. Councils in two-tier areas and smaller unitaries are expected to engage in reorganisation discussions, with elections for new governance models anticipated in May 2027. Work has taken place with KPMG to produce a 'two unitary' bid to Government. As part of this and based on advice from KPMG as to anticipated requirements, District Councils have agreed a level of contingency / reserves to support work required going forward.

3.12 The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was announced on 17 December 2025. This set out the detail of funding allocations for individual councils including details of the new funding distribution model (Fairer Funding Review 2.0).

Council Strategic Priorities

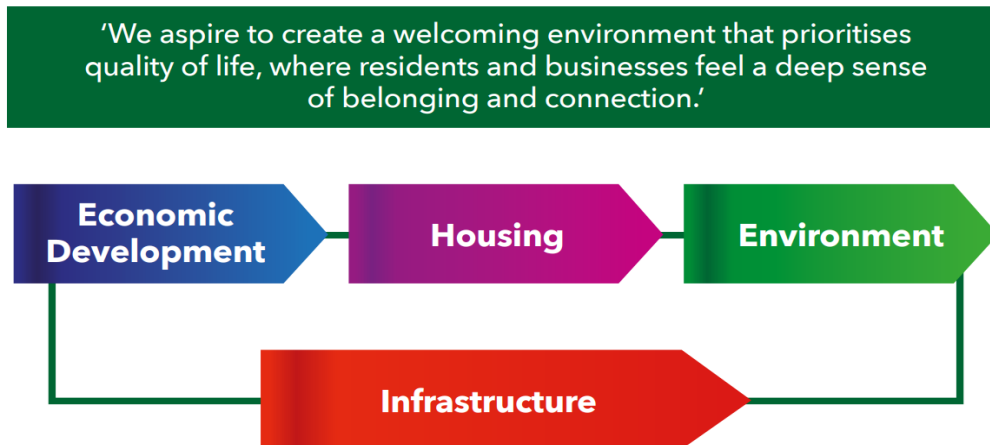
3.13 The Council Plan provides an overarching vision for the district with the four priorities as follows:

- Economic Development
- Housing
- Environment
- Infrastructure

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3.14 The council's vision, priorities and themes are connected using a 'green' thread:

"A green thread runs through the Council plan. Climate change and carbon reduction are key issues within the plan and the relevant measures identified to evaluate performance will help the Council to understand both activities and progress in this area."

3.15 Opportunities and Challenges highlighted in the plan include:

Opportunities:

- The location of Bromsgrove for business; with Worcestershire, regionally and beyond.
- The entrepreneurial and community spirit within Bromsgrove District.
- Keeping businesses in the district when they grow.
- The amazing natural environment of the district.
- The creative options provided through new technologies to enhance our services and our customers experiences.

Challenges:

- The ongoing financial challenge to the organisation and our communities and residents through the real pressures presented by cost of living and the housing crises.
- Continuing to support those who are most vulnerable and manage the increasing costs.
- Retaining businesses within the district when they grow.
- Understanding the different community needs across the district.
- The need for enhanced digital and physical connectivity.

3.16 The council recognises the value and importance of partners including community and voluntary groups in delivering its priorities. Where possible we the council will support, influence and work collaboratively with other partner agencies to acting as advocate to influence them to take a particular course of action/undertake a particular project.

Strategic Approach

3.17 The Council entered the 2026/27 budget process sighted on a number of issues to address, including:

- A deficit balance of £1.03m in 2026/27 budget as a start-point position.
- An expected reduction in funding from the Fairer Funding Review of around £2m phased in over three years.
- The requirement to fund the higher than planned for 2025/26 pay award at an additional cost of £28k.
- The limitation on increases in Council Tax at 2.99% or £5, which is significantly lower than preceding and current rates of inflation.

3.18 The Council is facing several significant pressures. However, these issues are not unique, all Councils are facing them. Stage 2 of the budget adjusted for funding provided by Government and reviewed the following options to close the gap, resulting in the identified actions undertaken:

- Work has been undertaken to maximise grants. There has been a large element of work around the Extended Producer Responsibility Grant.
- Work is currently being undertaken by Internal Audit around Agency work to provide assurance around ensuring Agency work reflects the income provided for its delivery. Reporting mechanisms have also been put in place internally to review levels of agency staff on a regular basis.
- Finance Business Partners have been working closely with services to undertake reviews of services for any potential savings opportunities without impacting on service delivery.
- A full review of vacant posts has been undertaken by the Senior Leadership Team in conjunction with HR.
- This year, a review of fees and charges has been done individually rather than applying a blanket percentage increase to look to maximise service income opportunities.
- A further review has been undertaken to see if further capitalisation of salaries was appropriate.
- A full review of earmarked reserves has been undertaken releasing sums previously set aside that are no longer required, enabling available funding to be re-aligned and directed to meet current needs and priorities.

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- The council continues to work on positioning our services ready for Local Government Reorganisation. Several workstreams have been set up to begin planning to set up the new unitary based structure.
- Grant funding of £523k in 2026/27, £555k in 2027/28 and £596k in 2028/29 has been received for Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse.
- The Council will also receive £73k in 2026/27 and 2027/28 relating to the Crisis and Resilience Fund. This provides funds to support residents facing financial hardship and to build long-term financial resilience in communities.
- Additional costs relating to Worcestershire Regulatory Services are £25k on an ongoing basis relating to the Food Standards Agency. These pressures are salary related.
- Revenue Service pressures and savings have now been considered. A total of £68k revenue bids have been included in 2026/27 as part of the Medium-Term Financial Plan reducing to £65k in future years. A further £566k of pressures have been identified in 2026/27, with £545k in 2027/28 and £742k in 2028/29. There are net savings of £622k in 2026/27, with £666k in 2027/28 and £690k in 2028/29. A breakdown of these is shown in Appendix D.

The Budget Position 2026/27 – 2028/29

- 3.19 There are significant pressures mounting on the Council. At Quarter 2 the overall revenue financial position was a forecast £336k overspend position, although this is now forecast to reduce, alongside in-year savings requirements of £1.213m, of which £319k is yet to be delivered. Financial grip has been strengthened with members and Senior management working hard to mitigate pressures during the period. Initial indications for Quarter 3 indicate that a more balanced year end position is now likely.
- 3.20 The total savings identified for delivery in the current year of £1.213m is made up of £250k of Departmental Efficiencies from the 2025/26 MTFP, £511k staff turnover rate (based on 5% of staffing budgets) and an ongoing savings budget pressure of £400k.
- 3.21 There has been an announcement that Councillors will be able to rejoin the Local Government Pension Scheme at some point in the future. It has not been made clear when this will come into effect, but it has been confirmed that this will be an additional pressure on Councils going forward and no additional funding will be provided. Councils are currently lobbying the Government on this. It has currently been assumed that this will impact some time in 2026, but a date has not yet been confirmed.

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3.22 Corporate changes for 2026/27 are outlined in the Table below

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	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
Opening position	8	1030	399	399
Changes				
Capitalisation	-750			
Finance Reserve	-289			
Service Efficiencies	-250			
VMWare Contract Savings	-120			
Replacement Bin Requirements	120			
WRS Agreed Uplifts	29			
Increased Council Tax Budget	26			
Reduced Government Grant	352			
The Sunrise Project	37			
Further National Insurance Requirements	200			
Additional Parking Requirements	89			
Increased Waste Interest Costs (capitalised)	27			
Artrix Maximum Costs	31			
Contract Inflation	90			
Corporate budgets savings	-343			
School Business Rates	-250			
Reduction to 2025/26 MTFP for pension figures		-50	-50	-50
0.2% pay award from 25/26 over budget		28	28	28
2% Pay award 2026/27		389	389	389
1% Cost of Living 2026/27	154	195	195	195
Increase in Council Tax Growth	-96	-13	-52	-54
Fees and Charges Income	-200	-252	-253	-253
Additional Council Tax (@2.99%)		-97	-194	-291
Additional cost from Fairer Funding Review		898	1673	1977
Additional cost for Councillors Pensions		0	53	53
Proposed Increase in Members allowances		6	6	6
Increase in Employers NI for Elected Members		12	12	12
Utilities budget saving		-230	-230	-230
Extended Producer Responsibility		-1,733	-1,733	-1,733
EPR- Communications			100	
Forward funding rate saving - pensions		-358	-370	-380
WRS Food Work		25	25	25
Changes to Business Rates pooling gains calculation		362	183	
Transitional protections - 100% income protection		-202	-470	-293
Adjustment Support Grant		-160		
Interest on borrowing		138		
Finance / Revenues Contingency			444	182
Changes to Business Rates Appeals and losses			-99	-99
Net Additional Costs / (Savings)	-1,143	-1,042	-343	-516
Closing net pressure / (underspend)	-1,135	-12	56	-117
Directorate Bids	1387	68	65	65
Directorate Pressures		566	545	742
Directorate Savings		-622	-666	-690
Total	252	0	0	0

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Fees and Charges update

- 3.23 Fees and Charges were originally assumed at an increase of 2% reflecting an increase of £100k. A full review has been undertaken this year by the individual fees and charges to identify whether an additional level of charges could be applied. A more robust forecast has been reflected in the figures now that fees and charges have been provided by each Service and this will result in further income of £152k in 2026/27, with £153k from 2027/28 onwards.

Impact on Reserves

- 3.24 The Council currently holds General Fund Balances of £13.38m and Earmarked Reserves of £11.27m. The forecast position for reserves is attached as per **Appendix B**.
- 3.25 Elected members recognise that it is a financial priority to the Council to safeguard financial sustainability in the medium and long term by continuing to set balanced budgets. Achieving this may require targeted investment, efficiency measures, and as a measure of last resort funding for redundancy costs. These actions will support the Council in adapting its operating model to remain viable and resilient, particularly in the context of a potential future North Worcestershire Unitary arrangement.
- 3.26 A full review of reserves has been undertaken by the Assistant Director of Finance and Customer Services to ensure that the reserves are still required for their original purpose. This review has identified £5.944m of reserves that are no longer required for their original purpose and can be transferred to the General Fund. These are identified in Appendix B.
- 3.27 It is recommended that several new reserves are created. These are identified at the bottom of Appendix B. The reserves are as follows:
- a) £500k in 2026/27 and 2027/28 for work on Local Government Reorganisation. This will go towards the setting up of the new unitary council over the next two years.
 - b) £2.5m Risk and Resilience Reserve to cover the risks identified within the budget relating to recruitment drag, inflation cap, committed savings, and council tax collection rates.
 - c) £1.25m Community Investment Fund to enable agile investment to meet local community needs supporting our priorities both directly and through our partners and community groups. Criteria for qualifying projects within the Community Investment Reserve funded programme must be aligned with the Council Plan and corporate priorities. The programme themes will be supported by a robust governance framework and will be reported Cabinet at its first meeting in the new financial year.

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- d) £102k for air quality data via Particulate Monitoring – a separate report has been taken to Council on this.

3.28 In addition, the following use of existing reserves are also proposed.

- a) In July 2024, Members supported a recommendation for three posts: an outreach post within the Financial Independence Team (FIT) at the District Council and two outreach posts within the voluntary sector at different levels – money advisor and an outreach development worker from Citizens Advice. In addition to adding capacity at different levels, the reason for the proposal of the three posts across sectors was to have a collaborative function so organisations could achieve even greater synergy and effectiveness in guiding clients to the best source of help, maximising the benefits of the public funded services already in existence. However, unfortunately, due to recruitment challenges for the Council, the FIT team were only able to successfully appoint at the end of last year, but the contracts for the voluntary sector posts are shortly coming to an end. Therefore, it is proposed that the remaining £50K contained in earmarked reserves to support cost of living initiatives be used to extend these contracts for the voluntary sector posts to the end of March 2027.
- b) For 2025/26, UK Shared Prosperity Fund monies were used to provide the Innovation Lighthouse Programme. As there will be no UKSPF funding after 31 March 2026, to continue to deliver this programme, it is proposed to utilise £100k of Economic Development reserves in 2026/27 and 2027/28.
- c) In 2025/26, the Finance Reserve was utilised to fund the costs of the Tech One licence and AMS Support. It is planned to continue to utilise this reserve for the next two years to fund this at a cost of £181k in 2026/27 and £200k in 2027/28.

3.29 Following the review of reserves, the Council would hold General Fund balances of £12.402m and Reserves of £12.245m.

Capital Programme

- 3.30 The Council over the past number of years has not spent its capital programme allocations in year. As in previous years, a review has been carried out of
- All schemes that have not started
 - Schemes that have started
 - To assess deliverability and links to strategic priorities.

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- 3.31 Projected carry forward positions as set out in the Q3 Monitoring Report are £552k for the Council which would be carried forward to 2026/27.
- 3.32 **Appendix C** sets out the proposed capital programme for 2026/27 – 2029/30.
- 3.33 The priority in capital terms is for the Council to spend its grant funding of £3.4m. It has the following:
- £2.5m Levelling Up Funding (LUF) to utilise on the Windsor Street Redevelopment.
 - £0.8m Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) funding
 - £0.1m Warm Homes Grant funding which is a government initiative to improve the energy efficiency of properties.
- 3.34 Several capital bids have been included within the budget. These are outlined in Appendix E and amount to £4.738m over 2026/27 and 2027/28. The key areas of investment are as follows:
- £0.801m Infrastructure
 - £2.580m Buildings
 - £1.000m Play Audits
 - £0.170m Parks
 - £0.020m Biodiversity
 - £0.025m IT / Cyber
 - £0.142m Other
- 3.35 The Capital Programme is very closely linked to the Asset Strategy, Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Asset Investment Strategy. These Strategies set out how the Council can invest and borrow funds and with which parties. They are set out in Appendices F, G, H and I. These Strategies will be recommended to Council by Audit, Governance and Standards Committee on 17th February 2026.
- 3.36 This report also sets out a Flexible use of Capital Receipts policy. This provides the council with the opportunity but not any obligation to apply capital receipts to fund one transformation activities as set out on Appendix J.

Financial Overview

- 3.37 We are currently budgeting in a time of extreme uncertainty and challenge. Key risks include delivery of savings, workforce capacity, and governance compliance. Mitigation involves involve savings tracking, governance checkpoints, and contingency planning for workforce changes. Key issues and actions undertaken are shown below:

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Issue	Mitigating action
Resolution of the approved budget position	Balanced budget in all years
Financial stabilisation position	Balanced budget in all years, full review of reserves has taken place and work on S106 balances is currently at an advanced stage
Adequate workforce planning	Workforce strategy and workforce plan in place
Implementation of savings to time and budget	Working ongoing with the PMO to put in place formal process for managing savings to ensure management of non-delivery
Capacity to deliver plans	Service areas are responsible for ensuring that they have capacity to deliver as part of the plan submission
Change of corporate direction / priorities	No major changes planned between now and vesting day
Savings proposals must have passed the S151 Officers tests for robustness and delivery and supported by the budget holder	Savings proposals have been submitted by budget holders supported by the relevant Finance Business Partner
Loss of key personnel	Workforce strategy and workforce plan in place

3.38 The budget assumptions have been formulated having regard to several factors including:

- Funding available and savings delivery targets
- Inflation
- Risks and Uncertainties
- Priorities
- Commercial Opportunities
- Local Government Review and impact / restrictions

The Section 151 Officers Robustness Statement

Introduction

3.39 Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the council's Section 151 Officer to report to the council when it is considering its budget requirement

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and consequent Council Tax setting. The report must deal with the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations and the adequacy of the reserves allowed for in the budget proposals.

- 3.40 The rationale is to ensure that the estimates are sufficient to cover regular recurring costs plus any reasonable risks and uncertainties, and, if unexpected expenditure is needed that there are adequate reserves to draw on. The calculations relate to the budget for the forthcoming year, and the legal requirement may, therefore, be interpreted as reporting only on the 2026/27 estimates and reserves up to 31 March 2027.

Economic context

- 3.41 The council is subject to significant market uncertainties that make the estimation of costs and income difficult. CPI inflation stays above the Bank of England's 2% target (3.4 % in December 2025) and, whilst interest rates have now begun to come down, future movement and stability is still difficult to predict because of sustained high inflation and the wider social, economic and political landscape.
- 3.42 Supply chains and the labour market remain challenging. Numerous service areas within the council are finding staff recruitment and retention difficult, leading to the need to take on agency staff to support service delivery. This is a substantial area of difficulty for many councils and for Bromsgrove exacerbated by the current uncertainty under the LGR proposals. Furthermore, adverse economic conditions over the past few years for example, the prevailing cost of living burden on residents and impact of national housing crises on temporary accommodation costs have led to an increase in service pressures both in terms of increased demand and increased costs.
- 3.43 As a result, estimates in this Budget report should be treated with some caution, and mitigations considered in the event of the alternative scenarios modelled as part of the development of the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

Governance and financial management

- 3.44 The council conducts a review of its system of internal control and prepares and publishes an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) annually. This shows whether, and to what extent, the council followed its Local Code of Governance. This process records the council's good practice and supports improvement of governance arrangements. Producing the AGS helps the council meet the requirements of Section 11 Section 25 report Regulation 6(1)b of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015. It is reviewed and approved by the Audit, Standards and Governance Committee.

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- 3.45 The council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to economy, efficiency and effectiveness (which are measures of value for money). That duty has grown in importance with the reduction in resources being made available for local authorities over recent years. The AGS 2024/25 Statement identified governance issues and risks for the Council to address linked to the following two external documents: External Auditors Draft Annual Report for 2020/21 and the External Auditors Draft Report for 2021/22 and 2022/23. These reference that the Council in November 2023 received a Report from the Council's External Auditor setting out statutory recommendations (Section 24 Statement) for non-delivery of the 2020/21 to 2022/23 Accounts within the required timescales due to the implementation of a new financial ledger and the inherent financial risks associated with this. As a result of the financial ledger issues there remains an outstanding recovery of VAT position for the council.
- 3.46 The backlog of unaudited / disclaimed accounts arising because of the government's backstop dates is an issue facing many councils and whilst in the public interest to adopt this approach it creates an absence of assurance in opening and closing balances which adds further risk.
- 3.47 The AGS concludes, it presents "a balanced reflection of the governance environment, and the arrangements continue to be regarded as fit for purpose in accordance with the governance framework".
- 3.48 It also includes the opinion of the Head of Internal Audit that, Reasonable assurance can be given that there is an adequate and effective governance, risk and control framework in place, designed to meet the organisation's objectives.
- 3.49 During the current budget setting year there has been instability in financial resourcing at a senior level. Resulting in the current 151 officer interim arrangements, pending the appointment of a permanent replacement on conclusion of a robust recruitment process which is well underway.

Robustness of estimates

- 3.50 The council has well established phased budget and council tax setting arrangements including ongoing scrutiny engagement via an established Finance and Budget Working Group and members are well sighted on and engaged with the progress of the budget setting. These arrangements have been followed when compiling the 2026/27 budget and medium-term forecasts. An appropriately prudent approach has been taken to the estimates and

assumptions used in the preparation of the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The MTFP sets out the key estimates and assumptions used, including those relating to future inflation, interest rates on investments and borrowing, government funding, business rates and Council Tax.

Scenario planning and unavoidable revenue pressures

- 3.51 As part of its MTFP preparation the council undertakes sensitivity analyses in the form of stress and scenario testing. It would benefit from expanding this to include multi-variant scenarios (more than one event happening simultaneously). Also, developing a sustainability framework setting out clearly agreed protocols and “what if” actions against agreed trigger thresholds. This framework should be agreed and overseen by members who can remain sighted on the position against agreed thresholds as an integral element of the quarterly financial reporting cycle.
- 3.52 Whilst every effort has been made to consider future revenue pressures, it is impossible to foresee all eventualities, and it is likely that the council will continue to be impacted by additional future pressures which are yet unknown. Mitigating risk and pressures have been considered in the review of earmarked reserves and are referred to below.
- 3.53 There will be significant additional costs arising from preparations for local government reorganisation (LGR). The budget report proposes a sum £1million over the coming two-year period is earmarked to cover the impact on current and future resourcing capacity. This will offset pressure on officers and enable backfilling or the funding of dedicated resource where required. This is a prudent estimate and comparatively in keeping with peer councils, however this should be kept under review as an inherent risk remains that this may not be sufficient.

Estimation and delivery of additional growth, pressure, and savings

- 3.54 This budget includes new savings, increased income measures & efficiencies, changes to services and increases to fees and charges and some of the savings’ delivery needed is in addition to those previously agreed but not yet delivered. Savings proposals have all been through a series of review processes including corporate and senior leadership teams. The resulting proposals are therefore submitted with the relevant Director and Assistant Director endorsement and consequent acceptance of accountability for delivery.

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- 3.55 New pressures have also been identified and accommodated on the bases of forecast demand. These demand pressures may well exceed the forecast as set out in the examples below.
- 3.56 *Temporary Accommodation Costs.* As is the case nationally Bromsgrove is experiencing pressures in relation to temporary accommodation and the cost of homelessness under the council statutory duty to house. Whilst newly introduced national policy measures focusing on prevention are positive there may well be a lag before the impact on high-cost private sector rents and short-term accommodation is achieved.
- 3.57 *Collection Rates.* At the time of writing the county council has not set its precept for the coming year and proposes an increase of 9%. At a time of ongoing cost of living pressures such increases may well affect collection rates or change the profile of receipts. Given the focus on delivery of capital and community investment programmes to meet local needs, cashflow needs to be actively managed. Disruption to or changes in income collection could adversely impact cashflow. In anticipation of this the council has plans in place to review its treasury and financing position and secure expert advice and independent assurance in determining and implementing any arising changes.
- 3.58 To mitigate risk in the event of unforeseen pressures the budget report proposes an earmarked risk & resilience reserve of £2.5million, which seems prudent.
- 3.59 *Capacity to deliver.* The council is proud of and ambitious for its communities and is committed to delivering services and investment aligned to corporate priorities to meet the changing needs of those it serves. Delivering capital investment and additional support services to support those most in need given the recruitment difficulties and additional call on capacity associated with LGR as previously referenced means the council must focus on delivery across a broad spectrum of activities including, savings, efficiencies, community investment initiatives, capital programme and addressing the section 24 statutory recommendations. This will demand well-resourced services and consideration of the merits of a co-ordinated programme management function. And a review of the organisational structure, to ensure all can remain well sighted on progress of delivery in key areas.
- 3.60 An additional earmarked reserve for community investment is proposed, setting aside £1.25million in the coming year to meet emerging community needs aligned to the corporate plan priorities via either direct delivery or via indirect support to partner agencies, other public entities and the voluntary sector and community groups. This approach will help deliver additional investment targeted to clearly identified outcomes aligned to the corporate plan.

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- 3.61 Naming savings through the budget setting process is only the first step. All proposals are subjected to robust consideration by officers and members and are considered achievable – however careful budget monitoring will be needed on an ongoing basis to ensure delivery. This will be underpinned by quarterly integrated reporting to Cabinet.
- 3.62 Although the new savings target is comparatively modest, the challenge and risk associated with this should not be underestimated, particularly in the context of the significant savings already made, and the wider context around LGR.

Adequacy of reserves

- 3.63 Section 32 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires billing authorities in England and Wales to have regard to the level of reserves needed for meeting estimated future expenditure when calculating the budget requirement. It is the responsibility of the Section 151 Officer to advise local authorities on the level of reserves that they should hold and to ensure that there are clear protocols for their establishment and use. Reserves should not be held without a clear purpose.
- 3.64 A key mitigation for financial risk is the Section 151 officer's determination of a prudent minimum level of reserves. A risk assessment, taking into account risks covered within this section 25 report has been undertaken for the budget year to determine the level of non-earmarked general reserves required by the council and to ensure the purpose for which they are intended remains current and clear. Appendix B of this budget report proposes the updated levels of reserves. In making this recommendation, the Section 151 officer has followed guidance in the CIPFA Bulletin 13 – Local Authorities Reserves and Balances.
- 3.65 The following table sets out the prudent minimum levels of general reserves, together with the estimated balances at the start and end of the forthcoming budget year:

General Non earmarked Balances (£m)	General Fund
Minimum Prudent Level Requirement	£3.260m
Forecast Levels (Budget Setting 26/27)	
*1 st April 2025	£11.266m
31 st March 2026	£12.245m

*Note the change between opening and closing balances between 31/3 and 01/4 2025 reflect accounting movements between General fund and earmarked reserves. The overall total of the General Fund balances and

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Earmarked Reserves remains as reported by KPMG in the LGR business case.

Conclusion

3.66 I consider estimates for the budget year 2026/27 to be sufficiently robust and the financial reserves up to 31 March 2027 to be adequate. However, I draw attention to the following: -

- Significant uncertainty remains in relation to the impact on the council of local government reorganisation.
- There is significant inherent risk posed by the prior years disclaimed financial statements and continuing to progress resolution of all matters pertaining to the section 24 recommendations is essential. This is an area which will require the permanent 151 Officer, in consultation with External Auditors, to agree their programme for ensuring all recommendations are met. Progress against the agreed programme should be overseen by the Audit Standards and Governance Committee.
- The council has not previously had a detailed plan in place to underpin financial sustainability in the event of significant unforeseen financial pressures. This will now be addressed by the Section 151 Officer, added to the work Cabinet Work Programme for forward planning purposes and thereafter reported to members accordingly.
- The council's internal borrowing levels are indicative of an underlying borrowing requirement; the consequent impact on cashflow is compounded by the outstanding VAT recovery sums which are currently being progressed with the support of an independent external Tax specialist. Capital financing arrangements and the current treasury policy will be subject to a comprehensive independent review, overseen by the section 151 officer, to conclude by the end of quarter one of the coming financial years.
- The Council is operating with no overall political control and delivery of the budget outcomes relies heavily on continued political cooperation and collaboration.

4. Financial Implications

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4.1 These are included in Section 3 of the report.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 A number of statutes governing the provision of services covered by this report contain express powers or duties to charge for services. Where an express power to charge does not exist, the Council has the power under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 to charge where the activity is incidental or conducive to or calculated to facilitate the Council's statutory function.

6. Local Government Reorganisation Implications

6.1 As per the of the explanatory note issued by Government on 24 July 2025, Government intends to issue planned directions under section 24 of the 2007 Act. These are anticipated to require written consent from successor councils for land disposals worth more than £100,000, entering of contracts of more than £1,000,000 for capital and entering of contracts of more than £100,000 for non-capital (whole life costs). While these directions have not yet been issued, Government have been clear that they expect councillors and statutory officers to be mindful of their responsibilities.

6.2 The general fund balances and reserves for the Council are set out in Appendix B. Any substantial changes to this level of reserves could impact on the viability of the two Unitary submissions for Worcestershire made to Government.

7. Strategic Purpose Implications

Relevant Strategic Purpose

7.1 The Strategic purposes are included in the Council's corporate plan and guides the Council's approach to budget making ensuring we focus on the issues and what are most important for the borough and our communities.

Climate Change Implications

7.2 The green thread runs through the Council plan. The budget report has implications on climate change, and these will be addressed and reviewed when relevant by climate change officers to ensure the correct procedures have been followed to ensure any impacts on climate change are fully understood.

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8. Other Implications

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 8.1 The implementation of the revised fees and charges will be notified in advance to the customer to ensure that all users are aware of the new charges and any concessions available to them.
- 8.2 Initial Equalities Impact Assessments will be taken where required.

Operational Implications

- 8.3 Monitoring will be undertaken to ensure that income targets are achieved.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 The combined impact of several separate circumstances and events within our current operating environment may adversely affect the councils cashflow which is about timing of income and expenditure and not about affordability. For example, significant increase in the county councils' precept could compromise collection rates and collection profile. Pressure could be offset by additional refunds from HMRC for unclaimed VAT; however, the timing and value of any such payment is not something the council can predetermine. The mitigation for this is a combination of proactive income management and access to debt support and benefit entitlement advice for those most vulnerable, which requires well-resourced appropriately skilled collection team members. Also, a safety net facility to support daily cashflow capacity will be put in place alongside an independent review of longer-term facilities and consideration of any arising recommendations from our retained expert advisors Arlingclose.
- 9.2 There is a risk that if fees and charges are increased demand will fall or become unaffordable in which case income levels will not be achieved, and the cost of services will increase. This is mitigated by managers reviewing their fees and charges annually. The Council must deliver a balanced budget and items impacting on distinct groups require and equalities review to be undertaken.
- 9.3 Attention is drawn to the risks highlighted in the section 151 officers' statement at Page 16.

10. APPENDICES

Appendix A - Budgets by Department – **(to be prepared for full council)**

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Appendix A – Budget by department
Appendix B - Reserves 2024/25 – 2028/29
Appendix C - Capital Programme
Appendix D - Revenue Bids, Pressures and Savings
Appendix E - Proposed Capital Schemes
Appendix F - 2026/27 Capital Strategy
Appendix G - 2026/27 Treasury Management Strategy
Appendix H - 2026/27 Minimum Revenue Provision Statement
Appendix I - 2026/27 Investment Strategy
Appendix J - 2026/27 Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy
Appendix K - Fees & Charges Update
Appendix L - Public Consultation

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

<http://svmodgov2019/documents/g4569/Printed%20minutes%2020th-Nov-2025%2016.30%20Worcestershire%20Regulatory%20Services%20Board.pdf?T=1>

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Appendix A – Budget by Department

TO FOLLOW

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To Follow Appendix B – Reserves Position

	Balance at 31/3/25	Transfers in 2025/26	Transfers out 2025/26	Balance at 31/3/26	Transfers to general fund at 31/03/2026	Transfers from general fund at 31/03/2026	Balance at 31/3/26	Transfers in 2026/27	Transfers out 2026/27	Balance at 31/3/27	Transfers in 2027/28	Transfers out 2027/28	Balance at 31/3/28	Transfers in 2028/29	Transfers out 2028/29	Balance at 31/3/29
General Fund Reserve	13,381	(2,216)	145	11,310	5,944	(4,852)	12,402	0	2,483	14,885	0	2,180	17,065	(182)	0	16,883
General Fund Earmarked Reserves:																
Building Control Other	7			7	(7)		0			0			0			0
Building Control Partnerships	82			82			82			82			82			82
Community Services - Climate Change	196	65		261	(20)		241			241			241			241
Local Plan Enquiry	487			487			487			487			487			487
Economic Growth Development	911			911			911	(100)		811	(100)		711			711
Election Services	85			85			85			85			85			85
Environmental Vehicles	27			27			27	(27)		0			0			0
Financial Services - Business Rate Retention	3,476			3,476	(2,476)		1,000			1,000			1,000			1,000
Pension Reserve	200			200			200			200			200			200
Finance Contingency	330	70		400			400	(216)		184		(200)	(16)			(16)
Finance Revenues Reserve	0			0			0			0	444		444	182		626
Community Services - CAB	181			181			181	(131)		50		(50)	0			0
Localising Council Tax	107			107			107			107			107			107
ELF funding	138			138			138			138			138			138
DWP Grant (Benefits)	128			128			128			128			128			128
Universal Credit / Benefits System/ Grants	164			164	(164)		0			0			0			0
Housing Schemes	455		(67)	388	(388)		0			0			0			0
DCLG Homeless Grant	267			267			267			267			267			267
Housing Welfare Reform	112			112			112			112			112			112
Disabled Facilities Grant	30			30			30			30			30			30
ICT Refresh Reserve	81			81			81			81			81			81
ERP Systems	116			116			116			116			116			116
Leisure/Community Safety	115			115	(55)		60	(30)		30		(30)	0			0
Local Neighbourhood Partnerships	16			16			16			16			16			16
Other	81			81	(81)		0			0			0			0
Planning & Regeneration	599			599	(68)		531	(100)		431		(100)	331			331
Regulatory Services (Partner Share)	86			86	(4)		82			82			82			82
Shared Services (Severance Costs)	311			311	(311)		0			0			0			0
Ward Budget Initiative	0	234	(78)	156			156	(78)		78			78			78
Council Tax Hardship Fund	79			79			79			79			79			79
Artrix Holding Trust	29			29			29			29			29			29
EPR Funding Allocation	0	1,004		1,004			1,004	(550)		454		(450)	4			4
Covid-19 (General Covid Grant)	766			766	(766)		0			0			0			0
Covid-19 (Collection Fund)	1,604			1,604	(1,604)		0			0			0			0
Ukrainian Support	0	785		785			785			785			785			785
Social Prescribing	0	57		57			57			57			57			57
Shopmobility Donations	0	1		1			1	(1)		0			0			0
New Reserves - MTFP 2026																
Risk and Resilience Reserve						2,500	2,500			2,500			2,500			2,500
LGR Reserve						1,000	1,000	(500)		500		(500)	0			0
Community Investment Fund						1,250	1,250	(750)		500		(750)	(250)			(250)
Particulate Monitoring						102	102			102			102			102
Total General Fund	11,266	2,216	(145)	13,337	(5,944)	4,852	12,245	0	(2,483)	9,762	444	(2,180)	8,026	182	0	8,208

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Appendix C – Capital Programme

Description	2026/27 Total £	2027/28 Total £	2028/29 Total £	2029/30 Total £	Council 26/27 £	Council 27/28 £	Council 28/29 £	Council 29/30 £	3rd Party 26/27 £	3rd Party 27/28 £	3rd Party 28/29 £	3rd Party 29/30 £
<u>Regeneration</u>												
Replacement Parking machines and Upkeep of Sites	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	0	0	0
Artrix- Landlord Obligations	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	0	0	0	0
Bus Shelters	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	0	0	0	0
Buildings	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	0	0	0
Parkside Flat Roof Replacement	80,000	0	0	0	80,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Windsor Street Redevelopment	2,500,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,500,000	0	0	0
Sweetpool Lane	225,500	0	0	0	225,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public-I	161,000	0	0	0	161,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Housing</u>												
Funding for DFGs	800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000	0	0	0	0	800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000
Home Repairs Assistance	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	0	0	0	0
Warm Homes Grant	100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100,000	0	0	0
<u>Parks and Play Areas</u>												
Updated Play Audit Requirements	159,841	226,459	67,531	155,749	159,841	226,459	67,531	155,749	0	0	0	0
Footpaths	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	0	0	0	0
Allotments	125,000	0	0	0	125,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Description	2026/27 Total £	2027/28 Total £	2028/29 Total £	2029/30 Total £	Council 26/27 £	Council 27/28 £	Council 28/29 £	Council 29/30 £	3rd Party 26/27 £	3rd Party 27/28 £	3rd Party 28/29 £	3rd Party 29/30 £
Play Areas	500,000	0	0	0	500,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Design Options For Café	50,000	0	0	0	50,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Café Improvements	120,000	0	0	0	120,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pathway Improvements	150,000	0	0	0	150,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sports Improvements	30,000	0	0	0	30,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skate Park Improvements and Pay Area MUGA	250,000	0	0	0	250,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhancements to Skate Park	250,000	0	0	0	250,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Car Parks - Create separate entry and exit points	20,000	0	0	0	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Car Parks - extra bays	10,000	0	0	0	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Planting of reed beds - Water voles	15,000	0	0	0	15,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wildlife survey and Management Regime	5,000	0	0	0	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Environmental</u>												
Fleet Replacemnet new line	820,000	0	0	0	820,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wheelie Bin Purchase	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000	0	0	0	0
Signage across all sites Bereavement Services	7,000	0	0	0	7,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New bins around all sites Bereavement Services	3,000	0	0	0	3,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Battery Equipment	15,000	0	0	0	15,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Battery Charging and Storage Unit	12,000	0	0	0	12,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Description	2026/27 Total £	2027/28 Total £	2028/29 Total £	2029/30 Total £	Council 26/27 £	Council 27/28 £	Council 28/29 £	Council 29/30 £	3rd Party 26/27 £	3rd Party 27/28 £	3rd Party 28/29 £	3rd Party 29/30 £
<u>ICT</u>												
New Finance Enterprise system	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	0	0	0	0
Laptops for new Starters	25,000	25,000	25,000	0	25,000	25,000	25,000	0	0	0	0	0
New ongoing Cyber security budget	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	0	0	0	0
Cisco Network Update	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	0	0	0	0
Server Replacement	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	0	0	0	0
Laptop Refresh	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	0	0	0	0
Cyber Security Updates	25,000	0	0	0	25,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Corporate</u>												
Salary Capitalisation	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	0	0	0	0
Total	7,876,341	2,469,459	2,310,531	2,373,749	4,475,841	1,669,459	1,510,531	1,573,749	3,400,000	800,000	800,000	800,000

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Appendix D – Departmental Bids, Pressures and Savings

Budget Bids	Assistant Director	Service	Department	Description of Pressure / Bid or Saving	2026-27 £	2027-28 £	2028-29 £
Bid	Claire Felton	Legal, Dem & Elections	Dem Svcs & Members	There has been an increase in Members wanting to attend the Local Government Association's Conference and the District Councils Network Conference.	2,200	2,200	2,200
Bid	Simon Parry	Environmental	Waste Operations	Specialist Repairs and Maintenance Contract with vehicle manufacturer to support maintenance of road sweepers with significant complexities requiring a high skill level to support.	25,000	25,000	25,000
Bid	Hannah Corredor	Bus Tran & Org Dvlp	ICT	The ICT Cyber security team is currently made up of 1 permanent post and 1 apprentice. This bid is to add a permanent junior cyber security post that would enable the opportunity to keep the apprentice at the end of the apprenticeship. This will provide a level of resilience. within the team and help maintain our skillset in this area.	21,519	21,519	21,519
Bid	Judith Willis	Community & Housing	Lifeline	New Lifeline Software as a Service (SaaS)	18,920	16,000	16,000
TOTAL					67,639	64,719	64,719

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Budget Pressures	Assistant Director	Service	Department	Description of Pressure / Bid or Saving	2026-27 £	2027-28 £	2028-29 £
Pressure	Claire Felton	Bus Tran & Org Dvlp	Human Resources	A discrepancy has recently been identified by finance, highlighting that the amount currently available does not align with the actual levy payment we are required to make.	36,142	36,142	36,142
Pressure	Claire Felton	Bus Tran & Org Dvlp	Human Resources	Approval for additional funding to support the permanent establishment of key HR roles currently funded on a temporary basis. This is to ensure the resources are available to deliver the service both now and in anticipation of the forthcoming Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).	40,390	40,390	40,390
Pressure	John Leach	Chief Exec	PA & Directorate	Post - the cost of printing and sending letters/mailings either via the franking machine/post room AND docmail (Hbrid Mail) is a corporate budget (not recharged to services) sitting under the post room withing CX office/admin budget lines. The budget has not increased other than inflationary rises for over	30,000	30,000	30,000
Pressure	Judith Willis	Community & Housing	Lifeline	In 2019 a business case was agreed for the required changes from analogue to digital Lifeline in home equipment. The new digital equipment contains a sim card for transmission of calls, no longer utilizing the service users' landline telephone. The charge for digital equipment was increased by £1 per week to cover the costs. There are approximately 2500 service user who utilize this type of equipment	48,000	48,000	48,000
Pressure	Simon Parry	Environmental	Waste Operations	Waste Disposal Costs arising from Commercial Waste Collection service. Additional costs linked to additional business generated which has associated income to offset this cost pressure. Also reflects estimated inflationary increase on disposal costs, which will be factored into Fees & Chgs for 26-27 to offsett this pressure	150,000	150,000	150,000

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Budget Pressures	Assistant Director	Service	Department	Description of Pressure / Bid or Saving	2026-27 £	2027-28 £	2028-29 £
Pressure	Debra Goodall	Financial & Customer Services	Financial Svcs	Asset valuations used to be carried out internally via the Property Team - however this is no longer possible and external company Bruton Knowles now provides this service.	50,000	50,000	50,000
Pressure	Debra Goodall	Financial & Customer Services	Revenues	The annual licence paid for Inform Analyse Local - investigating NNDR ratings	6,000	6,000	6,000
Pressure	Debra Goodall	Financial & Customer Services	Financial Svcs	BDC - Shared service element required for subscriptions within Finance - Finance Intelligence Toolkit, Gartner, PSTax	31,450	31,450	25,000
Pressure	Debra Goodall	Financial & Customer Services	Financial Svcs	Resource is required to continue the requirements of HMRC on vat for both authorities which is currently being covered through Agency.	23,125	0	0
Pressure	Claire Felton	Legal, Dem & Elections	Electoral Svcs	The extra required is due to agreed contract increases on the Electoral Management System due to indexation (As this will fluctuate 5% has been estimated as this was the last increase). There is one instance of the electoral register so is a shared service cost and 46.5% will be recharged back to Redditch Borough Council	1,848	2,473	3,159
Pressure	Claire Felton	Legal, Dem & Elections	Dem Svcs & Members	The bid is due to agreed contract increases on the modern.gov committee management system. The agreed increases are the CPI+ 2% over the next three	4,700	5,400	6,100
Pressure	Debra Goodall	Financial & Customer Services	Financial Svcs	Finance system Tech One licence, AMS Support and Advanced continuation for access required for Audit purposes.	0	0	199,800
Pressure	Rachel Egan	Regen & Property	Engineering	Fleet maintenance costs. Spend has exceeded budget for past years and will continue into future years. Budget £14k, spend 25-26 £28k, Pressure required of £14k.	14,000	14,000	14,000
Pressure	Rachel Egan	Regen & Property	Car Parking & Enforcement	The car parking budget for income exceeds actuals for a number of years. Car parking income has increased by 1 or 5% over the past two years but will not be sufficient to meet the current budget in 26/27 and beyond.	82,000	82,000	82,000
Pressure	Simon Wilkes	WRS Client	Licensing	Taxi income targets has not been for a number of years, after discussions with WRS they advised it is unlikely that income will increase over the next year or so. Reducing the income target would align more with the historical income achieved over the last few years.	48,000	49,440	50,923
TOTAL					565,655	545,295	741,514

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Savings	Assistant Director	Service	Department	Description of Pressure / Bid or Saving	2026-27 £	2027-28 £	2028-29 £
Savings	Simon Parry	Environmental	Waste Operations	Increased business linked to Commercial Waste Service - alongside increased disposal costs also submitted as a pressure.	-440,000	-480,000	-500,000
Savings	Simon Parry	Environmental	Waste Operations	Higher income achieved linked to increases in customers and fees and charges. Adjusting budgeted Income line to reflect increased income.	-100,000	-100,000	-100,000
Savings	Simon Wilkes	WRS Client	Regulatory Client	Bromsgrove charge Worcestershire Regulatory Services an annual amount for support hosting, a 3% increase has been applied to each year. Approved at WRS Board 20th Nov 25	-7,830	-11,922	-16,137
Savings	Debra Goodall	Financial & Customer Services	Revenues	This budget was used for collection agency on bad debts, however the costs of this service has reduced.	-10,303	-10,303	-10,303
Savings	Debra Goodall	Financial & Customer Services	Financial Svcs	BDC have a specific IT budget within the Finance accountancy service which is no longer required.	-18,516	-18,516	-18,516
Savings	John Leach	Chief Exec	Comms & Printing	Print contract reprocured	-5,250	-5,250	-5,250
Savings	John Leach	Chief Exec	Corporate	Bank contract reprocured, leading to reduction in bank charges	-40,000	-40,000	-40,000
TOTAL					-621,899	-665,991	-690,206
GRAND TOTAL					11,395	-55,977	116,027

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Appendix E – Proposed Capital Projects

Capital Financing

Capital Financing	Bromsgrove DC												
	Balance	Received	Used	Balance	Received	Used	Balance	Received	Used	Balance	Received	Used	Balance
	31/03/2025	2025/26	2025/26	31/03/2026	2026/27	2026/27	31/03/2027	2027/28	2027/28	31/03/2028	2028/29	2028/29	31/03/2029
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund													
Capital Receipts	545,254	1,063,800		1,609,054			1,609,054			1,609,054			1,609,054
Capital Reserves				-			-			-			-
Capital Grants (RIA)	14,297,598	1,467,816	9,334,358	6,431,056	800,000	800,000	6,431,056	800,000	800,000	6,431,056	800,000	800,000	6,431,056
Revenue(GF)		8,117,369	8,117,369	-	2,421,841	2,421,841	-	1,669,459	1,669,459	-		1,510,531	- 1,510,531
Total	14,842,852	10,648,985	17,451,727	8,040,110	3,221,841	3,221,841	8,040,110	2,469,459	2,469,459	8,040,110	800,000	2,310,531	6,529,579

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Assistant Director	Directorate	Service	Type	Project Title	Project Brief	Capital Costs
Simon Parry	Environmental Services	Bereavement Services	Infrastructure	Signage across all sites	To replace all existing signage across all sites with new modern signage with up to date information an design	£7,000
Simon Parry	Environmental Services	Bereavement Services	Other	New bins around all sites	All bin assets in poor condition . The service wishes to get some continuity and improve the sites look and feel	£3,000
Hannah Corredor	Business Transformation and Organisational Development	Business Transformation - ICT	Cyber	Cyber Security Updates	Will significantly enhance cybersecurity position	£25,000
Judith Willis	Community and Housing Services	Housing Strategy	Infrastructure	Warm Homes Local Grant Project	This project aims to improve energy efficiency in residents across Bromsgrove and Redditch through targeted retrofit measures such as insulation upgrades, draught-proofing, and low-carbon heating systems. It will reduce fuel poverty, lower carbon emissions, and improve residents' health and wellbeing. Additional funding will expand the number of eligible households, enhance outreach to hard-to-reach groups, and align delivery with the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Biodiversity Duty objectives. Long-term, it will support net zero goals, improved housing quality, and stronger community resilience.	£100,000
Ruth Bamford	Planning and Leisure Services	Parks & Events	Infrastructure	Car Park	Sanders Park Car Park extension shortfall	£85,000
Ruth Bamford	Planning and Leisure Services	Parks & Events	Other	Allotments	Improvements to all BDC Allotment sites, gates, fencing, trackways, parking, water supply etc.	£125,000
Ruth Bamford	Planning and Leisure Services	Parks & Events	Play Audits	Play Areas	Accessibility DDA Play Area Improvements - All BDC sites to include accessibility and inclusivity study by consultants	£500,000
Ruth Bamford	Planning and Leisure Services	Parks & Events	Parks	Bowling Green/ Pavillion/ Café	Develop design options for the setting of the café to provide an attractive and flexible space around these key visitor facilities.	£50,000
Ruth Bamford	Planning and Leisure Services	Parks & Events	Parks	Bowling Green/ Pavillion/ Café	Sanders Park Café Improvements	£120,000
Ruth Bamford	Planning and Leisure Services	Parks & Events	Infrastructure	Pathway Improvements	Consider path network with particular regard to access from the carpark and into the site, access around the site, into the enclosed play area, water vole viewing platform and changing room facility and the relationship of various paths, surface types and how they connect to each other. Consider anti-slip surface to viewing platform ramp.	£150,000

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Assistant Director	Directorate	Service	Type	Project Title	Project Brief	Capital Costs
Ruth Bamford	Planning and Leisure Services	Parks & Events	Infrastructure	Sports Improvements	Tennis Courts Fence Replacement and improve LTA (Lawn Tennis Association)	£30,000
Ruth Bamford	Planning and Leisure Services	Parks & Events	Play Audits	Sports Improvements	Skate Park Improvements and Play Area/MUGA	£250,000
Ruth Bamford	Planning and Leisure Services	Parks & Events	Play Audits	Sports Improvements	Investigate options for further enhancing the skate park.	£250,000
Ruth Bamford	Planning and Leisure Services	Parks & Events	Infrastructure	Car Park	Reconfigure the car park to increase capacity, improve circulation and create separate entry and exit points (subject to external / capital funding).	£20,000
Ruth Bamford	Planning and Leisure Services	Parks & Events	Infrastructure	Car Park	Investigate options to install appropriate car parking bays at the western side of the park parallel to Whitford Road.	£10,000
Ruth Bamford	Planning and Leisure Services	Parks & Events	Biodiversity	Habitat / Biodiversity	Planting of reed beds/supplementing vegetation along stream edges to provide habitat for water voles. Consider willow spilling and planting to stabilise banks and provide wildlife habitat	£15,000
Ruth Bamford	Planning and Leisure Services	Parks & Events	Biodiversity	Habitat / Biodiversity	Consider a wildlife survey and management regime along the Callow Brook course and associated "naturalised" area and small copse	£5,000
Simon Parry	Environmental Services	Place Team projects	Other	Battery equipment	To replace two stroke hand tools such as hedge cutters, strimmer's etc with battery kit	£15,000
Simon Parry	Environmental Services	Place Team projects	Infrastructure	Battery charging and storage units	Battery charging and storage units for implementation of conversion to battery powered small plant equipment.	£12,000
Rachel Egan	Regeneration and Property Services	Building Services	Infrastructure	Public-i	Installation of Public-I in Parkside	£161,000
Rachel Egan	Regeneration and Property Services	Regen	Buildings	Windsor Street	Enter into a JW with an RSL to develop the site	£2,500,000
Rachel Egan	Regeneration and Property Services	Regen	Infrastructure	Sweetpool Lane	To bring Sweetpool Lane up to an adoptable standard	£225,500
Rachel Egan	Regeneration and Property Services	Regeneration	Buildings	Parkside - Flat Roof Replacement	Potential flat roof replacement; inherent design fault, poor detailing causing damage to building fabric	£80,000
TOTAL						£4,738,500

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Appendix F – 2026/27 Capital Strategy

Introduction

- 1.1 This capital strategy report gives a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of local public services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability. It has been written in an accessible style to enhance members' understanding of these sometimes-technical areas.
- 1.2 Decisions made this year on capital and treasury management will have financial consequences for the Authority for many years into the future. They are therefore subject to both a national regulatory framework and to local policy framework, summarised in this report.

Capital Expenditure and Financing

- 1.3 Capital expenditure is where the Authority spends money on assets, such as property or vehicles, that will be used for more than one year. In local government this includes spending on assets owned by other bodies, and loans and grants to other bodies enabling them to buy assets.
- 1.4 In 2026/27, the Authority is planning capital expenditure of £7.7m as summarised below:

Table 1: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Expenditure in £ millions

	2024/25 actual	2025/26 forecast	2026/27 budget *	2027/28 budget	2028/29 budget
General Fund services	3.4	4.2	4.7	2.3	2.1
Regeneration	0.5	1.9	3.0	0.2	0.2
TOTAL	3.9	6.1	7.7	2.5	2.3

The Council is still to finalise work required for the adoption of IFRS16 linking to the accounting for leases which must be implemented by the 2025/26 financial year.

- 1.5 Following a change in the Prudential Code, the Authority no longer incurs capital expenditure on investments.
- 1.6 **Governance:** Service managers bid annually in January to include projects in the Authority's capital programme. Bids are collated by corporate finance who calculate the financing cost (which can be nil if the project is fully externally financed). The Audit Standards and Governance Committee and then the Cabinet appraises all bids based on a comparison of strategic priorities against financing costs and makes

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recommendations to Council. The final capital programme is then presented to Cabinet in February and to Council in February each year.

- For full details of the Authority's capital programme, including the project appraisals undertaken, see Tranche 2 of the 2026/27 Medium Term Financial Plan.

- 1.7 All capital expenditure must be financed, either from external sources (government grants and other contributions), the Authority's own resources (revenue, reserves and capital receipts) or debt (borrowing, leasing and Private Finance Initiative). The planned financing of the above expenditure is as follows:

Table 2: Capital financing in £ millions

	2024/25 actual	2025/26 forecast	2026/27 budget *	2027/28 budget	2028/29 budget
External sources	0.9	2.7	3.4	0.8	0.8
Own Resources	3.0	3.4	4.3	1.7	1.5
Debt	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	3.9	6.1	7.7	2.5	2.3

- 1.8 Debt is only a temporary source of finance, since loans and leases must be repaid, and this is therefore replaced over time by other financing, usually from revenue which is known as minimum revenue provision (MRP). Alternatively, proceeds from selling capital assets (known as capital receipts) may be used to replace debt finance. Planned [MRP / repayments] and use of capital receipts are as follows:

Table 3: Replacement of prior years' debt finance in £ millions

	2024/25 actual	2025/26 forecast	2026/27 budget *	2027/28 budget	2028/29 budget
Minimum revenue provision	0.8	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4
Capital Receipts	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

- The Authority's full minimum revenue provision statement is available within the body of this report.
- 1.9 The Authority's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the capital financing requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces with MRP and capital receipts used to replace debt. The CFR is expected to increase by £7.7m during 2026/27. Based on the above figures for expenditure and financing, the Authority's estimated CFR is as follows:

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Table 4: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement in £ millions

	31.3.2025 actual	31.3.2026 forecast	31.3.2027 budget	31.3.2028 budget	31.3.2029 budget
General Fund & Regeneration	31.2	37.3	45.0	47.5	49.8
TOTAL CFR	31.2	37.3	45.0	47.5	49.8

1.10 **Asset management:** To ensure that capital assets continue to be of long-term use, the Authority has an asset management strategy in place. Within this strategy, individual properties and associated land will be further evaluated to determine:

- The operational necessity and benefit.
- Projected costs of ensuring all elements of the buildings continue to meet legislative requirements and performance standards.
- Planned and cyclical maintenance costs for elements nearing the end of their 'life' expectancy, ensuring service provision is maintained without unnecessary interruption. Costs associated with meeting future EPC rating minimum requirements.
- Rent levels (and net costs for each building) and revised leases.
- Alternative or rationalised portfolio or joint enterprises for service delivery.

By evaluation of all factors cited above, informed decisions can be made to determine which assets are:

- No longer cost effective to run, where outlay exceeds earning potential
- No longer viable for effective service delivery
- Surplus to requirements

Asset considerations will be presented to Cabinet on a half yearly basis for approval for disposal, unless there is an urgent requirement for a decision.

1.11 **Asset disposals:** When a capital asset is no longer needed, it may be sold so that the proceeds, known as capital receipts, can be spent on new assets or to repay debt: The Authority is currently also permitted to spend capital receipts "flexibly" on service transformation projects until 2029/30 although nothing is presently planned. Repayments of capital grants, loans and investments also generate capital receipts. The Authority plans to receive £0m of capital receipts in the coming financial year as follows:

Table 5: Capital receipts receivable in £ millions

	2024/25 actual	2025/26 forecast	2026/27 budget *	2027/28 budget	2028/29 budget
Asset sales	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Loans etc repaid	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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Treasury Management

- 1.12 Treasury management is concerned with keeping sufficient but not excessive cash available to meet the Authority's spending needs, while managing the risks involved. Surplus cash is invested until required, while a shortage of cash will be met by borrowing, to avoid excessive credit balances or overdrafts in the bank current account. The Authority is typically cash rich in the short-term as revenue income is received before it is spent, but cash poor in the long-term as capital expenditure is incurred before being financed. The revenue cash surpluses are offset against capital cash shortfalls to reduce overall borrowing.
- 1.13 Due to decisions taken in the past, the Authority currently has no external long term (over 1 year) borrowing and £14.5m treasury investments at an average rate of 4.9%.
- 1.14 **Borrowing strategy:** The Authority's main objectives when borrowing is to achieve a low but certain cost of finance while retaining flexibility should plans change in future. These objectives are often conflicting, and the Authority therefore seeks to strike a balance between cheaper short-term loans and long-term fixed rate loans where the future cost is known but higher.
- 1.15 The Authority does not borrow to invest for the primary purpose of financial return and therefore retains full access to the Public Works Loans Board.
- 1.16 Projected levels of the Authority's total outstanding debt (which comprises borrowing, PFI liabilities, leases and transferred debt) are shown below, compared with the capital financing requirement (see above).

Table 6: Prudential Indicator: Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement in £ millions

	31.3.2025 actual	31.3.2026 forecast	31.3.2027 budget	31.3.2028 budget	31.3.2029 budget
General Fund (incl. PFI & leases)	3.9	6.1	7.7	2.5	2.3
Capital Financing Requirement	31.2	37.3	45.0	47.5	49.8

- 1.17 Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short-term. As can be seen from table 6, the Authority expects to comply with this in the medium term.
- 1.18 **Liability benchmark:** To compare the Authority's actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing. This assumes that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £2m at each year-end. This benchmark is currently £5.69m and is not forecast to rise over the next three years.

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Table 7: Borrowing and the Liability Benchmark in £ millions

	31.3.2025 actual	31.3.2026 forecast	31.3.2027 budget	31.3.2028 budget	31.3.2029 budget
Forecast Outstanding borrowing - GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Liability benchmark	5.69	5.69	5.69	5.69	5.69

- 1.19 The table shows that the Authority expects to remain borrowed below its liability benchmark. This is because cash outflows to date have been below the assumptions made when the loans were borrowed.
- 1.20 **Affordable borrowing limit:** The Authority is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower “operational boundary” is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

Table 8: Prudential Indicators: Authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt in £m

	2025/26 limit £m	2026/27 limit £m	2027/28 limit £m	2028/29 limit £m
Authorised limit – borrowing	60	60	60	60
Authorised limit – PFI and leases	1	1	1	1
Authorised limit – total external debt	61	61	61	61
Operational boundary – borrowing	55	55	55	55
Operational boundary – PFI and leases	1	1	1	1
Operational boundary – total external debt	56	56	56	56

- 1.21 **Treasury investment strategy:** Treasury investments arise from receiving cash before it is paid out again. Investments made for service reasons or for pure financial gain are not generally considered to be part of treasury management.
- 1.22 The Authority’s policy on treasury investments is to prioritise security and liquidity over yield, that is to focus on minimising risk rather than maximising returns. Cash that is likely to be spent in the near term is invested securely, for example with the government, other local authorities or selected high-quality banks, to minimise the risk of loss. Money that will be held for longer terms is invested more widely, including in bonds, shares and property, to balance the risk of loss against the risk of receiving returns below inflation. Both near-term and longer-term investments may be held in

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pooled funds, where an external fund manager makes decisions on which particular investments to buy and the Authority may request its money back at short notice.

Table 9: Treasury management investments in £millions

	2024/25 actual	2025/26 forecast	2026/27 budget *	2027/28 budget	2028/29 budget
Near-term investments	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Long-term investments	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5

➤ Further details on treasury investments are in the Treasury Management Strategy part of this appendix.

1.23 Risk management: The effective management and control of risk are prime objectives of the Authority's treasury management activities. The treasury management strategy therefore sets out various indicators and limits to constrain the risk of unexpected losses and details the extent to which financial derivatives may be used to manage treasury risks.

- The treasury management prudential indicators are in the treasury management strategy which are part of these appendices.

1.24 Governance: Decisions on treasury management investment and borrowing are made daily and are therefore delegated to the Director of Finance and staff, who must act in line with the treasury management strategy approved by Council. Quarterly reports on treasury management activity are presented to Cabinet. The Audit, Standards and Governance Committee is responsible for scrutinising treasury management decisions.

Investments for Service Purposes

1.25 The Authority makes investments to assist local public services, including making loans to local service providers, local small businesses to promote economic growth, and the Authority's subsidiaries that provide services to stakeholders. Total investments for service purposes are currently valued at £0m.

1.26 Risk management: In light of the public service objective, the Authority is willing to take more risk than with treasury investments, however it still plans for such investments to break even after all costs. A limit of £2.5m is placed on total investments for service purposes to ensure that plausible losses could be absorbed in budgets or reserves without unmanageable detriment to local services.

1.27 Governance: Decisions on service investments are made by the relevant service manager in consultation with the Director of Finance and must meet the criteria and limits laid down in the investment strategy. Most loans and shares are capital

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expenditure and purchases will therefore also be approved as part of the capital programme. The relevant service director and the Director of Finance are responsible for ensuring that adequate due diligence is carried out before investment is made.

Further details on service investments are in the Treasury Management Strategy.

Liabilities

- 1.28 The Authority is committed to making future payments to cover its pension fund deficit (which is in surplus as per the 2022 Triennial revaluation and the backlog will be cleared in 2037). It has also set aside £0.975m for Business Rates appeals.
- 1.29 **Governance:** Decisions on incurring new discretionary liabilities are taken by Heads of Service in consultation with the Director of Finance. The risk of liabilities crystallising and requiring payment is monitored by the corporate finance team and reported biannually to Cabinet. New liabilities exceeding £0.5m are reported to full council for approval/notification as appropriate.

Revenue Budget Implications

- 1.30 Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue. The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants.

Table 10: Prudential Indicator: Proportion of financing costs to net revenue stream

	2024/25 actual	2025/26 forecast	2026/27 budget *	2027/28 budget	2028/29 budget
Financing costs (£m)	0.8	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4
Proportion of net revenue stream	11.40%	11.50%	11.50%	11.50%	11.60%

- 1.31 **Sustainability:** Due to the very long-term nature of capital expenditure and financing, the revenue budget implications of expenditure incurred in the next few years will extend for up to 50 years into the future. The Director of Finance is satisfied that the proposed capital programme is prudent, affordable and sustainable because of the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) forecasts which show that the Council is financially sustainable over that period.

Knowledge and Skills

- 1.32 The Authority employs professionally qualified and experienced staff in senior positions with responsibility for making capital expenditure, borrowing and investment

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decisions. For example, the Director of Finance and Head of Service are qualified accountants with significant experience. The Authority pays for junior staff to study towards relevant professional qualifications including CIPFA and AAT.

- 1.33 Where Authority staff do not have the knowledge and skills required, use is made of external advisers and consultants that are specialists in their field. The Authority currently employs Arlingclose Limited as treasury management advisers and Bruton Knowles as property consultants. This approach is more cost effective than employing such staff directly and ensures that the Authority has access to knowledge and skills commensurate with its risk appetite.

➤ Further details on staff training can be found in the HR Employee Development section of the website.

Appendix G - 2026/27 Treasury Management Strategy

Introduction

- 2.1 Treasury management is the management of the Authority's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Authority has invested substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are therefore central to the Authority's prudent financial management.
- 2.2 Treasury risk management at the Authority is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 Edition* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year. This report fulfils the Authority's legal obligation under the *Local Government Act 2003* to have regard to the CIPFA Code.
- 2.3 Investments held for service purposes or for commercial profit are considered in a different report, the Investment Strategy.

External Context

- 2.4 **Economic background:** The impact on the UK from the government's Autumn Budget will influence the Authority's treasury management strategy for 2026/27. Other influences will include lower short-term interest rates alongside higher medium- and longer-term rates, slower economic growth, together with ongoing uncertainties around the global economy, stock market sentiment, and ongoing geopolitical issues.
- 2.5 The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) maintained Bank Rate at 4.00% in November 2025, following a 0.25% cut in August. At the November meeting, five members, including the Governor's deciding vote, supported holding rates steady, while four favoured a further reduction to 3.75%.
- 2.6 The accompanying Monetary Policy Report projected modest economic growth, with GDP expected to rise by 0.2% in the final calendar quarter of 2025. Annual growth is forecast to ease from 1.4% before improving again later, reflecting the delayed effects of lower interest rates, looser monetary conditions, stronger global activity, and higher consumer spending. The view of modest economic growth going forward was echoed by the Office for Budget Responsibility in its Economic and fiscal outlook published in line with the Autumn Statement which revised down its estimate of annual real GDP to around 1.5% on average between 2025 and 2030.
- 2.7 CPI inflation was 3.8% in September 2025, unchanged from the previous two months and below the 4.0% expected. Core CPI eased to 3.5% from 3.6%, contrary to forecasts of a rise to 3.7%. The Bank of England's November Monetary Policy Report projects inflation to fall from this level - expected to mark the peak - to 3.2% by March 2026, before steadily returning to the 2% target by late 2026 or early 2027.

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- 2.8 The labour market continues to ease with rising unemployment, falling vacancies and flat inactivity. In the three months to September 2025, the unemployment rate increased to 5.0%, while the employment rate slipped to 75.0% and the inactivity rate held at 21.0%. Pay growth for the same period eased modestly, with total earnings (including bonuses) rising by 4.8% and regular pay up 4.6%. Going forward, the Bank predicts the unemployment rate will increase modestly to around 5.0% by around the end of 2025 before trending downwards at a gradual pace over the rest of the time horizon.
- 2.9 The US Federal Reserve also continued to cut rates, most recently reducing the target range for the Federal Funds Rate by 0.25% at its October 2025 meeting, to 3.75%-4.00%, in line with expectations. Financial markets anticipate a further 0.25% cut in December, although Chair Jerome Powell has cautioned that this is not guaranteed, signalling the Fed may pause before any additional easing. A factor influencing a potential pause is the ongoing government shutdown, which has delayed the publication of several important data releases used to inform monetary policy decisions.
- 2.10 The European Central Bank (ECB) kept its key interest rates unchanged in October for a third consecutive month, maintaining the deposit rate at 2.0% and the main refinancing rate at 2.15%. The ECB reiterated that future policy decisions will remain data-dependent, noting that inflation is close to its 2% target and that the euro area economy continues to expand despite a challenging global environment, including heightened geopolitical risks and trade tensions.
- 2.11 **Credit outlook:** Credit Default Swap (CDS) prices, which spiked in April 2025 following President Trump's 'Liberation Day' tariff announcements, have since trended lower, returning to levels broadly consistent with their 2024 averages. Although CDS prices rose modestly in October, the overall credit outlook remains stable, and credit conditions are expected to remain close to the range seen over the past two years.
- 2.12 While lower interest rates may weigh on banks' profitability, strong capital positions, easing inflation, steady economic growth, low unemployment, and reduced borrowing costs for households and businesses all support a favourable outlook for the creditworthiness of institutions on (the authority's treasury management advisor) Arlingclose's counterparty list. Arlingclose's advice on approved counterparties and recommended investment durations is kept under continuous review and will continue to reflect prevailing economic and credit conditions.
- 2.13 **Interest rate forecast (December 2025):** Arlingclose, the Authority's treasury management adviser, currently forecasts that the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee will continue to reduce Bank Rate through 2025 and 2026, reaching around 3.25%. This forecast reflects amendments made following the Autumn Budget and an assessment of the fiscal measures and their market implications.
- 2.14 Long-term gilt yields, and therefore interest rates payable on long-term borrowing, are expected to remain broadly stable on average, though with continued volatility, and to end the forecast period marginally lower than current levels. Yields are likely to stay

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higher than in the pre-quantitative tightening era, reflecting ongoing balance sheet reduction and elevated bond issuance. Short-term fluctuations are expected to persist in response to economic data releases and geopolitical developments.

- 2.15 A more detailed economic and interest rate forecast provided by Arlingclose is in **Appendix G (i)**.
- 2.16 For the purpose of setting the budget, it has been assumed that new treasury investments will be made at an average rate/yield of 3.8%, and that new long-term loans will be borrowed at an average rate of 4.4%.

Local Context

- 2.17 On 20th January 2026, the Authority had no borrowing and £5.5m of treasury investments. This is set out in further detail at **Appendix G (ii)**. Forecast changes in these sums are shown in the balance sheet analysis in table 1 below.

Table 1: Balance sheet summary and forecast

	31.3.25 Actual £m	31.3.26 Estimate £m	31.3.27 Forecast £m	31.3.28 Forecast £m	31.3.29 Forecast £m
Capital financing requirement	31.2	37.3	45	47.5	49.8
Less: External borrowing **	0	0	0	0	0
Internal borrowing	31.2	37.3	45	47.5	49.8
Less: Usable Reserves	-11.3	-11.2	-11.2	-10.0	-9.0
Less: Working Capital	-3.1	-3.1	-3.1	-3.1	-3.1
Treasury investments	-16.8	-23.0	-30.7	-34.4	-37.7

** shows only loans to which the Authority is committed and excludes optional refinancing

- 2.18 The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while balance sheet resources are the underlying sums available for investment. The Authority's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing.
- 2.19 The Authority has an increasing CFR due to the capital programme, but minimal investments but will be funding the programme through internal borrowing.
- 2.20 CIPFA's *Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities* recommends that the Authority's total debt should be lower than its highest forecast CFR over the next three years. Table 1 shows that the Authority expects to comply with this recommendation during 2026/27.
- 2.21 **Liability benchmark:** To compare the Council's actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing. This assumes the same forecasts as table 1 above, but that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £0.2m at each year-end to maintain sufficient liquidity but minimise credit risk.

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- 2.22 The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. The liability benchmark itself represents an estimate of the cumulative amount of external borrowing the Council must hold to fund its current capital and revenue plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level required to manage day-to-day cash flow.

Table 2: Prudential Indicator: Liability benchmark

	31.3.25 Actual £m	31.3.26 Estimate £m	31.3.27 Forecast £m	31.3.28 Forecast £m	31.3.29 Forecast £m
Loans CFR	31.2	37.3	45	47.5	49.8
Less: Usable Reserves	-11.3	-11.2	-11.2	-10.0	-9.0
Less: Working Capital	-3.1	-3.1	-3.1	-3.1	-3.1
Net loans requirement	16.8	23.0	30.7	34.4	37.7
Plus: Liquidity allowance	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Liability benchmark	17.0	23.2	30.9	34.6	37.9

- 2.23 Following on from the medium-term forecasts in table 2 above, the long-term liability benchmark assumes capital expenditure funded by borrowing of £2m average a year, minimum revenue provision on new capital expenditure based on a 25-year asset life and income, expenditure and reserves all increasing by inflation of 2.5% a year.

Borrowing Strategy

- 2.24 The Authority currently holds £0 million of loans, as part of its strategy for funding previous years' capital programmes. The balance sheet forecast in table 1 shows that the Authority expects to borrow up to £0m in 2026/27. The Authority may however borrow to pre-fund future years' requirements, providing this does not exceed the authorised limit for borrowing of £60 million.
- 2.25 **Objectives:** The Authority's chief objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving certainty of those costs over the period for which funds are required. The flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Authority's long-term plans change is a secondary objective.
- 2.26 **Strategy:** Given the significant cuts to public expenditure and in particular to local government funding, the Authority's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. Short-term interest rates have fallen over the past year and are expected to fall a little further and it is therefore likely to be more cost effective over the medium-term to either use internal resources, or to borrow short-term loans instead. The risks of this approach will be managed by keeping the Authority's interest rate exposure within the limit set in the treasury management prudential indicators, see below.

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- 2.27 By doing so, the Authority is able to reduce net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk. The benefits of internal / short-term borrowing will be monitored regularly against the potential for incurring additional costs by deferring borrowing into future years when long-term borrowing rates are forecast to rise modestly. Arlingclose will assist the Authority with this 'cost of carry' and breakeven analysis. Its output may determine whether the Authority borrows additional sums at long-term fixed rates in 2026/27 with a view to keeping future interest costs low, even if this causes additional cost in the short-term.
- 2.28 The Authority has previously raised the majority of its long-term borrowing from the PWLB but will consider long-term loans from other sources including banks, pensions and local authorities, and will investigate the possibility of issuing bonds and similar instruments, in order to lower interest costs and reduce over-reliance on one source of funding in line with the CIPFA Code. PWLB loans are no longer available to local authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield; the Authority intends to avoid this activity in order to retain its access to PWLB loans.
- 2.29 In addition, the Authority may borrow short-term loans to cover unplanned cash flow shortages.
- 2.30 **Sources of borrowing:** The approved sources of long-term and short-term borrowing are:
- HM Treasury's PWLB lending facility (formerly the Public Works Loan Board)
 - National Wealth Fund Ltd (formerly known as UK Infrastructure Bank Ltd)
 - any institution approved for investments (see below)
 - any other bank, building society or insurance company authorised to operate in the UK
 - any other UK public sector body
 - UK public and private sector pension funds (except Local Government Pension Scheme)
 - capital market bond investors
- 2.31 **Other sources of debt finance:** In addition, capital finance may be raised by the following methods that are not borrowing, but may be classed as other debt liabilities:
- leasing
 - hire purchase
 - Private Finance Initiative
 - sale and leaseback
- 2.32 **Short-term and variable rate loans:** These loans leave the Authority exposed to the risk of short-term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the interest rate exposure limits in the treasury management indicators below. Financial derivatives may be used to manage this interest rate risk (see section below).
- 2.33 **Debt rescheduling:** The PWLB allows authorities to repay loans before maturity and either pay a premium or receive a discount according to a set formula based on current interest rates. Other lenders may also be prepared to negotiate premature redemption

terms. The Authority may take advantage of this and replace some loans with new loans, or repay loans without replacement, where this is expected to lead to an overall cost saving or a reduction in risk. The recent rise in interest rates means that more favourable debt rescheduling opportunities should arise than in previous years.

Treasury Investment Strategy

- 2.35 The Authority holds significant invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. In the past 12 months, the Authority's treasury investment balance has ranged between £1 and £14.5 million, and similar levels are expected to be maintained in the forthcoming year.
- 2.36 **Objectives:** The CIPFA Code requires the Authority to invest its treasury funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Authority's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income. Where balances are expected to be invested for more than one year, the Authority will aim to achieve a total return that is equal or higher than the prevailing rate of inflation, in order to maintain the spending power of the sum invested. The Authority aims to be a responsible investor and will consider environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues when investing.
- 2.37 **Strategy:** As demonstrated by the liability benchmark above, the Authority expects to be a long-term investor and treasury investments will therefore include both short-term low risk instruments to manage day-to-day cash flows and longer-term instruments where limited additional risk is accepted in return for higher investment income to support local public services.
- 2.38 The CIPFA Code does not permit local authorities to both borrow and invest long-term for cash flow management. But the Authority may make long-term investments for treasury risk management purposes, including to manage interest rate risk by investing sums borrowed in advance for the capital programme for up to three years; to manage inflation risk by investing usable reserves in instruments whose value rises with inflation; and to manage price risk by adding diversification to the strategic pooled fund portfolio.
- 2.39 **ESG policy:** Environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations are increasingly a factor in global investors' decision making, but the framework for evaluating investment opportunities is still developing and therefore the Authority's ESG policy does not currently include ESG scoring or other real-time ESG criteria at an individual investment level. When investing in banks and funds, the Authority will prioritise banks that are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Banking and funds operated by managers that are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment, the Net Zero Asset Managers Alliance and/or the UK Stewardship Code.
- 2.40 **Business models:** Under the IFRS 9 standard, the accounting for certain investments depends on the Authority's "business model" for managing them. The Authority aims

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to achieve value from its treasury investments by a business model of collecting the contractual cash flows and therefore, where other criteria are also met, these investments will continue to be accounted for at amortised cost.

- 2.41 **Approved counterparties:** The Authority may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparty types in table 3 below, subject to the limits shown.

Table 3: Treasury investment counterparties and limits

Credit rating	Banks unsecured	Banks secured	Government	Corporates	Registered Providers
UK Govt	n/a	n/a	£ Unlimited 50 years	n/a	n/a
AAA	£3m 5 years	£3m 20 years	£3m 50 years	£3m 20 years	£1m 20 years
AA+	£3m 5 years	£3m 10 years	£3m 25 years	£3m 10 years	£1m 10 years
AA	£3m 4 years	£3m 5 years	£3m 15 years	£3m 5 years	£1m 10 years
AA-	£3m 3 years	£3m 4 years	£3m 10 years	£3m 4 years	£1m 10 years
A+	£3m 2 years	£3m 3 years	£3m 5 years	£3m 3 years	£1m 5 years
A	£3m 13 months	£3m 2 years	£3m 5 years	£3m 2 years	£1m 5 years
A-	£3m 6 months	£3m 13 months	£3m 5 years	£3m 13 months	£1m 5 years
None	£1.5m 6 months	n/a	£3m 25 years	£1m 5 years	£500k 5 years
Pooled funds and real estate investment trusts		£2.5m per fund or trust			

- 2.42 **Minimum credit rating:** Treasury investments in the sectors marked with an asterisk will only be made with entities whose lowest published long-term credit rating is no lower than [A-]. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.
- 2.43 For entities without published credit ratings, investments may be made either (a) where external advice indicates the entity to be of similar credit quality; or (b) to a maximum of £500,000 per counterparty as part of a diversified pool e.g. via a peer-to-peer platform.
- 2.44 **Government:** Loans to, and bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by, national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is generally a lower risk of insolvency, although they are not zero risk. Investments with the UK Government are deemed to be zero credit risk due to its ability to create additional currency and therefore may be made in unlimited amounts for up to 50 years. The counterparty limit for loans to local authorities will be increased to an unlimited amount where (a) the

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government has announced that this authority will merge with the borrowing authority and (b) the loan is scheduled to be repaid after the expected date of the merger.

- 2.45 **Secured investments:** Investments secured on the borrower's assets, which limits the potential losses in the event of insolvency. The amount and quality of the security will be a key factor in the investment decision. Covered bonds and reverse repurchase agreements with banks and building societies are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit rating, the higher of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty credit rating will be used. The combined secured and unsecured investments with any one counterparty will not exceed the cash limit for secured investments. A higher limit applies for investments fully secured on UK or other-government collateral.
- 2.46 **Banks and building societies (unsecured):** Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail. See below for arrangements relating to operational bank accounts.
- 2.47 **Registered providers (unsecured):** Loans to, and bonds issued or guaranteed by, registered providers of social housing or registered social landlords, formerly known as housing associations. These bodies are regulated by the Regulator of Social Housing (in England), the Scottish Housing Regulator, the Welsh Government and the Department for Communities (in Northern Ireland). As providers of public services, they retain the likelihood of receiving government support if needed.
- 2.48 **Money market funds:** Pooled funds that offer same-day or short notice liquidity and very low or no price volatility by investing in short-term money markets. They have the advantage over bank accounts of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a small fee. Although no sector limit applies to money market funds, the Authority will take care to diversify its liquid investments over a variety of providers to ensure access to cash at all times.
- 2.49 **Strategic pooled funds:** Bond, equity and property funds, including exchange traded funds, that offer enhanced returns over the longer term but are more volatile in the short term. These allow the Authority to diversify into asset classes other than cash without the need to own and manage the underlying investments. Because these funds have no defined maturity date but can be either withdrawn after a notice period or sold on an exchange, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Authority's investment objectives will be monitored regularly.
- 2.50 **Real estate investment trusts:** Shares in companies that invest mainly in real estate and pay the majority of their rental income to investors in a similar manner to pooled property funds. As with property funds, REITs offer enhanced returns over the longer term but are more volatile especially as the share price reflects changing demand for the shares as well as changes in the value of the underlying properties.

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- 2.51 **Other investments:** This category covers treasury investments not listed above, for example unsecured corporate bonds and unsecured loans to companies and universities. Non-bank companies cannot be bailed-in but can become insolvent placing the Authority's investment at risk.
- 2.52 **Operational bank accounts:** The Authority may incur operational exposures, for example through current accounts, collection accounts and merchant acquiring services, to any UK bank with credit ratings no lower than BBB- and with assets greater than £25 billion. These are not classed as investments but are still subject to the risk of a bank bail-in, and balances will therefore be kept below £2.0m per bank. The Bank of England has stated that in the event of failure, banks with assets greater than £25 billion are more likely to be bailed-in than made insolvent, increasing the chance of the Authority maintaining operational continuity.
- 2.53 **Risk assessment and credit ratings:** Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by the Authority's treasury advisers, who will notify changes in ratings as they occur. The credit rating agencies in current use are listed in the Treasury Management Practices document. Where an entity has its credit rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:
- no new investments will be made,
 - any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be, and
 - full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty.
- Where a credit rating agency announces that a credit rating is on review for possible downgrade (also known as "negative watch") so that it may fall below the approved rating criteria, then only investments that can be withdrawn on the next working day will be made with that organisation until the outcome of the review is announced. This policy will not apply to negative outlooks, which indicate a long-term direction of travel rather than an imminent change of rating.
- 2.54 **Other information on the security of investments:** The Authority understands that credit ratings are good, but not perfect, predictors of investment default. Full regard will therefore be given to other available information on the credit quality of the organisations in which it invests, including credit default swap prices, financial statements, information on potential government support, reports in the quality financial press and analysis and advice from the Authority's treasury management adviser. No investments will be made with an organisation if there are substantive doubts about its credit quality, even though it may otherwise meet the above criteria.
- 2.55 When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations, as happened in 2008, 2020 and 2022, this is not generally reflected in credit ratings, but can be seen in other market measures. In these circumstances, the Authority will restrict its investments to those organisations of higher credit quality and reduce the maximum duration of its investments to maintain the required level of security. The extent of these restrictions will be in line with prevailing financial market conditions. If these restrictions mean that insufficient commercial organisations of high credit quality are available to invest the Authority's cash balances, then the surplus will

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be deposited with the UK Government, or with other local authorities. This will cause investment returns to fall but will protect the principal sum invested.

- 2.56 **Investment limits:** The Authority's revenue reserves available to cover investment losses are forecast to be £11.2 million on 31st March 2025 and £10 million on 31st March 2026. In order that no more than 42% of available reserves will be put at risk in the case of a single default, the maximum that will be lent unsecured to any one organisation (other than the UK Government) will be £5 million. A group of entities under the same ownership will be treated as a single organisation for limit purposes.
- 2.57 Credit risk exposures arising from non-treasury investments, financial derivatives and balances greater than £2m in operational bank accounts count against the relevant investment limits.
- 2.58 Limits are also placed on fund managers, investments in brokers' nominee accounts and foreign countries as below. Investments in pooled funds and multilateral development banks do not count against the limit for any single foreign country, since the risk is diversified over many countries.

	Cash limit
Any single organisation, except the UK Central Government	£5m each
UK Central Government	Unlimited
Any group of organisations under the same ownership	£5m per group
Any group of pooled funds under the same management	£5m per manager
Negotiable instruments held in a broker's nominee account	£5m per broker
Foreign countries	£5m per country
Registered providers and registered social landlords	£2.5m in total
Unsecured investments with building societies	£2.5m in total
Loans to unrated corporates	£1m in total
Money market funds	£20m in total
Real estate investment trusts	£2.5m in total

- 2.59 **Liquidity management:** The Authority uses detailed spreadsheets to determine the maximum period for which funds may prudently be committed. The forecast is compiled on a prudent basis to minimise the risk of the Authority being forced to borrow on unfavourable terms to meet its financial commitments. Limits on long-term investments are set by reference to the Authority's medium-term financial plan and cash flow forecast.
- 2.60 The Authority will spread its liquid cash over at least four providers (e.g. bank accounts and money market funds) to ensure that access to cash is maintained in the event of operational difficulties at any one provider.

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Treasury Management Prudential Indicators

2.61 The Authority measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.

2.62 **Security:** The Authority has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

Credit risk indicator	Target
Portfolio average credit [rating / score]	A-

2.63 **Liquidity:** The Authority has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling three-month period, without additional borrowing.

Liquidity risk indicator	Target
Total cash available within 3 months	£2.5m

2.64 **Interest rate exposures:** This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on the one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise or fall in interest rates will be:

Interest rate risk indicator	Limit
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>rise</u> in interest rates	£500,000
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>fall</u> in interest rates	£500,000

2.65 The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investments will be replaced at new market rates.

2.66 **Maturity structure of borrowing:** This indicator is set to control the Authority's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of borrowing will be:

Refinancing rate risk indicator	Upper limit	Lower limit
Under 12 months	50%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	50%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	50%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	50%	0%
10 years and above	100%	0%

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- 2.67 Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.
- 2.68 **Long-term treasury management investments:** The purpose of this indicator is to control the Authority's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The prudential limits on the long-term treasury management investments will be:

Price risk indicator	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	No fixed date
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£1.0m	£0.5m	£0m	£0m

- 2.69 Long-term investments with no fixed maturity date include strategic pooled funds and real estate investment trusts but exclude money market funds and bank accounts with no fixed maturity date as these are considered short-term.

Related Matters

- 2.70 The CIPFA Code requires the Authority to include the following in its treasury management strategy.
- 2.71 **Financial derivatives:** Local authorities have previously made use of financial derivatives embedded into loans and investments both to reduce interest rate risk (e.g. interest rate collars and forward deals) and to reduce costs or increase income at the expense of greater risk (e.g. LOBO loans and callable deposits). The general power of competence in section 1 of the *Localism Act 2011* removes much of the uncertainty over local authorities' use of standalone financial derivatives (i.e. those that are not embedded into a loan or investment).
- 2.72 The Authority will only use standalone financial derivatives (such as swaps, forwards, futures and options) where they can be clearly demonstrated to reduce the overall level of the financial risks that the Authority is exposed to. Additional risks presented, such as credit exposure to derivative counterparties, will be taken into account when determining the overall level of risk. Embedded derivatives, including those present in pooled funds and forward starting transactions, will not be subject to this policy, although the risks they present will be managed in line with the overall treasury risk management strategy.
- 2.73 Financial derivative transactions may be arranged with any organisation that meets the approved investment criteria, assessed using the appropriate credit rating for derivative exposures. An allowance for credit risk calculated using the methodology in the Treasury Management Practices document will count against the counterparty credit limit and the relevant foreign country limit.
- 2.74 In line with the CIPFA Code, the Authority will seek external advice and will consider that advice before entering into financial derivatives to ensure that it fully understands the implications.

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- 2.75 **Markets in Financial Instruments Directive:** The Authority has retained retail client status with its providers of financial services, including advisers, banks, brokers and fund managers, allowing it access to a smaller range of services but with the greater regulatory protections afforded to individuals and small companies. Given the size and range of the Authority's treasury management activities, the Director of Finance believes this to be the most appropriate status.

Financial Implications

- 2.76 The budget for investment income in 2026/27 is £100k based on an average investment portfolio of £4.5 million at an interest rate of 3.6%. If actual levels of investments and borrowing, or actual interest rates, differ from that forecast, performance against budget will be correspondingly different.
- 2.77 Where investment income exceeds budget, e.g. from higher risk investments including pooled funds, or debt interest paid falls below budget, e.g. from cheap short-term borrowing, then 50% of the revenue savings will be transferred to a treasury management reserve to cover the risk of capital losses or higher interest rates payable in future years.

Other Options Considered

- 2.78 The CIPFA Code does not prescribe any particular treasury management strategy for local authorities to adopt. The Director of Finance, having consulted the Cabinet Member for Finance and Enabling, believes that the above strategy represents an appropriate balance between risk management and cost effectiveness. Some alternative strategies, with their financial and risk management implications, are listed below.

Alternative	Impact on income and expenditure	Impact on risk management
Invest in a narrower range of counterparties and/or for shorter times	Interest income will be lower	Lower chance of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be greater
Invest in a wider range of counterparties and/or for longer times	Interest income will be higher	Increased risk of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be smaller
Borrow additional sums at long-term fixed interest rates	Debt interest costs will rise; this is unlikely to be offset by higher investment income	Higher investment balance leading to a higher impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs may be more certain
Borrow short-term or variable loans instead of long-term fixed rates	Debt interest costs will initially be lower	Increases in debt interest costs will be broadly offset by rising investment income in the medium term, but long-term costs may be less certain
Reduce level of borrowing	Saving on debt interest is likely to exceed lost investment income	Reduced investment balance leading to a lower impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs may be less certain

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Appendix G (i) – Arlingclose Economic & Interest Rate Forecast – December 2025

Underlying assumptions:

- The Budget signalled further fiscal (tax/spend) tightening across this parliament. Most tax changes take effect from 2028, while welfare and spending start from April 2026. Taken together, the timing of these announcements means the fiscal stance is likely to be slightly looser than expected for the next two years (with increased government spending), before tightening sharply from 2028 (with large tax rises).
- Despite the near-term looser fiscal stance, the new policies add little support for activity in 2026. Even before the Budget, economic data pointed to a slower growth outlook. Meanwhile, disinflation has been evident and planned government actions on train fares and energy bills will also dampen inflation next year.
- The close vote in November to keep Bank Rate at 4% reflected pre-Budget uncertainty. With no major growth or inflation boosts in the Budget, a cut to 3.75% in December continues to look highly likely.
- Inflation fell to 3.6% in October. Business surveys point to weaker pricing power and household inflation expectations are easing, although they remain high. Wage growth is moderating amid rising unemployment and overall activity is flat. Confidence has been hit by the run-up to the Budget, and a strong rebound seems improbable in the near term.
- Weak growth and softer inflation strengthen the case for dovish MPC members to push for further Bank Rate cuts, while undermining arguments of more hawkish members. There will still be questions over whether Government can deliver the fiscal tightening it set out, given a history of U-turns, and timing ahead of the next General Election. The December meeting will offer a clearer view of how divided the MPC really is.
- Risks to the growth and inflation outlook lie to the downside, which if crystallised may ultimately deliver lower Bank Rate than our central case.
- Lower inflation expectations and a tighter fiscal stance have helped bring down gilt yields, especially at the long end. Even so, sustained heavy borrowing across advanced economies, the DMO's move towards issuing more short-dated gilts and lingering doubts about the government's fiscal plans will keep short to medium yields above the levels implied by interest rate expectations alone.

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Forecast:

- Following the 2025 Budget, we continue to forecast a 0.25% Bank Rate cut in December to 3.75%.
- Continuing disinflation, rising unemployment, softening wage growth and low confidence suggests that monetary policy will be eased to stimulate activity ahead of incoming fiscal tightening post-2028.
- Arlingclose now expects Bank Rate to be cut to 3.25% by Q2 2026, with risks weighted to the downside.
- Medium and long-term gilt yields continue to incorporate premia for UK government credibility and global uncertainty. These issues may not be resolved quickly, and we expect yields to remain higher than would normally be consistent with Bank Rate expectations.
- However, the lower path for Bank Rate maintains the downside risks to Arlingclose's gilt yield forecasts.

	Current	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27	Jun-27	Sep-27	Dec-27	Mar-28	Jun-28	Sep-28
Official Bank Rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Central Case	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25
Downside risk	0.00	0.00	-0.25	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50
3-month money market rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Central Case	3.90	3.65	3.50	3.40	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35
Downside risk	0.00	0.00	-0.25	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50
5yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70
Central Case	3.92	3.90	3.85	3.80	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.80	3.80
Downside risk	0.00	-0.50	-0.60	-0.70	-0.80	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85
10yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70
Central Case	4.48	4.40	4.35	4.30	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.30	4.30
Downside risk	0.00	-0.50	-0.60	-0.70	-0.80	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85
20yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70
Central Case	5.13	4.90	4.85	4.80	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.80	4.80
Downside risk	0.00	-0.50	-0.60	-0.70	-0.80	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85
50yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70
Central Case	4.73	4.50	4.50	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.50	4.50
Downside risk	0.00	-0.50	-0.60	-0.70	-0.80	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85	-0.85

PWLB Standard Rate = Gilt yield + 1.00%

PWLB Certainty Rate = Gilt yield + 0.80%

PWLB HRA Rate = Gilt yield + 0.40%

National Wealth Fund (NWF) Rate = Gilt yield + 0.40%

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Appendix G (ii) – Existing Investment & Debt Portfolio Position

	20/01/2026 Actual Portfolio £m	20/01/2026 Average Rate %
External borrowing:	0	0
Total external borrowing	0	0
Treasury investments:		
Banks, MMF & building societies (unsecured)	5.5	4.1
Government (incl. local authorities)	0.0	0
Total treasury investments	5.5	4.1
Net Investments	5.5	

Appendix H – 2026/27 Minimum Revenue Provision Statement

Introduction

- 3.1 Where the Authority finances capital expenditure by debt, it must put aside resources to repay that debt in later years. The amount charged to the revenue budget for the repayment of debt is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), although there has been no statutory minimum since 2008. The *Local Government Act 2003* requires the Authority to have regard to the former Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision* (the MHCLG Guidance) most recently issued in April 2024.
- 3.2 The broad aim of the MHCLG Guidance is to ensure that capital expenditure is financed over a period that is reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits.
- 3.3 The MHCLG Guidance requires the Authority to approve an Annual MRP Statement each year and provides a number of options for calculating a prudent amount of MRP but does not preclude the use of other appropriate methods. The following statement incorporates options recommended in the Guidance as well as locally determined prudent methods.
- 3.4 MRP is calculated by reference to the capital financing requirement (CFR) which is the total amount of past capital expenditure that has yet to be permanently financed, noting that debt must be repaid and therefore can only be a temporary form of funding. The CFR is calculated from the Authority's balance sheet in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Prudential Code for Capital Expenditure in Local Authorities*, 2021 edition.
- For unsupported capital expenditure incurred after 31st March 2008, MRP will be determined by charging the expenditure over the expected useful life of the relevant asset as the principal repayment on an annuity with an annual interest rate of 4%, starting in the year after the asset becomes operational. MRP on purchases of freehold land will be charged over 50 years. MRP on expenditure not related to fixed assets but which has been capitalised by regulation or direction will be charged over 20 years.
 - For assets acquired by leases, MRP will be determined as being equal to the element of the rent or charge that goes to write down the balance sheet liability.
 - Where former operating leases have been brought onto the balance sheet due to the adoption of the *IFRS 16 Leases* accounting standard, and the asset values have been adjusted for accruals, prepayments, premiums and/or incentives, then the annual MRP charges will be adjusted so that the total charge to revenue remains unaffected by the new standard.
 - For capital expenditure on loans to third parties that are repaid in annual or more frequent instalments of principal, the Council will make nil MRP but will instead apply the capital receipts arising from principal repayments to reduce the capital

financing requirement instead. In years where there is no principal repayment, MRP will be charged in accordance with the MRP policy for the assets funded by the loan, including where appropriate, delaying MRP until the year after the assets become operational. While this is not one of the options in the MHCLG Guidance, it is thought to be a prudent approach since it ensures that the capital expenditure incurred on the loan is fully funded over the life of the assets.

- There is no requirement to charge MRP where the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) is nil or negative at the end of the preceding financial year.
- Where the council makes a capital contribution or loan to another entity or where responsibility for a council asset with borrowing attached is transferred to a third party, then no MRP will be set aside if:
 - the payments are appropriately covered by assets
 - there are detailed plans demonstrating that all the expenditure will be recovered in an appropriately short time frame
- To ensure that this remains a prudent approach the Council will review the expenditure and income regularly to determine if the income or asset values have decreased to the point that MRP needs to be provided for. Should evidence emerge which suggests the expenditure will no longer be recovered, MRP will be provided for.
- Where the council uses internal borrowing and receipts of rental income are greater than the MRP calculated then as there are sufficient revenues to repay the capital cost, no MRP will be set aside.

3.5 Capital loans

- For capital expenditure on loans to third parties which were made primarily for financial return rather than direct service purposes, MRP will be charged in accordance with the policy for the assets funded by the loan, including where appropriate, delaying MRP until the year after the assets become operational. This MRP charge will be reduced by the value any repayments of loan principal received during in the year, with the capital receipts so arising applied to finance the expenditure instead.
- For capital expenditure on loans to third parties which were made primarily for service purposes, the Authority will make nil MRP except as detailed below for expected credit losses. Instead, the Authority will apply the capital receipts arising from the repayments of the loan principal to finance the expenditure in the year they are received.
- For capital loans made on or after 7th May 2024 where an expected credit loss is recognised during the year, the MRP charge in respect of the loan will be no lower than the loss recognised. Where expected credit losses are reversed, for example on the eventual repayment of the loan, this will be treated as an overpayment.

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- For capital loans made before 7th May 2024 and for loans where expected credit losses are not applicable, where a shortfall in capital receipts is anticipated, MRP will be charged to cover that shortfall over the remaining life of the assets funded by the loan.
- 3.6 Capital expenditure incurred during 2026/27 will not be subject to a MRP charge until 2027/28 or later.
- 3.7 Based on the Authority's latest estimate of its capital financing requirement (CFR) on 31st March 2026, the budget for MRP has been set as follows:

	31.03.2026 Estimated CFR £m	2026/27 Estimated MRP £m
Capital expenditure before 01.04.2008		
Supported capital expenditure after 31.03.2008		
Unsupported capital expenditure after 31.03.2008	37.3	1.18
Leases and Private Finance Initiative		
Transferred debt		
Loans to other bodies repaid in instalments		
Voluntary overpayment (or use of prior year overpayments)		
Total General Fund	37.3	1.18

3.8 Capital receipts

Proceeds from the sale of capital assets are classed as capital receipts and are typically used to finance new capital expenditure. Where the Authority decides instead to use capital receipts to repay debt and hence reduce the CFR, the calculation of MRP will be adjusted as follows:

- Capital receipts arising on the repayment of principal on capital loans to third parties will be used to lower the MRP charge in respect of the same loans in the year of receipt, if any.
- Capital receipts arising on the repayment of principal on finance lease receivables will be used to lower the MRP charge in respect of the acquisition of the asset subject to the lease in the year of receipt, if any.
- Capital receipts arising from other assets which form an identified part of the Authority's MRP calculations will be used to reduce the MRP charge in respect of

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the same assets over their remaining useful lives, starting in the year after the receipt is applied.

Any other capital receipts applied to repay debt will be used to reduce MRP in 10 equal instalments starting in the year after receipt is applied.

Appendix I – 2026/27 Investment Strategy

Introduction

- 4.1 The Authority invests its money for three broad purposes:
- because it has surplus cash as a result of its day-to-day activities, for example when income is received in advance of expenditure (known as **treasury management investments**),
 - to support local public services by lending to or buying shares in other organisations (**service investments**), and
 - to earn investment income (known as **commercial investments** where this is the main purpose).
- 4.2 This investment strategy meets the requirements of statutory guidance issued by the government in January 2018 and focuses on the second and third of these categories.
- 4.3 The statutory guidance defines investments as “all of the financial assets of a local authority as well as other non-financial assets that the organisation holds primarily or partially to generate a profit; for example, investment property portfolios.” The Authority interprets this to exclude (a) trade receivables which meet the accounting definition of financial assets but are not investments in the everyday sense of the word and (b) property held partially to generate a profit but primarily for the provision of local public services. This aligns the Authority’s definition of an investment with that in the 2021 edition of the CIPFA Prudential Code, a more recent piece of statutory guidance.

Treasury Management Investments

- 4.4 The Authority typically receives its income in cash (e.g. from taxes and grants) before it pays for its expenditure in cash (e.g. through payroll and invoices). It also holds reserves for future expenditure and collects local taxes on behalf of other local authorities and central government. These activities, plus the timing of borrowing decisions, lead to a cash surplus which is invested in accordance with guidance from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. The balance of treasury management investments is expected to fluctuate between £1m and £15m during the 2026/27 financial year.
- 4.5 **Contribution:** The contribution that these investments make to the objectives of the Authority is to support effective treasury management activities.
- 4.6 **Further details:** Full details of the Authority’s policies and its plan for 2026/27 for treasury management investments are covered in a separate document, the treasury management strategy, which is part of these appendices.

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Service Investments: Loans

- 4.7 **Contribution:** The Council will lend money to its subsidiaries, local businesses, local charities and housing associations to support local public services and stimulate local economic growth.
- 4.8 **Security:** The main risk when making service loans is that the borrower will be unable to repay the principal lent and/or the interest due. In order to limit this risk, and ensure that total exposure to service loans remains proportionate to the size of the Authority, upper limits on the outstanding loans to each category of borrower have been set as follows:

Table 1: Loans for service purposes in £ millions

Category of borrower	31.3.2025 actual			2026/27
	Balance owing	Loss allowance	Net figure in accounts	Approved Limit £m
Subsidiaries	0	0	0	1.0
Local businesses	0	0	0	0.5
Local charities	0	0	0	0.5
Housing associations	0	0	0	1.0
TOTAL	0	0	0	3.0

- 4.9 Accounting standards require the Authority to set aside loss allowance for loans, reflecting the likelihood of non-payment. The figures for loans in the Authority's statement of accounts are shown net of this loss allowance. However, the Authority makes every reasonable effort to collect the full sum lent and has appropriate credit control arrangements in place to recover overdue repayments.
- 4.10 **Risk assessment:** The Authority assesses the risk of loss before entering into and whilst holding service loans by using specialist advice to understand the market and the potential future demands of the market and the customers in it. It will also use benchmarking data from the market to determine future potential risks which need to be planned for. External advice is only sought from credible sources e.g. acknowledged experts in their fields and officers ensure that they fully understand any information given to them before decision or advice is taken.

Commercial Investments: Property

- 4.11 **Contribution:** The Authority invests via Regeneration schemes such as Levelling Up Fundings via the Government in property with the intention of making a profit that will be spent on local public services. Levelling Up funding in being invested in

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regenerating the Market Hall site and clearing the existing Fire Station site for future regeneration.

Table 2: Property held for investment purposes in £ millions

Property [type]	Actual	31.3.2025 actual		31.3.2026 expected	
	Purchase cost	Gains or (losses)	Value in accounts	Gains or (losses)	Value in accounts
N/A	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0

- 4.12 **Security:** In accordance with government guidance, the Authority considers a property investment to be secure if its accounting valuation is at or higher than its purchase cost including taxes and transaction costs.
- 4.13 *Where value in accounts is at or above purchase cost:* A fair value assessment of the Authority's investment property portfolio has been made within the past twelve months, and the underlying assets provide security for capital investment. Should the 2025/26-year end accounts preparation and audit process value these properties below their purchase cost, then an updated investment strategy will be presented to full Council detailing the impact of the loss on the security of investments and any revenue consequences arising therefrom.
- 4.14 *Where value in accounts is below purchase cost:* The fair value of the Authority's investment property portfolio is no longer sufficient to provide security against loss, and the Authority is therefore taking mitigating actions to protect the capital invested.
- 4.15 **Risk assessment:** The Authority assesses the risk of loss before entering into and whilst holding property investments by involving specialist advisors with expertise in the type of property being purchased, looking at historic data and speaking to other councils undertaking similar activities.
- 4.16 **Liquidity:** Compared with other investment types, property is relatively difficult to sell and convert to cash at short notice and can take a considerable period to sell in certain market conditions. To ensure that the invested funds can be accessed when they are needed, for example to repay capital borrowed, the Council ensures that properties purchased are in an active market where there is demonstrable demand to ensure that the authority does not purchase assets which it will not be able to sell on at a later date.

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Loan Commitments and Financial Guarantees

- 4.17 Although not strictly counted as investments, since no money has exchanged hands yet, loan commitments and financial guarantees carry similar risks to the Authority and are included here for completeness.

Proportionality

- 4.18 The Council does not plan to become dependent on profit generating investment activity to achieve a balanced revenue budget.

Borrowing in Advance of Need

- 4.19 Government guidance is that local authorities must not borrow more than or in advance of their needs purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed. The Council would only not follow this guidance if interest rate forecasts and treasury advisor guidance set out that it was more cost effective, **in terms of significantly reduced debt interest charges**, for the Council to borrow for the **approved 3-year capital programme** at a point of time rather than when that expenditure is taking place over that 3-year period. It is unlikely that this will happen however the option should not be closed off. Funds would be invested. The Councils policies in investing the money borrowed, including management of the risks, would be as per normal short term Treasury Investments.

Capacity, Skills and Culture

- 4.20 **Elected members and statutory officers:** Member training will take place annually as part of the induction process. External advisors will provide reports to support investment decisions with officers ensuring that they fully understand them and can relate them to the strategic objectives and risk profile of the Council.
- 4.21 **Commercial deals:** Significant work has been undertaken using external advisors and relevant training courses have been attended to ensure that officers are fully aware of the code and statutory requirements of a local authority which is investing.

KPMG have developed a modelling tool for the Council to use when assessing potential purchases as a precursor to engaging with external consultants to ensure that potential purchases are likely to make sense from the perspective of the authority before incurring advisor costs. However, following an internal review of the policy, it has been decided that the Council may wish to make purchases which do not make a financial return or may indeed make a loss in the short term. On these occasions a business case will be developed which specifies the non-financial benefits of the investment. These are likely to be regenerative schemes for the greater good of the

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area with an intended long-term impact. The regenerative and redevelopment benefits which will flow from the investment will be taken into account in the development of the business case, so if the net investment yield falls below 0.75% it can still proceed if these benefits are deemed to outweigh the lower than target yield.

- 4.22 **Corporate governance:** when investment decisions are to be made, they are to be led by the Council's Director of Finance in consultation with the Corporate Management Team. They will assess the potential investment opportunity using the KPMG finance appraisal model and should they decide it presents a strong opportunity for the Council and complies with the relevant criteria a conditional offer can be made. A business case will then be developed and presented ensuring that once greater detail is included, it makes a satisfactory income yield and/or economic redevelopment and regeneration impact. When the business case is completed, if it is still compliant with the Council criteria, it will be presented to Cabinet for approval before purchase is completed. Once a purchase has been made the Director of Finance will provide quarterly reports in line with financial and monitoring reports on the status of the investment.

Investment Indicators

- 4.23 The Authority has set the following quantitative indicators to allow elected members and the public to assess the Authority's total risk exposure as a result of its investment decisions.
- 4.24 **Total risk exposure:** The first indicator shows the Authority's total exposure to potential investment losses. This includes amounts the Authority is contractually committed to lend but have yet to be drawn down and guarantees the Authority has issued over third-party loans.

Table 3: Total investment exposure in £millions

Total investment exposure	31.03.2025 Actual	31.03.2026 Forecast	31.03.2027 Forecast
Treasury management investments	4.2	5.2	5.9
Service investments: Loans	0	0	0
Commercial investments: Property	0	0	0
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	4.2	5.2	5.9
Commitments to lend	0	0	0
Guarantees issued on loans	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPOSURE	0	0	0

- 4.25 **How investments are funded:** Government guidance is that these indicators should include how investments are funded. Since the Authority does not normally associate particular assets with particular liabilities, this guidance is difficult to comply with.

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However, the following investments could be described as being funded by borrowing. The remainder of the Authority's investments are funded by usable reserves and income received in advance of expenditure.

Table 4: Investments funded by borrowing in £millions

Investments funded by borrowing	31.03.2025 Actual	31.03.2026 Forecast	31.03.2027 Forecast
Treasury management investments	0	0	0
Service investments: Loans	0	0	0
Service investments: Shares	0	0	0
Commercial investments: Property	0	0	0
TOTAL FUNDED BY BORROWING	0	0	0

- 4.26 **Rate of return received:** This indicator shows the investment income received less the associated costs, including the cost of borrowing where appropriate, as a proportion of the sum initially invested. Note that due to the complex local government accounting framework, not all recorded gains and losses affect the revenue account in the year they are incurred.

Table 5: Investment rate of return (net of all costs)

Investments net rate of return	2024/25 Actual	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Forecast
Treasury management investments	1.1	1.2	1.4
Service investments: Loans	0	0	0
Service investments: Shares	0	0	0
Commercial investments: Property	0	0	0
ALL INVESTMENTS	1.1	1.2	1.4

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APPENDIX J – FLEXIBLE USE OF CAPITAL RECEIPTS POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 To support local authorities to deliver more efficient and sustainable services, a time limited flexibility is currently available to use capital receipts from the disposal of property, plant and equipment assets to fund the revenue cost of service reform (transformation) .
- 1.2 Under normal rules, capital receipts can only be used to fund capital expenditure such as the purchase of capital assets or improvements to existing assets.
- 1.3 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have issued an extension to a Direction and published guidance that enables Councils to use income from the sale of certain assets to fund the short-term revenue costs that support Transformation, Invest-to-save and efficiency projects in order to provide revenue savings in the future.
- 1.4 The strategy has regard to the Guidance on the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts issued by the Secretary of State under Section 15 (1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2003 during March 2016, including only those projects which are designed to generate ongoing revenue savings in the delivery of services and/or transform service delivery in a way that reduces costs or demand for services.
- 1.5 This strategy sets out the intended use of this flexibility and applies to the financial year 2026/27 and for each subsequent financial year to which the flexible use of capital receipts direction applies (currently 2029/30 is the last year). The Strategy will be updated as part of the annual budget process in subsequent years.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Capital receipts can only be used for specific purposes, and these are set out in Regulation 23 of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 made under Section 11 of the Local Government Act 2003.
- 2.2 The main permitted purpose is to fund capital expenditure, and the use of capital receipts to support revenue expenditure is not allowed by the regulations. The Secretary of State is empowered to issue Directions allowing revenue expenditure incurred by local authorities to be treated as capital expenditure and therefore funded by capital receipts.
- 2.3 The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government issued a Direction in March 2016, giving local authorities greater freedoms to use capital receipts to finance expenditure, initially up until 2018/19. This allowed local authorities to treat qualifying expenditure on transformation projects as capital expenditure and to fund it from capital receipts received after April 2016.
- 2.4 Qualifying expenditure was defined as: “Expenditure on any project that is designed to generate ongoing revenue savings in the delivery of public services and/or

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transform service delivery to reduce costs and/or transform service delivery in a way that reduces costs or demand for services in future years for any of the public sector delivery partners.”

- 2.5 There have been number of extensions to the scheme since 2018/19 and on 18 December 2023 it was confirmed as part of the Provisional Local Government Settlement that the current scheme, which currently applies to expenditure and receipts incurred between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2025, had been extended to 31 March 2030.
- 2.6 Therefore, to make use of capital receipts flexibilities, any qualifying revenue expenditure incurred between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2030 can be considered.
- 2.7 The Government also updated the scheme in March 2025 to remove the restrictions on redundancy costs, enabling broader application of the flexibility.

3. FLEXIBLE CAPITAL RECEIPTS STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Guidance on the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts allows set-up and implementation costs to be counted as qualifying costs, however the on-going revenue costs of new processes or arrangements cannot.
- 3.2 Only receipts from the disposal of capital assets received between 01 April 2024 and 31 March 2030 are eligible for use to fund the qualifying costs of service reform.
- 3.3 The use of capital receipts to support activity could include funding the costs associated with service reconfiguration, restructuring or rationalisation (staff or non-staff), where this leads to ongoing efficiency savings or service transformation that will be required throughout 2026/27 and over the MTFS period.
- 3.4 Service reform projects can still be financed in whole or in part from other resources. The Council is not obliged to fund these projects from capital receipts, however, on the approval of this strategy, it will have the option to do so.
- 3.5 The Council has due regard to the requirements of the Prudential Code and the impact on its prudential indicators from the application of this Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy.

4. MONITORING OF THE STRATEGY

- 4.1 Projects included in the strategy will be monitored regularly as part of the quarterly Finance and Performance reporting.

5. QUALIFYING PROJECTS AND ESTIMATED COSTS / SAVINGS

Subject to agreement of the strategy a schedule of any recommended projects and associated savings will be presented to Cabinet by the section 151 officer.

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Appendix K – Fees & Charges

<u>BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL</u>					
<u>Business Transformation and Organisational Development</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26 £	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 226/27 £
<u>New & Existing Properties</u>					
Naming a Street	684.80	4%	712.20	2%	726.40
Additional charge for each new premise on a street	160.70	4%	167.10	2%	170.40
Naming and numbering of an individual premise	338.60	4%	352.10	2%	359.10
Additional charge for each adjoining premise (eg Blocks of flats)	95.20	4%	99.00	2%	101.00
Confirmation of address to solicitor/conveyancer/ occupier or owner	66.30	4%	69.00	2%	70.40
Additional charge including naming of building	170.50	4%	177.30	2%	180.80

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cabinet

18th February 2026

<u>BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL</u>					
<u>Community & Housing Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26 £	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27 £
<u>STRATEGIC HOUSING</u>					
Bed and breakfast					
- Single room	18.90	4%	19.70	2%	20.10
- Two single rooms	38.30	4%	39.80	2%	40.60
- Double room	18.90	4%	19.70	2%	20.10
- More than one double room per room	24.70	4%	25.70	2%	26.20
- Breakfast					
- adult	3.10	4%	3.20	2%	3.30
- child	2.60	4%	2.70	2%	2.80
- Storage of effects (per night)	3.20	4%	3.30	2%	3.40
- Right to Buy (RTB) Plan Preparation for BDHT	147.90	4%	153.80	2%	156.90
- Late Consents to transfer (shared ownership and low cost properties)	309.00	4%	321.40	2%	327.80
Private Sector Housing					
Housing Fitness Inspections	176.60	4%	183.70	2%	187.40
First Homes Application	160.50	4%	166.90	2%	170.20
Registration of housing in multiple occupation:					
per occupant	150.80	4%	156.80	2%	159.90
Service and Administration of Improvement	42.00	4%	43.70	2%	44.60
Prohibition, Hazard Awareness or Emergency Measures Notices * under Housing Act 2004, per hour					
Enforcement of Statutory Notices, Supervision of Work in Default etc.	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Mobile Home Park Licencing - New Licence Application Fee	384.50	4%	399.90	2%	407.90
- Licence Amendment Application Fee	302.10	4%	314.20	2%	320.50
- Licence Transfer Application Fee	219.70	4%	228.50	2%	233.10
Mobile Home Park - Annual Site Inspection Charge -Band A (2-10 units)	302.10	4%	314.20	2%	320.50
- Band B (11-30 units)	322.70	4%	335.60	2%	342.30
- Band C (31-70 units)	453.10	4%	471.20	2%	480.60
- Band D (71 + units)	494.30	4%	514.10	2%	524.40
Mobile Home Park Statutory Registration or amendment of Park Home Rules	116.70	4%	121.40	2%	123.80
- Valuation Fee (relating to properties of 30% ownership)	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
*Based on salary of employee					

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Cabinet

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<u>BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL</u>					
<u>Community & Housing Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26 £	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27 £
<u>LIFELINE</u>					
- Installation Fee	55.60	4%	57.80	2%	59.00
- Lifeline (per week)	0.00	4%	0.00	2%	0.00
- Replacement Pendant	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
- Key Safe	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
- GSM Alarm Hire	5.50	4%	5.70	2%	5.80
- GPS Tracker Hire	5.50	4%	5.70	2%	5.80
- Daily Living Activity Equipment	7.90	4%	8.20	2%	8.40
<u>HIRE PRODUCTS</u>					
Hire of smoke alarm per week (hard wired, serviced smoke alarm)	1.55	4%	1.60	2%	1.60
CO2 Detector per week	1.55	4%	1.60	2%	1.60
Bogus Caller Panic Button	1.55	4%	1.60	2%	1.60
Flood Detector	1.55	4%	1.60	2%	1.60
Falls Detector	1.55	4%	1.60	2%	1.60
Additional pendant	1.55	4%	1.60	2%	1.60
Temperature extreme sensor	1.55	4%	1.60	2%	1.60

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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<u>BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL</u>					
<u>Corporate Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26 £	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27 £
<u>Venue hire additional services</u>					
Feature on official social media & website	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Place your promotional material in reception	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Print your materials	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
<u>Full design & print services</u>					
Luxury roll-up banner - Flat rate	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
- any additional	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Vinyl banner	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
- any additional	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Posters (10)	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
- any additional	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Leaflets (500)	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
- any additional	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Printing up to A0 size, with a range of finishing options on papers and cards. Tiny labels to large banners, binding and laminating, booklets, copies, reports, posters, duplicate pads, brochures, leaflets, flyers, & more. Integrated in-house Design team services also available.	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Your bespoke requirements	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cabinet

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<u>BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL</u>					
<u>Corporate Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26 £	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27 £
PLUS Boost your event with our simple options:- • Promotional services - - o Reach the local community with our official social media - o Show up on Google with our special website options - o Promote your event in our busy public spaces • Design services - - o Stand out - o Bespoke for you, from our professional design team • Printing services- - o All your printing needs in one place - o Signs, flyers, agendas, welcome banners, and more Packages available from as little as £30. To find out more contact 01527 881296 or venues@bromsgrove.gov.uk. www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/venues Beautiful wedding stationery to suit your budget The personal touch for all your guests, with bespoke packages from £25 • Choose beautiful invitations • Add table plans, place settings, & more • Photo displays & banners • Signs • Use your own designs, or our designers To find out more just contact 01527 881296 or weddings@bromsgrove.gov.uk. www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/weddings					

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cabinet

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<u>BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL</u>					
<u>Environmental Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest £1					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26 £	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27 £
<u>REFUSE COLLECTION</u>					
<u>Bulky Household Waste</u>					
Proposed Charges					
The Bulky Service operates based on a standard unit price based on size and weight, with collection from the boundary of the property with the public highway. 1 Unit is equivalent to an under unit appliance, and this measure is multiplied up for multiple or larger items and items that cannot be lifted by two people will need to be quoted separately.					
Bulky collection - base price for a single unit*	Full Cost Recovery	12.00	12.00	8%	13.00
*Depending on size, items maybe charged for as a multiple of units					
Items that are classed by WCC as non domestic waste	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Items not on the boundary of the property	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Litter and Dog Bins (Yearly Charge)					
High Usage Site First Bin	1000.5	4%	1,040.50	2%	1,061.00
High Usage Site Additional Bins (each)	412.00	4%	428.50	2%	437.00
Medium Usage Site First Bin	500.20	4%	520.20	2%	531.00
Medium Usage Site Additional Bins (each)	206.00	4%	214.20	2%	219.00
Low Usage Site First Bin	247.20	4%	257.10	2%	262.00
Low Usage Site Additional Bins (each)	105.90	4%	110.10	2%	112.00
Parish Lengthsman Work					
Hourly Rate	18.50	4%	19.20	4%	20.00

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cabinet

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<u>BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL</u>					
<u>Environmental Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest £1					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26 £	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27 £
High Hedge Complaints					
High Hedge Complaints	735.50	4%	764.90	2%	780.00
High Hedge Complaints - reduced for people on benefits	293.70	4%	305.40	2%	312.00
Investigation of Abandoned Vehicles on Private Land					
Per Vehicle	70.60	4%	73.40	2%	75.00
Mechanically Sweep Private Road / Car Park - Sweeper per Hour + disposal costs	58.90	4%	61.30	2%	63.00
Garden Waste Collection Service					
2026/27	54.10	4%	56.30	7%	60.00
2027/28					60.00
Garden waste set up fee - NEW charge					22.00
Road Closures					
New Charge - £80 per Road closure plus VAT	85.60	4%	89.00		60.00

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cabinet

18th February 2026

<u>BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL</u>					
<u>Bereavement Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26 £	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27 £
<u>CEMETERY</u>					
The following charges would be subject to 25% plus or minus in year adjustment facility delegated to Bereavement Services Manager or Head of Service to allow for supplier increases such as utilities or memorial suppliers etc					
Interments in a grave					
- children aged under 1 year	No Charge	N/A	No Charge	N/A	No Charge
- children aged under 1 year (non resident)	140.90	4%	146.50	2%	149.40
- children aged 1 year - 17 years	No Charge	N/A	No Charge	N/A	No Charge
- children aged 1 year - 17 years (non resident)	205.20	4%	817.40	2%	833.70
- persons aged 18 and over	786.00	4%	817.40	2%	833.70
Interment in a bricked grave					
Interment of cremated remains	260.80	4%	271.20	2%	276.60
Interment of Cremated Remains (under 17 years non residents only)	96.40	4%	100.30	2%	102.30
Scattering cremated remains in grave	110.00	4%	114.40	2%	116.70
Exclusive rights of burial (75-year grants)					
- adult grave space	1,981.10	4%	2,060.30	2%	2,101.50
- child grave space	360.90	4%	375.30	2%	382.80
- cremated remains plot	756.30	4%	786.60	2%	802.30
Renewal of expired deed (single fee charged in all cases)					
-Burial	564.80	4%	587.40	2%	599.10
-Cremated remains	221.20	4%	230.00	2%	234.60
-Ashes grave purchased in reserve	905.90	4%	942.10	2%	960.90
- Full grave purchased in reserve	2,433.40	4%	2,530.70	2%	2,581.30
- Disinterment of Remains - Cremated Remains	688.40	4%	715.90	2%	730.20
- Wooden cremated remains casket	119.90	4%	124.70	2%	127.20

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL					
<u>Bereavement Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26 £	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27 £
Motifs	145.90	4%	151.70	2%	154.70
Memorials					
Bench with 10 year lease & top rail engraving (max 40 letters) - £800.00	1,398.30	4%	1,454.20	2%	1,483.30
Bench with 10 year lease & standard silver plaque (max 60 letters) - £760.00	1,330.00	4%	1,383.20	2%	1,410.90
Bench replacement plaque - £110.00	192.30	4%	200.00	2%	204.00
-Assignment / Transfer of Exclusive Right of Burial	128.50	4%	133.60	2%	136.30
Exhumation Ground works	260.80	4%	271.20	2%	276.60
New Container	147.10	4%	153.00	2%	156.10
Officer time	266.90	4%	277.60	2%	283.20
Cremator usage	40.80	4%	42.40	2%	43.20
Certified copy of entry	28.40	4%	29.50	2%	30.10
Bird bath memorial					
5 Year Lease					
- size 1 (small)	262.00	4%	272.50	2%	278.00
- size 2	291.70	4%	303.40	2%	309.50
- size 3	321.30	4%	334.20	2%	340.90
- size 4	349.80	4%	363.80	2%	371.10
- size 5 (large)	379.50	4%	394.70	2%	402.60
10 Year Lease					
- size 1 (small)	407.80	4%	424.10	2%	432.60
- size 2	437.50	4%	455.00	2%	464.10
- size 3	467.20	4%	485.90	2%	495.60
- size 4	495.60	4%	515.40	2%	525.70
- size 5 (large)	522.80	4%	543.70	2%	554.60
20 Year Lease					
- size 1 (small)	553.70	4%	575.80	2%	587.30
- size 2	583.30	4%	606.60	2%	618.70
- size 3	613.00	4%	637.50	2%	650.30
- size 4	641.50	4%	667.20	2%	680.50
- size 5 (large)	671.10	4%	697.90	2%	711.90
Motif	145.90	4%	151.70	2%	154.70

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cabinet

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<u>BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL</u>					
<u>Bereavement Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26 £	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27 £
Memorial Vaults					
Double unit - 20 year lease in first interment and casket	1,636.30	4%	1,701.80	2%	1,735.80
2nd interment of remains including casket	224.90	4%	233.90	2%	238.60
Inscribed tablet of upto 80 letters	182.90	4%	190.20	2%	194.00
Additional letters (per letter)	5.30	4%	5.50	2%	5.60
Standard Motif	131.00	4%	136.20	2%	138.90
Photo of 1 person	157.00	4%	163.30	2%	166.60
Photo of 2 people	248.50	4%	258.40	2%	263.60
Photo of 3 people	320.10	4%	332.90	2%	339.60
Other items are available but quoted individually	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Memorial Posts					
Memorial plaque - 3 year lease	313.9	4%	326.50	2%	333.00
Motif	59.30	4%	61.70	2%	62.90
Replacement Plaque	157.00	4%	163.30	2%	166.60
Private Memorial Garden					
Including memorial - 20 year lease	2,093.50	4%	2,177.20	2%	2,220.70
Additional Inscription on Plaque	181.70	4%	189.00	2%	192.80

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Financial and Customer Service

Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.

SERVICE CATEGORY	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26 £	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27 £
<u>LOCAL TAX COLLECTION</u>					
<u>Council Tax</u>					
Summons Costs (includes Magistrates Court fee of 50p)	79.40	4%	82.60	0.0%	55.80
Liability Order				NEW	30.00
<u>NNDR</u>					
Summons Costs (Includes Magistrates Court fee of 50p)	114.80	4%	119.40	0.0%	81.00
Liability Order				NEW	43.00

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cabinet

18th February 2026

<u>BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL</u>					
<u>Legal and Democratic Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26 £	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27 £
<u>ELECTORAL REGISTRATION</u>					
<u>Register Sales*</u>					
In data form					
- basic fee	20.00	N/A	20.00	N/A	20.00
- for each 1,000 names or part thereof	20.00	N/A	20.00	N/A	20.00
In printed form					
- basic fee	10.00	N/A	10.00	N/A	10.00
- for each 1,000 names or part thereof	5.00	N/A	5.00	N/A	5.00
<u>Marked Election Register Sales*</u>					
In data form					
- basic fee	10.00	N/A	10.00	N/A	10.00
- for each 1,000 names or part thereof	1.00	N/A	1.00	N/A	1.00
In printed form					
- basic fee	10.00	N/A	10.00	N/A	10.00
- for each 1,000 names or part thereof	2.00	N/A	2.00	N/A	2.00
Copy of return of Election expenses plus 20p per sheet, per side.	5.00	N/A	5.00	N/A	5.00
<u>Miscellaneous Charges</u>					
* Address labels printed	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
* - for each 1,000 properties or part thereof	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
- street list	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
* - Data Property Addresses	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
* - For each 1,000 properties or part thereof	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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<u>BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL</u>					
<u>Legal and Democratic Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26 £	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27 £
<u>LEGAL</u>					
- Legal work (per hour)	183.10	4%	190.40	2%	194.20
- Legal Consent - Admin Fee	32.60	4%	33.90	2%	34.60
- RTB	255.90	4%	266.10	2%	271.40
- Consent for proposed works	201.10	4%	209.10	2%	213.30
- Retrospective Consent	211.60	4%	220.10	2%	224.50
Garden License	311.70	4%	324.20	2%	330.70
Wayleave Agreement	467.50	4%	486.20	2%	495.90
Deed of Grant or Easement	490.00	4%	509.60	2%	519.80
License to Assign	490.00	4%	509.60	2%	519.80
Rent Deposit Deed	490.00	4%	509.60	2%	519.80
Authorised Guarantee Agreement	490.00	4%	509.60	2%	519.80
License for Alterations	490.00	4%	509.60	2%	519.80
License to Sublet	490.00	4%	509.60	2%	519.80
Deed of Variation	490.00	4%	509.60	2%	519.80
Grant of Lease	662.70	4%	689.20	2%	703.00
Extended Lease	662.70	4%	689.20	2%	703.00
Deed of Surrender	490.00	4%	509.60	2%	519.80
Tenancy at Will	490.00	4%	509.60	2%	519.80
Renewal of Lease	490.00	4%	509.60	2%	519.80
<u>Section 106:</u>					
- Private Owner	684.50	4%	711.90	2%	726.10
- Each additional unit added (up to a maximum of £1,650)	91.70	4%	95.40	2%	97.30
- Affordable housing schemes	1,285.20	4%	1,336.60	2%	1,363.30
- Deed of Variation	488.50	4%	508.00	2%	518.20
- Fee for agreeing a unilateral undertaking	488.50	4%	508.00	2%	518.20

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<u>BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL</u>					
<u>Legal and Democratic Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26 £	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27 £
<u>Other Fees</u>					
- Fees for sale of property under Low Cost Housing Scheme	336.70	4%	350.20	2%	357.20
- Fees for purchase of additional 30% Share	219.70	4%	228.50	2%	233.10
- Fees for preparation of Deed of postponement	143.50	4%	149.20	2%	152.20
- Administration fee for the grant of licences for more than 12 months	80.60	4%	83.80	2%	85.50
- Issuing of consents (transfer of mortgage)	95.10	4%	98.90	2%	100.90
Minor land sales up to £10,000	643.30	4%	669.00	2%	682.40
Major Land sales £10,000+ 2.75% of purchase price with a minimum charge of £500	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Major Land sales £50,000+ 2.75% of purchase price with a minimum charge of £750	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Deed of Release of Covenant	490.00	4%	509.60	2%	519.80
- Footpath Diversion Orders	2,706.00	4%	2,814.20	2%	2,870.50
<u>LAND SEARCHES</u>					
<u>Single Con29 Question</u>					
Official Certificate of Search (LLC1) only					
CON29R Enquiries of Local Authority (2016)					
- Residential	131.40	4%	136.70	2%	139.40
- Commercial	184.00	4%	191.40	2%	195.20
Standard Search Fee: LLC1 and CON 29R combined					
- Residential		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
- Commercial		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CON 29O Optional enquiries of Local Authority (2007)					
(Questions 5,6,8,9,11,15) per question	16.70	4%	17.40	2%	17.70
(Questions 7,10,12,13,14,16-21) per question	8.40	4%	8.70	2%	8.90
(Question 22)	35.30	4%	36.70	2%	37.40
Extra written enquiries (Refer to Worcestershire County Council for Highways enquiries)	65.10	4%	67.70	2%	69.10
Question 4	18.60	4%	19.30	2%	19.70
Each additional parcel of land (LLC1 and CON29R)					
Expedited (within 48 hrs)	41.70	4%	43.40	2%	44.30

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cabinet

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<u>BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL</u>					
<u>Planning and Leisure Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27
<u>Development Management</u>					
<u>Pre Application Fee</u>					
<u>Residential Development/ Development Site Area/Proposed Gross Floor Area</u>					
Householder Development	128.29	4%	133.40	5%	140.10
Household in Curtilage Development				NEW	133.40
1* Dwelling	275.42	4%	286.40	2%	292.10
2-4 Dwellings	411.95	4%	428.40	2%	437.00
5-9 Dwellings	823.90	4%	856.90	2%	874.00
10 - 49 Dwellings	1,647.80	4%	1,713.70	5%	1,799.40
50 - 99 Dwellings	3,020.18	4%	3,141.00	5%	3,298.10
100 - 199 Dwellings	4,119.50	4%	4,284.30	5%	4,498.50
200 - 299 Dwellings	5,490.71	4%	5,710.30	5%	5,995.80
300 - 499 Dwellings		NEW	7,423.05	5%	7,794.20
500 - 749 Dwellings		NEW	9,649.90	5%	10,132.40
750 - 999 Dwellings		NEW	12,544.80	5%	13,172.00
1000 - 1499 Dwellings		NEW	16,308.40	5%	17,123.80
1500 + Dwellings		NEW	21,200.90	5%	22,260.90

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cabinet

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<u>BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL</u>					
<u>Planning and Leisure Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27
Non-residential development (floor space)					
Floor area is measured externally					
Less than 500sqm	381.35	4%	396.60	2%	404.50
500 - 999sqm	687.37	4%	714.90	2%	729.20
1000 - 1999sqm	1,373.56	4%	1,428.50	5%	1,499.90
2000 - 4999sqm	2,744.76	4%	2,854.60	5%	2,997.30
5000 - 9999sqm	3,432.13	4%	3,569.40	5%	3,747.90
10,000 - 14,999sqm	4,119.50	4%	4,284.30	5%	4,498.50
15,000 - 19,999sqm		NEW	5,355.40	5%	5,623.20
20,000 - 24,999sqm		NEW	6,694.20	5%	7,028.90
25,000 - 29,999sqm		NEW	8,367.80	5%	8,786.20
30,000 + sqm		NEW	10,459.70	5%	10,982.70
Non-residential development (site area) where no building operations are proposed					
Less than 0.5ha	413.13	4%	429.70	2%	438.30
0.5 - 0.99ha	823.90	4%	856.90	2%	874.00
1 - 1.25ha	1,373.56	4%	1,428.50	5%	1,499.90
1.26 - 2ha	2,744.76	4%	2,854.60	5%	2,997.30
2 - 2.9ha	4,119.50	4%	4,284.30	5%	4,498.50
3 - 4.9ha		NEW	5,783.80	5%	6,073.00
5 - 9.9ha		NEW	7,808.10	5%	8,198.50
10 - 19.9ha		NEW	10,541.00	5%	11,068.10
20 - 29.9ha		NEW	14,230.20	5%	14,941.70
30 - 39.9ha		NEW	19,210.80	5%	20,171.30
40 - 49.9ha		NEW	25,934.50	5%	27,231.20
50+ ha		NEW	35,011.40	5%	36,762.00
Variation/removal of conditions and engineering operations (flat fee)	254.23	4%	264.40	2%	269.70
Recovering Costs for seeking specialist advice in connection with Planning proposals	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery

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<u>Planning and Leisure Services</u>					
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Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27
<u>Monitoring Fees to be applied to Planning Obligations</u>					
Obligations where the Council is the recipient					
All contributions (financial or non-monetary) - PER OBLIGATION	368.40	4%	383.10	2%	390.80
Pre-commencement trigger - PER OBLIGATION	128.29	4%	133.40	2%	136.10
Other Triggers (Phased Payments/Provision of Infrastructure) - PER TRIGGER POINT	190.67	4%	198.30	2%	202.30
Other obligations (eg. Occupation restrictions or removal of Permitted Development rights) - PER CLAUSE	153.01	4%	159.10	2%	162.30
Specific cost for BNG obligation				NEW	500.00
Obligations for another signatory (eg. Worcestershire County Council)					
All contributions (financial or non-monetary) - PER OBLIGATION	222.45	4%	231.40	2%	236.00
Pre-commencement trigger - PER OBLIGATION	77.68	4%	80.80	2%	82.40
Other Triggers (Phased Payments/Provision of Infrastructure) - PER TRIGGER POINT	114.17	4%	118.70	2%	121.10
Ongoing Monitoring of large sites	507.29	4%	527.60	2%	538.20
Fee Concessions					
Some pre-application advice will still be provided free of charge. For example where the development is for the direct benefit of a disabled person (and as such there would be no fee incurred to make the planning application) or where works relate to a listed building.					
Some advice is provided at a reduced or concessionary rate. If the proposal is being submitted by or is for the benefit of a Parish Council or other Local Authority, then the appropriate fee is reduced by 50%. In addition if the scheme relates to a solely affordable housing scheme, the Applicant is a Registered Social Landlord or Housing Association the fee for pre application advice would also be reduced by 50%.					

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<u>Planning and Leisure Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27
BUILDING CONTROL - VAT AT 20%					
Explanatory notes					
1 Before you build, extend or convert a building to which the building regulations apply, you or your agent must submit a Building regulations application. The charge you have to pay depends on the type of work, the number of separate properties, or the total floor area. You can use the following tables with the current charges regulations to work out the charges. If you have any difficulties, please do not hesitate to call us.					
2 The charges are as follows. Category A: New domestic homes, flats or conversions etc. Category B: Extending or altering existing homes Category C: Any other project including commercial or industrial projects etc.					
Individually determined fees are available for most projects. We would be happy to discuss these with you if you require. In certain cases, we may agree that you can pay charges in instalments. Please contact us for further discussions.					
3 Exemptions and reductions in charges.					
a If your plans have been approved or rejected, you won't have to pay again if you resubmit plans for the same work which has not started, provided you resubmit with 3 years of the original application date.					
b You don't have to pay charges if the work will provide access to a building or is an extension to store medical equipment or provide medical treatment facilities for a disabled person. In order to claim exemption, an application must be supported by appropriate evidence as to the nature of the disabled persons disability. In these regulations, a 'disabled person' is a person who is described under section 29(1) of the National Assistance Act 1948 (as extended by section 8(2) Mental Health Act 1959).					
4 You have to pay VAT for all local authority Building Regulation charges, except for the regularisation charge. VAT is included in the attached fees.					
5. Regularisation applications are available for cases where unauthorised building work was undertaken without an application. Such work can only be regularised where the work was undertaken after October 1985 and not within the last 6 months. The Authority is not obliged to accept Regularisation applications. Regularisation application fees are individually determined. Please contact us to discuss regularisation application fees.					
6. Reversion applications. Where the control of a building project passes from a third party to the Council a reversion application will be required. Reversion application fees are individually determined.					
7. The additional charge refers to electrical works undertaken by a non qualified person who is unable to certify their work to appropriate electrical regulations.					
Other information					
1	These notes are for guidance only and do not replace Statutory Instrument 2010 number 0404 which contains the full statement of the law, and the Scheme of Recovery of Fees dated April 2014.				
2	These guidance notes refer to the charges that you have to pay for building control services within North Worcestershire.				
Telephone payments are accepted. Please contact the relevant payment centre with your address and card details:					
Bromsgrove 01527 881402					

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<u>Planning and Leisure Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27
<u>TABLE A: Standard Charges for the Creation or Conversion to New Housing</u>					
Application Charge	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Regularisation Charge	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Additional Charge	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
<u>TABLE B: Domestic Extensions and alterations to a Single Building (please contact us)</u>					
Application Charge - New	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Regularisation Charge - New	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Additional Charge - New	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Garage Conversion to habitable room					
Application Charge	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Regularisation Charge	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Additional Charge	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Electrical works by non-qualified electrician					
Application Charge	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Regularisation Charge	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery

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Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27
Renovation of thermal element					
Application Charge	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Regularisation Charge	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Installing steel beam(s) within an existing house					
Application Charge	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Regularisation Charge	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Window replacement					
Application Charge	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Regularisation Charge	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Installing a new boiler or wood burner etc.					
Application Charge	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Regularisation Charge	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
<u>TABLE C: All Other works - Alterations and new build</u>					
Application Charge	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Regularisation Charge	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery

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<u>Planning and Leisure Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27
For Office or shop fit outs, installation of a mezzanine floor and all other work where the estimated cost exceeds £50,000, please contact the Building Control Office on 01527 881402 for a competitive quote <u>These charges have been set on the following basis:</u> 1. That the building work does not consist of, or include innovative or high risk construction techniques and / or duration of the building work from commencement to completion does not exceed 12 months 2. That the design and building work is undertaken by a person or company that is competent to carry out the relevant design and building work. If they are not, the building control service may impose supplementary charges. <u>Building Control – Supplementary Charges</u> If you are selling a property that has been extended or altered, you need to provide evidence to prospective purchasers that any relevant building work has been inspected and approved by a Building Control Body. That evidence is in the form of a Building Regulations Completion / Final Certificate and / or an Approval or Initial Notice (called the 'authorised documents' in the Home Information Pack Regulations). Legal entitlement to a Completion Certificate is subject to conditions. In cases where the Council is not told that building work is completed, or the building is occupied without addressing outstanding Building Regulation matters, a certificate is not issued. Despite the best efforts of the Council's Building Control Surveyors, many home owners who undertake building works fail to obtain a Completion Certificate and their application is archived. A fee is payable to re-open archived building regulations applications for the purposes of issuing a completion certificate. Other charges are payable where we are asked to withdraw a Building Regulations application and refund fees, or asked to re-direct inspection fee invoices. Fees are payable in cleared funds before the release of any authorised documents or other actions listed below.					
<u>ARCHIVED APPLICATIONS</u>					
Process request to re-open archived building control file, resolve case and issue completion certificate (Administration Fee)	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Each visit to site in connection with resolving archived building control cases (Per Site Visit)	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery

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Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27
<u>WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS</u>					
Process request	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
<u>With additional fees of:</u>					
Withdraw Building Notice application where no inspections have taken place	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Withdraw Building Notice application where inspections have taken place	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Withdrawn Full Plans application without plans being checked or any site inspections being made	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Withdraw Full Plans application after plan check but before any inspections on site	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Withdraw Full Plans application after plan check and after site inspections made	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
<u>RE-DIRECT INSPECTION FEES / ISSUE COPY DOCUMENTS</u>					
Process request to re-invoice inspection fee to new addressee or issue copies of previously issued Completion Certificates, Plans Approval Notices or Building Notice acceptances.	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
Optional Consultancy Services	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery	N/A	Full Cost Recovery
<u>*Charges Note*</u>					
Under the Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 2010 local authority building control is not permitted to make a profit or loss. The service is to ensure full cost recovery and no more. Any surplus or loss made against expenditure budgets is to be offset against the following years fees and charges setting. In addition, the level of competition from the private sector needs to continually defended against therefore it is proposed to curtail both the extent of fee categories published and to make extensive use of the fact that legislation now allows local authorities to offer site specific quotations for building regulations applications. In addition expenditure of the service has reduced since the creation of a shared service resulting in a reduction in the hourly rate charged by the service. Inspection fees equate to 70% of the total fee payable for a project.					

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Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27
<u>SPORTS DEVELOPMENT</u>					
Community exercise class	4.35	4%	4.50	2%	4.60
Specialised health class	4.35	4%	4.50	2%	4.60
Primary Sports Project (Standard Curriculum)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Primary Sports Project (Specialist Curriculum)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Inclusive activities (hourly rate)	4.12	4%	4.30	2%	4.40
Inclusive activities (90 minute rate)	4.71	4%	4.90	2%	5.00
Inclusive activities (2 hour rate)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Multi Skills clubs					
Community Gymnastics	4.94	4%	5.10	2%	5.20
Couch 2 5k	1.18	4%	1.20	2%	1.20
PSI Falls Prevention	4.35	4%	4.50	2%	4.60
<u>SANDERS PARK</u>					
Tennis Courts (per court per Hour)					
- Adult	9.36	4%	9.70	2%	9.90
- Adult & Junior	8.18	4%	8.50	2%	8.70
- Junior/Senior Citizen	6.24	4%	6.50	2%	6.60
Tennis Courts (per court per 1 and 1/2 Hour)					
- Adult	13.54	4%	14.10	2%	14.40
- Adult & Junior	11.77	4%	12.20	2%	12.40
- Junior/Senior Citizen	10.36	4%	10.80	2%	11.00
Bowls					
- Adult (per hour)	9.89	4%	10.30	2%	10.50
- Junior (per hour)	5.18	4%	5.40	2%	5.50
- Senior Citizen (per hour)	6.83	4%	7.10	2%	7.20
- Adult (season ticket)	64.74	4%	67.30	2%	68.60
- Junior (season ticket)	35.31	4%	36.70	2%	37.40
- Senior Citizen (season ticket)	47.08	4%	49.00	2%	50.00
Hire of Bowls Green Pavillion - half day (4 hours) - new charge	70.62	4%	73.40	2%	74.90
Hire of Bowls Green Pavillion - full day - new charge	105.93	4%	110.20	2%	112.40

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<u>Planning and Leisure Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27
<u>OTHER RECREATION GROUNDS AND OPEN SPACES</u>					
<u>Football</u>					
SENIOR 11 a side with changing					
Match games	68.27	4%	71.00	2%	72.40
SENIOR 11 a side without changing					
Match games	50.02	4%	52.00	2%	53.00
JUNIOR 9 or 11 a side with changing					
Match games	37.66	4%	39.20	2%	40.00
per season (x 12 games)	451.97	4%	470.00	2%	479.40
JUNIOR 9 or 11 a side without changing					
Match games	28.25	4%	29.40	2%	30.00
per season (x 12 games)	338.98	4%	352.50	2%	359.60
MINI FOOTBALL 5 or 7 a side					
Match games	20.60	4%	21.40	2%	21.80
per season (x 12 games)	247.17	4%	257.10	2%	262.20
<u>ALLOTMENTS</u>					
- Rent per acre equivalent to 0.404685 hectares	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
- Rent per 3/4 acre equivalent to 0.303514 hectares	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
- Rent per 1/2 acre equivalent to 0.202342 hectares	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
- Rent per 1/4 acre equivalent to 0.101171 hectares	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
- Rent per 1/16 acre equivalent to 0.25529 hectares	80.74	4%	84.00	2%	85.70
- Rent per 1/32 acre equivalent to 0.01264 hectares	53.91	4%	56.10	2%	57.20

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<u>Planning and Leisure Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27
<u>Events, Open Spaces and Civic Spaces Hire</u>					
<u>£250 - £1500 Bond Payable</u>					
Events					
Commercial Rates					
Small Attendance = 0 to 99					
Per half day	188.32	4%	195.90	2%	199.80
Per Day	341.33	4%	355.00	2%	362.10
Medium Attendance = 100 to 499					
Per half day	264.83	4%	275.40	2%	280.90
Per Day	453.15	4%	471.30	2%	480.70
Large Attendance = 500 to 1999					
Per half day	341.33	4%	355.00	2%	362.10
Per Day	570.85	4%	593.70	2%	605.60
Community Rates					
Small Attendance = 0 to 99					
Per half day	77.68	4%	80.80	2%	82.40
Per Day	126.53	4%	131.60	2%	134.20
Medium Attendance = 100 to 499					
Per half day	95.34	4%	99.20	2%	101.20
Per Day	160.07	4%	166.50	2%	169.80
Large Attendance = 500 to 1999					
Per half day	112.99	4%	117.50	2%	119.90
Per Day	196.56	4%	204.40	2%	208.50

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Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27
<u>Charities / Not For Profit Organisations</u>					
Small Attendance = 0 to 99					
Per half day	52.97	4%	55.10	2%	56.20
Per Day	87.10	4%	90.60	2%	92.40
Medium Attendance = 100 to 499					
Per half day	63.56	4%	66.10	2%	67.40
Per Day	105.34	4%	109.60	2%	111.80
Large Attendance = 500 to 1999					
Per half day	76.51	4%	79.60	2%	81.20
Per Day	139.24	4%	144.80	2%	147.70
<u>Fairs & Circuses Min of 3 day Hire</u>					
Small Attendance = 0 to 99 Per Day	529.65	4%	550.80	2%	561.80
Medium and large attendance more than 99 per day (new Charge)	564.96	4%	587.60	2%	599.40
Boleyn Road, Frankley					
- fairs (per day)	557.66	4%	580.00	2%	591.60
- deposit	2,550.21	4%	2,652.20	2%	2,705.20
Market Street Recreation Ground					
- fairs (per day)	561.84	4%	584.30	2%	596.00
- deposit	2,574.98	4%	2,678.00	2%	2,731.60
One free day is allowed for each of the above bookings by fairs/circuses. Other hiring's – charge to be decided at the time of application. Football pitches and parks are not available for any organised football activity during the period June 1st to July 15th. This is to allow the pitches a rest period and for maintenance work to take place. After this date any organised football training must be paid for at a cost of £10 per session for one team and a negotiated price for more than one team. Please contact the Parks Team to book this, pitches will be allocated at our discretion.					

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Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27
Ø Set up and Clearance charged @ 50% of applicable rate Ø Any event in excess of 1999 attendees is STN Event - Officer Support for event (per hour) Power and Water Supply Additional Charges Additional Costs for Outdoor Fitness Space: Ø Set up and Clearance charged @ 50% of applicable rate <u>Outdoor Fitness Session</u> Commercial Rates (Per Day) Summer Fee (Apr to Sept) One day maximum usage per week Summer Fee (Apr to Sept) Two days maximum usage per week Summer Fee (Apr to Sept) Three days maximum usage per week Winter Fee (Oct to Mar) One day maximum usage per week Winter Fee (Oct to Mar) Two days maximum usage per week Winter Fee (Oct to Mar) Three days maximum usage per week Annual Fee One day maximum usage per week Annual Fee Two days maximum usage per week Annual Fee Three days maximum usage per week Community Rates (Per Day) Summer Fee (Apr to Sept) One day maximum usage per week Summer Fee (Apr to Sept) Two days maximum usage per week Summer Fee (Apr to Sept) Three days maximum usage per week Winter Fee (Oct to Mar) One day maximum usage per week Winter Fee (Oct to Mar) Two days maximum usage per week Winter Fee (Oct to Mar) Three days maximum usage per week Annual Fee One day maximum usage per week Annual Fee Two days maximum usage per week Annual Fee Three days maximum usage per week Trial fee (1 day per week - MAX 4 week trial) The Bird Box Use of Power connection	Full Cost Recovery Full Cost Recovery 488.46 788.59 853.33 243.64 488.46 729.74 635.58 1,035.76 1,235.85 241.29 361.34 423.72 96.51 241.29 361.34 300.14 541.42 602.62 123.59 2.00	N/A N/A 4%	Full Cost Recovery Full Cost Recovery 508.00 820.10 887.50 253.40 508.00 758.90 661.00 1,077.20 1,285.30 250.90 375.80 440.70 100.40 250.90 375.80 312.10 563.10 626.70 128.50 2.10	N/A N/A 2% 2% 2% 2% 2% 2% 2% 2% 2% 2% 2% 2% 2% 2% 2% 2% 2% 2%	Full Cost Recovery Full Cost Recovery 518.20 836.50 905.30 258.50 518.20 774.10 674.20 1,098.70 1,311.00 255.90 383.30 449.50 102.40 255.90 383.30 318.30 574.40 639.20 131.10 2.10

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<u>Regeneration Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26 £	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27 £
<u>CAR PARKS</u>					
Churchfields Multi-storey					
Not exceeding 30 minutes	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00
Not exceeding one hour	0.80	0%	0.80	0%	0.80
Not exceeding two hours	1.60	0%	1.60	0%	1.60
Not exceeding three hours	2.40	0%	2.40	0%	2.40
All day	3.00	0%	3.00	0%	3.00
New Road					
Not exceeding 30 minutes	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00
Not exceeding one hour	1.00	0%	1.00	0%	1.00
Not exceeding two hours	1.90	0%	1.90	0%	1.90
Not exceeding three hours	2.90	0%	2.90	0%	2.90
All day	6.00	0%	6.00	0%	6.00
North Bromsgrove					
Not exceeding 30 minutes	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00
Not exceeding one hour	1.00	0%	1.00	0%	1.00
Not exceeding two hours	1.90	0%	1.90	0%	1.90
Not exceeding three hours	2.90	0%	2.90	0%	2.90
All day	6.00	0%	6.00	0%	6.00
Parkside					
Not exceeding 30 minutes	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00
Not exceeding one hour	1.00	0%	1.00	0%	1.00
Not exceeding two hours	1.90	0%	1.90	0%	1.90
Not exceeding three hours	2.90	0%	2.90	0%	2.90
All day	6.00	0%	6.00	0%	6.00

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<u>BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL</u>					
<u>Regeneration Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26 £	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27 £
School Drive					
Not exceeding 30 minutes	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00
Not exceeding one hour	1.00	0%	1.00	0%	1.00
Not exceeding two hours	1.90	0%	1.90	0%	1.90
Not exceeding three hours	2.90	0%	2.90	0%	2.90
All day	6.00	0%	6.00	0%	6.00
Stourbridge Road					
Not exceeding 30 minutes	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00
Not exceeding one hour	1.00	0%	1.00	0%	1.00
Not exceeding two hours	1.90	0%	1.90	0%	1.90
Not exceeding three hours	2.90	0%	2.90	0%	2.90
All day	6.00	0%	6.00	0%	6.00
Recreation Road South					
Not exceeding 30 minutes	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00
Not exceeding one hour	1.00	0%	1.00	0%	1.00
Not exceeding two hours	2.00	0%	2.00	0%	2.00
Not exceeding three hours	3.00	0%	3.00	0%	3.00
Not exceeding four hours	4.00	0%	4.00	0%	4.00
Not exceeding five hours	5.00	0%	5.00	0%	5.00
Not exceeding Six hours	8.00	0%	8.00	0%	8.00
Not exceeding Severn hours	10.60	0%	10.60	0%	10.60
all day	11.00	0%	11.00	0%	11.00
Windsor Street					
Not exceeding 30 minutes	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00
Not exceeding one hour	1.30	0%	1.30	0%	1.30
Not exceeding two hours	2.50	0%	2.50	0%	2.50
Not exceeding three hours	3.80	0%	3.80	0%	3.80
St John Street					
Not exceeding 30 minutes	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00
Not exceeding one hour	1.00	0%	1.00	0%	1.00
Not exceeding two hours	2.50	0%	2.50	0%	2.50
Not exceeding three hours	3.80	0%	3.80	0%	3.80

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<u>BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL</u>					
<u>Regeneration Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26 £	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27 £
Season Tickets (valid at long stay car parks only)					
Annual	320.00	0%	320.00	0%	320.00
Quarterly	80.00	0%	80.00	0%	80.00
Season Tickets (valid at Churchfields Road car park only)					
Annual	215.00	0%	215.00	0%	215.00
Quarterly	53.75	0%	53.75	0%	53.75
Parking Fines PCN's On Street					
Certain Contraventions	70.00	N/A	70.00	N/A	70.00
If paid within fourteen days	35.00	N/A	35.00	N/A	35.00
Other contraventions	50.00	N/A	50.00	N/A	50.00
If paid within fourteen days	25.00	N/A	25.00	N/A	25.00
Parking Fines PCN's Off Street					
Certain Contraventions	70.00	N/A	70.00	N/A	70.00
If paid within fourteen days	35.00	N/A	35.00	N/A	35.00
Other contraventions	50.00	N/A	50.00	N/A	50.00
If paid within fourteen days	25.00	N/A	25.00	N/A	25.00
<i><u>These charges will increase if the charge remains unpaid after the 28 days given on the NTO (Notice to Owner)</u></i>					
Car Park charges apply everyday					

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<u>BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL</u>					
<u>Regeneration Services</u>					
Roundings are generally rounded to the nearest 10p.					
Service Category	Actual Charge 24/25 £	Actual Increase 25/26	Actual Charge 25/26 £	Charge Increase 26/27	Proposed Charge 26/27 £
<u>Property Services</u>					
Minor Land Sales Request for Information	84.70	4%	88.10	2%	89.90
Minor Land Sales Full Application	579.10	4%	602.30	2%	614.30
Advertising - Estimated Fee per Advert	423.70	4%	440.60	2%	449.40
Surveyors Fees - Estimated Fee	105.90	4%	110.10	2%	112.30

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL LICENSING FEES AND CHARGES			
	Actual Charge 24/25	Actual Charge 25/26	Proposed Charge 26/27
TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE			
Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence	£278.60	£289.70	£298.00
Private Hire Vehicle Licence	£258.40	£268.70	£277.00
Temporary Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence	£209.00	£217.40	£224.00
Temporary Private Hire Vehicle Licence	£193.80	£201.60	£208.00
Private Hire Operator Licence (5 year)	£1,262.80	£1,313.30	£1,353.00
Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Driver Licence (3 year)	£261.80	£272.30	£280.00
Knowledge Test	£25.90	£26.90	£28.00
Replacement vehicle licence plate	£25.90	£26.90	£28.00
Replacement driver's licence	£23.60	£24.50	£25.00
Transfer of ownership of a licensed vehicle	£42.70	£44.40	£46.00
Criminal Record (DBS) Check	£62.90	£65.40	£67.00
 ANIMAL ACTIVITY LICENCES			
Hiring out horses, breeding of dogs, providing or arranging the provision of boarding for cats or dogs and selling animals as pets			
Application fee	£355.00	£365.70	£377.00
Licence fee (1 year)	£199.00	£205.00	£211.00
Licence fee (2 years)	£393.00	£404.80	£417.00
Licence fee (3 years)	£590.00	£607.70	£626.00
Application to vary a licence	£259.00	£266.80	£275.00
Veterinary fees (if applicable)			Recovered at cost
Local authority inspection (on request of licence holder)	£177.00	£182.30	£187.00

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL LICENSING FEES AND CHARGES			
	Actual Charge 24/25	Actual Charge 25/26	Proposed Charge 26/27
ANIMAL ACTIVITY FRANCHISE			
Application fee			£377.00
Application to vary a licence			£275.00
Inspection Fee (per hour)			£187.00
Keeping or training animals for exhibition (only)			
Application fee	£237.00	£244.10	£251.00
Licence fee (3 years)	£324.00	£333.70	£344.00
Application to vary a licence	£170.00	£175.10	£180.00
Veterinary fees (if applicable)			Recovered at cost
Local authority inspection (on request of licence holder)	£177.00	£182.30	£187.00
Keeping of Primates			
Application for grant of a licence (3 years)			£366.00
Application for renewal of a licence			£300.00
Application for variation of a licence			£267.00
Inspection fees			£182.00
Vet inspection fees			Recovered at cost
ACUPUNCTURE, COSMETIC PIERCING, SEMI-PERMANENT SKIN COLOURING, TATTOOING, ELECTROLYSIS			
Fee to register a premises	£152.80	£158.90	£164.00
Fee to register a practitioner	£100.00	£104.00	£107.00
Application to vary a licence			£74.00
GAMBLING ACT 2005 (inc. SMALL LOTTERIES)			
Small society lotteries			
Fee to register a small society lottery	£40.00	£40.00	£40.00
Small society lottery annual maintenance fee	£20.00	£20.00	£20.00

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL LICENSING FEES AND CHARGES			
	Actual Charge 24/25	Actual Charge 25/26	Proposed Charge 26/27
Application for the grant of a premises licence			
Betting (excluding tracks)	£1,978.50	£2,057.60	£2,119.00
Betting Tracks	£1,650.50	£1,716.50	£1,768.00
Bingo	£2,371.80	£2,466.70	£2,541.00
Adult Gaming Centres	£1,354.90	£1,409.10	£1,451.00
Family Entertainment Centres	£1,354.90	£1,409.10	£1,451.00
Premises licence annual fees			
Betting (excluding tracks)	£407.90	£424.20	£437.00
Betting Tracks	£678.60	£705.70	£727.00
Bingo	£678.60	£705.70	£727.00
Adult Gaming Centres	£678.60	£705.70	£727.00
Family Entertainment Centres	£510.10	£530.50	£546.00
Application to vary a premises licence			
Betting (excluding tracks)	£1,017.90	£1,058.60	£1,090.00
Betting Tracks	£847.10	£881.00	£907.00
Bingo	£1,189.80	£1,237.40	£1,275.00
Adult Gaming Centres	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Family Entertainment Centres	£786.50	£818.00	£843.00
Application to transfer a premises licence			
Betting (excluding tracks)	£811.20	£843.60	£869.00
Betting Tracks	£643.80	£669.60	£690.00
Bingo	£812.30	£844.80	£870.00
Adult Gaming Centres	£811.20	£843.60	£869.00
Family Entertainment Centres	£643.80	£669.60	£690.00

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL LICENSING FEES AND CHARGES			
	Actual Charge 24/25	Actual Charge 25/26	Proposed Charge 26/27
Application for a provisional statement			
Betting (excluding tracks)	£1,978.50	£2,057.60	£2,119.00
Betting Tracks	£1,650.50	£1,716.50	£1,768.00
Bingo	£2,371.80	£2,466.70	£2,541.00
Adult Gaming Centres	£1,354.90	£1,409.10	£1,451.00
Family Entertainment Centres	£1,354.90	£1,409.10	£1,451.00
Application for the grant of a premises licence (provisional statement holders)			
Betting (excluding tracks)	£833.60	£866.90	£893.00
Betting Tracks	£833.60	£866.90	£893.00
Bingo	£837.10	£870.60	£897.00
Adult Gaming Centres	£837.10	£870.60	£897.00
Family Entertainment Centres	£696.60	£724.50	£746.00
Application for reinstatement of a premises licence			
Betting (excluding tracks)	£790.90	£822.50	£847.00
Betting Tracks	£631.40	£656.70	£676.00
Bingo	£790.90	£822.50	£847.00
Adult Gaming Centres	£790.90	£822.50	£847.00
Family Entertainment Centres	£631.40	£656.70	£676.00
Premises licence fees (miscellaneous)			
Copy of a premises licence (all types)	£25.00	£25.00	£25.00
Notification of a change in respect of a premises licence (all types)	£50.00	£50.00	£50.00
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits			
Application for grant of a permit	£150.00	£150.00	£150.00
Application for variation of a permit	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00
Application for the transfer of a permit	£25.00	£25.00	£25.00
Annual permit fee	£50.00	£50.00	£50.00
Change of name shown on a permit	£25.00	£25.00	£25.00
Request for a copy of a permit	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL LICENSING FEES AND CHARGES			
	Actual Charge 24/25	Actual Charge 25/26	Proposed Charge 26/27
Licensed Premises Gaming Machines (Automatic Entitlement)			
Fee to serve notification	£50.00	£50.00	£50.00
Club Gaming Permits			
Application for grant of a permit	£200.00	£200.00	£200.00
Application for grant of a permit (Club premises certificate holders)	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00
Application for variation of a permit	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00
Application for renewal of a permit	£200.00	£200.00	£200.00
Application for renewal of a permit (club premises certificate holders)	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00
Annual permit fee	£50.00	£50.00	£50.00
Request for a copy of a permit	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00
Club Machine Permits			
Application for grant of a permit	£200.00	£200.00	£200.00
Application for grant of a permit (Club premises certificate holders)	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00
Application for variation of a permit	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00
Application for renewal of a permit	£200.00	£200.00	£200.00
Application for renewal of a permit (club premises certificate holders)	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00
Annual permit fee	£50.00	£50.00	£50.00
Request for a copy of a permit	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00
Family Entertainment Centre Gaming Machine Permit			
Application for grant of a permit	£300.00	£300.00	£300.00
Application for renewal of a permit	£300.00	£300.00	£300.00
Change of name shown on a permit	£25.00	£25.00	£25.00
Request for a copy of a permit	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL LICENSING FEES AND CHARGES			
	Actual Charge 24/25	Actual Charge 25/26	Proposed Charge 26/27
Prize Gaming Permits			
Application for grant of a permit	£300.00	£300.00	£300.00
Application for renewal of a permit	£300.00	£300.00	£300.00
Change of name shown on a permit	£25.00	£25.00	£25.00
Request for a copy of a permit	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00
Temporary Use Notices			
Fee to serve a Temporary Use Notice	£307.10	£319.40	£329.00
Request for a copy of a Temporary Use Notice	£25.00	£25.00	£25.00
STREET TRADING			
Annual street trading consent - food - initial	£1,625.80	£1,690.80	£1,742.00
Annual street trading consent - food - renewal	£1,490.90	£1,550.50	£1,597.00
Annual street trading consent - non-food - initial	£1,356.10	£1,410.30	£1,453.00
Annual street trading consent - non-food - renewal	£1,220.10	£1,268.90	£1,307.00
Day licence			£80.00
Consecutive day fee			£25.00
SCRAP METAL DEALERS LICENCES			
Application for a new site licence	£311.00	£320.30	£330.00
Fee per additional site	£160.00	£164.80	£170.00
Application for renewal of a site licence	£257.00	£264.70	£273.00
Fee per additional site	£170.00	£175.10	£180.00
Application for a new collectors licence	£155.00	£159.70	£165.00
Application for renewal of a collectors licence	£102.00	£105.10	£108.00
Variation of a licence	£70.00	£72.10	£74.00
Request for a copy of a licence (if lost or stolen)	£27.00	£27.80	£29.00

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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL LICENSING FEES AND CHARGES			
	Actual Charge 24/25	Actual Charge 25/26	Proposed Charge 26/27
ZOO LICENCES			
Application for grant or renewal of a licence	£267.50	£278.20	£287.00
Secretary of state inspector and veterinary fees	Recovered at cost	Recovered at cost	Recovered at cost
DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS (DWA)			
Application for grant or renewal of a licence	£251.50	£261.60	£269.00
Inspector and Vet's fees (for every inspection)	Recovered at cost	Recovered at cost	Recovered at cost
SEX ESTABLISHMENTS			
Application for grant or renewal of a licence	£1,091.40	£1,135.10	£1,169.00
Application for transfer of licence	£535.00	£556.40	£573.00
Application for variation of licence	£1,091.40	£1,135.10	£1,169.00
PAVEMENT LICENCES			
Application for a new pavement licence - 2 years		£500.00	£500.00
Application for a renewal pavement licence - 2 years		£350.00	£350.00
HYPNOTISM			
Application for authorisation	£53.50	£55.60	£57.00
An admin charge will be payable on receipt of refund request for any type of licence			£30.00

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LICENSING ACT 2003 - FEES SET BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT - SAME FOR ALL DISTRICT COUNCILS

Temporary Event Notices

Fee to serve a Temporary Event Notice (TEN)	£21.00
Copy of a TEN (if lost or stolen)	£10.50

Personal licences

Application for the grant of a personal licence	£37.00
Fee for a replacement personal licence (if lost or stolen)	£10.50
Fee to notify a change of name or address on a personal licence	£10.50

Applications for new premises licences or club premises certificates

Applications for the grant of a premises licence or club premises certificate	
Band A (NDRV 0 - 4300)	£100.00
Band B (NDRV 4301 - 33000)	£190.00
Band C (NDRV 33001 - 87000)	£315.00
Band D (NDRV 87001 - 125000)	£450.00
Band E (NDRV 125001 +)	£635.00

Applications for the grant of a premises licence or club premises certificate (where the premises is used exclusively or primarily for the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises)

Band A (NDRV 0 - 4300)	£100.00
Band B (NDRV 4301 - 33000)	£190.00
Band C (NDRV 33001 - 87000)	£315.00
Band D (NDRV 87001 - 125000)	£900.00
Band E (NDRV 125001 +)	£1,905.00

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LICENSING ACT 2003 - FEES SET BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT - SAME FOR ALL DISTRICT COUNCILS

Additional fees for grant of a premises licences (for large venues with capacities over 5000)

5000 - 9999	£1,000.00
10000 - 14999	£2,000.00
15000 - 19999	£4,000.00
20000 - 29999	£8,000.00
30000 - 39999	£16,000.00
40000 - 49999	£24,000.00
50000 - 59999	£32,000.00
60000 - 69999	£40,000.00
70000 - 79999	£48,000.00
80000 - 89999	£56,000.00

Applications to vary premises licences and club premises certificates

Applications to vary a premises licence or club premises certificate

Band A (NDRV 0 - 4300)	£100.00
Band B (NDRV 4301 - 33000)	£190.00
Band C (NDRV 33001 - 87000)	£315.00
Band D (NDRV 87001 - 125000)	£450.00
Band E (NDRV 125001 +)	£635.00

Applications to vary a premises licence (where the premises is used exclusively or primarily for the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises)

Band A (NDRV 0 - 4300)	£100.00
Band B (NDRV 4301 - 33000)	£190.00
Band C (NDRV 33001 - 87000)	£315.00
Band D (NDRV 87001 - 125000)	£900.00
Band E (NDRV 125001 +)	£1,905.00

Application for a minor variation of a premises licence or club premises certificate	£89.00
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LICENSING ACT 2003 - FEES SET BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT - SAME FOR ALL DISTRICT COUNCILS

Annual maintenance fees

Annual premises licence or club premises certificate fee

Band A (NDRV 0 - 4300)	£70.00
Band B (NDRV 4301 - 33000)	£180.00
Band C (NDRV 33001 - 87000)	£295.00
Band D (NDRV 87001 - 125000)	£320.00
Band E (NDRV 125001 +)	£350.00

Annual premises licence (where the premises is used exclusively or primarily for the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises)

Band A (NDRV 0 - 4300)	£70.00
Band B (NDRV 4301 - 33000)	£180.00
Band C (NDRV 33001 - 87000)	£295.00
Band D (NDRV 87001 - 125000)	£640.00
Band E (NDRV 125001 +)	£1,050.00

Additional annual fees premises licences (for large venues with capacities over 5000)

5000 - 9999	£500.00
10000 - 14999	£1,000.00
15000 - 19999	£2,000.00
20000 - 29999	£4,000.00
30000 - 39999	£8,000.00
40000 - 49999	£12,000.00
50000 - 59999	£16,000.00
60000 - 69999	£20,000.00
70000 - 79999	£24,000.00
80000 - 89999	£28,000.00

Other applications and notifications

Application to transfer a premises licence	£23.00
Application to vary a premises licence to nominate a premises supervisor	£23.00
Fee to change name or address of the holder of a premises licence	£10.50
Fee to change the name or address of a designated premises supervisor on a premises licence	£10.50
Fee for a replacement premises licence or club premises certificate (if lost or stolen)	£10.50
Fee to notify licensing authority of a property interest in a premises	£21.00
Notification of change or club name or alteration to club rules	£10.50
Notification of change of registered address of club	£10.50
Interim authority notice following death, incapacity or insolvency of licence holder	£23.00
Application for grant of a provisional statement	£315.00

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Bromsgrove District Council - Budget Consultation for 2026/27

This survey was launched to give residents/businesses of Bromsgrove District an opportunity to have their say on how the Council should spend the money it has available and where it should prioritise spending.

The survey ran from 20 November 2025 to 2 January 2026. An invite was sent directly to all members of the Community Panel and links were sent to partners to share with their contacts and the survey was publicised in local media and numerous times on social media.

A total of 138 valid surveys were returned from the panel, resulting in a response rate of 33%, which is a significant drop from the previous year, where there was a 48% response rate from the panel. A total of 85 surveys were received from the general public.

The final figure of **223 completed surveys** for analysis, which is lower than last year, where there were 278 valid responses. There was also at least one response from every area within the district.

Question 1: Are you a resident of Bromsgrove District and/or have a business based here?

99.1% of respondents were a resident of the district.

3.6% of respondents had a business based in the district.

Question 2: Please tell us where you live or where your business is located. (Please note, if you live and have a business in the District, please only tell us where you live)

There was at least one response from every area within the district, ranging from Rubery North (1) to Bromsgrove Central and Aston Fields (24 responses respectively).

Question 3: How important are the current Bromsgrove District Council priorities to you?

- Economic Development: Extremely important = 36.2%
- Environment: Extremely important = 52.7%
- Housing: Extremely important = 23.2%
- Infrastructure: Extremely important = 55%

The comments for this question mostly fell into three main topics:

- Infrastructure
 - Insufficient infrastructure for new housing developments (GPs, school places), impact of traffic congestion and roadworks, maintenance of existing infrastructure (roads, paths, parks/open spaces, areas at risk of flooding), need for better public transport.
- Housing

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- Too many houses being built, need to build on brown field sites
- Environment
 - Environment being damaged by development, lack of prioritisation of the environment, concerns regarding climate change (both those supporting more work in this area and others feeling this should not be prioritised at all).

Question 4: Which services do you think it is important for the Council to invest in?

The top three areas for investment were:

1. Local economic development & employment = 44.8%
2. Maintenance of the landscape & environment = 44.3%
3. Community safety = 43%

The top three remains the same as the previous survey (although numbers 2 and 3 were reversed).

Of the small numbers of comments regarding this question, infrastructure was the main concern, in particular roads and public transport.

Question 5: How important are the following council services to you when considering how Bromsgrove District Council manages its budget?

The top three services when considering the budget were:

1. Environmental Services = 78.2%
2. Planning & Leisure Services = 68.6%
3. Regeneration & Property = 63.2%

Council Service	Extremely or very important
Business Transformation & Organisational Development	32%
Community & Housing Services	56.7%
Corporate Services	13.7%
Environmental Services	78.2%
Financial & Customer Services	50.2%
Legal, Democratic & Elections Services	32.7%
Planning & Leisure Services	68.6%
Regeneration & Property	63.2%
Regulatory Services	33%

Question 6: Do you support fees and charges (such as hire costs) rising by 4% to keep them in line with inflation and rising staffing costs?

- Agree = 46.8%
- Disagree = 26.6%

Strongly agree	9.5%
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Agree	37.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	26.6%
Disagree	14.9%
Strongly disagree	11.7%

Question 7: In order to maintain services, what level of increase to Bromsgrove District Council's proportion of Council Tax do you support?

- Increase of 1.99%
 - Agree = 59.1%
 - Disagree = 21.2%
- Increase of 2.99%
 - Agree = 37.5%
 - Disagree = 47.1%

Question 8: Please let us know your suggestions for investing in the District to increase prosperity and enhance appeal for residents and businesses alike

Responses to this question provided many suggestions and comments regarding the district. The top three themes were the importance of infrastructure (roads, public transport, amenities, impact of development), Bromsgrove Town Centre, and supporting businesses. These topics were also the top three in the previous survey, suggesting consistency in both the public's priorities and areas of concern. These themes had many cross overs, from the impact of traffic (in particular the BREP), encouraging a diverse range of businesses into the town and reducing costs to businesses.

Suggestions included:

- Reducing business rates / relief
- Reducing parking costs (or make it free)
- Supporting independent retailers
- Bringing in key major retailers
- Understanding offer on High Street- too many charity shops, cafes, hair & vaping businesses
- Utilise empty shops
- Improve the market
- Make the town vibrant, attractive & distinctive- develop attractions, encourage visitors
- Improve the appearance & maintenance of the high street
- Improved public transport
- Ensure a district-wide view

Question 9: Please let us know any other comments on the budget or ideas for reducing costs or increasing income to ensure Council services remain sustainable

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Of the responses to this question, as with the previous year, the largest category fell into the theme of efficiency and value for money. Other themes included infrastructure and suggestions for commercial activity.

Suggestions included:

- Stop expenses (in particular Councillors)
- Review staffing & wages (in particular management)
- Reduce waste
- Effective procurement
- Focus on essential services
- Effective maintenance
- Do more online
- Utilise technology, including AI
- Measure effectiveness and VfM
- Explore alternative methods of delivery e.g. partnerships, consolidation of services, VCS, franchises
- Reduce use of consultants
- Commercial opportunities e.g. better events
- Reduce events
- Promote events better to increase revenue
- Community use of buildings
- Increase enforcement e.g. fly tipping & littering
- Better coordination around highways and roadworks

Question 10: What is your current housing status?

- 89.1% of respondents either owned their homes outright or had a mortgage

Question 11: Which of the following best describes our age?

- 57.8% of respondents were 60 or over

16-19yrs	1.4%
20-29yrs	1.4%
30-39yrs	7.8%
40-49yrs	10.1%
50-59yrs	18.8%
60-69yrs	26.6%
70-79yrs	23.9%
80+ years	7.3%
Prefer not to say	2.8%

Question 12: Do you have any long-standing health condition or disability?

- Yes = 27.9%
- No = 66.7%

Question 13: Which of the following best describes your gender?

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- Female = 42.5%
- Male = 52.1%

Question 14: Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

- Yes = 94.9%
- No = 0%
- Prefer not to say = 5.1%

Question 15: Which best describes your ethnicity?

White English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	94.5%
Any other White background	0.5%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	0.5%
Asian or Asian British	0.0%
Black, African, Caribbean or Black British Arab	0.0%
Prefer not to say	3.7%
Other ethnic group (please specify):	0.9%

Question 16: Which of the following best describes your religion or belief?

Atheist	12.8%
Buddhist	0.0%
Christian	53.9%
Humanist	1.4%
Hindu	0.0%
Jewish	0.0%
Muslim	0.5%
Pagan	1.4%
Sikh	0.0%
No religion/belief	22.4%
Prefer not to say	4.6%
Other (please specify):	3.2%