

Budget notes for 2026/27 - Draft 3 - January 2026

Summary January 2026:

Minor adjustments

- Amended categories in budget for current year 25-26 to reflect transfers of funds agreed at November meeting, updated current figures to 31/12/25, estimated to year-end figures, and added a tax base calculator sheet.

Figures

- ~~Draft 2 of the budget suggests a precept of £11,796.00, which would be an increase of £717 or 6.47% in total precept.~~
- **Draft 3 of the budget suggests a precept of £11,496.00, which would be an increase of £417 or 3.76% in total precept.**
- ~~However, the **tax base has decreased** by 1.41 so it will present a charge of £106.67 per year for each Band D household, an increase of £7.75, or **7.83%**.~~
- **However, the tax base has decreased by 1.41 so it will present a charge of £103.96 per year for each Band D household, an increase of £5.03, or 5.09%.**
- **Tax Base calculator from HDC has not been formatted properly, please see tax base sheet on budget for correct percentages.**

Increases and decreases

- The increase is mostly due to the cost of grass cutting VAT (£399), and general minor increases in costs (grass cutting net cost, clerk salary, bank charges, etc).
- ~~Suggested categories to reduce would be: Insurance, Neighbourhood Plan.~~
- ~~There is also the option to reduce ICT, Village Improvements and/or Street Furniture Maintenance as there are funds in Reserves for these.~~
- **Reduced Insurance from £450 to £400, reduced Street Furniture Maintenance from £300 to £100, reduced Village Improvements from £150 to £100, after feedback from Councillors.**
- I am unsure if ink for newsletter will be used, and also Charles Arnold Baker will probably not be purchased.

Reserves

- Total balance brought forward 01/04/2025: £8,673.41
- Total balance predicted to carry forward 31/03/2026: £9,263.83

There have been funds this year that are predicted to not be used (£590.42). Some of these funds could be added to reserves for ICT, Village Improvements, Street Furniture, etc, meaning the below budget for those categories could be reduced.

Key:

~~Red strikethrough~~ = on first draft, has been replaced with updated information

Bold = new figures/final figures used

Green highlight = amendments for Draft 3

Income

Interest savings	Reduced expected interest as the interest rate has gone down from 1.1% to 1% Further reduced expected interest as interest on MHBS account has gone down again from 1% to 0.8%
Grass Cutting LCC	Email from LCC to say that the a new Service Level Agreement is being put in place for the next three years 2026-28. Increase will be 10.7% on the current amount, £455.91 reimbursement per year.
VAT refund	This is without any of the grass cutting VAT. LRALC have advised to clear the VAT for the grass cutting (2024 and 2025 seasons) separately within this financial year.

Payments

Clerk's Salary	<p>Last year inflation was 3.6% and pay rise was 3.2%. Inflation seems to be approx. 2.5%. Suggest applying a 3% increase just in case: Total: £3,714.43 Round up: £3,720</p> <p>The LRALC "budget setting and precept" session advised presenting various percentage increases for salary, but were unable to say which percentage would be best to use. SLCC have advised that 4 or 5% would be a better estimate due to NMW going up 4.1%, ONS figure for wage growth being 5% in 2025 Q4, and the CPI being close to 4%.</p> <p>4% increase: £3,750.49 5% increase: £3,786.55</p> <p>For the budget I have used the 4% figure rounded up to £3,755.</p>
Stationery	<p>Ink for Clerk (~£20 inc. VAT per cartridge): Ex. VAT: 4 x £16.67 = £66.68</p> <p>Paper for Clerk (~£6 inc. VAT per 500 pages): Ex. VAT: 3 x £5 = £15.00</p> <p>Ink for newsletter (£75 unsure if this will be used and if it's inc. or ex. VAT) £75.00</p> <p>Charles Arnold Baker (probably will not be buying, but just in case, for example if EL want the current one back. Unsure if VATable): £225.00</p> <p>Charles Arnold Baker purchased on SLCC website is £144+£5.40 delivery = £149.40</p> <p>Total: £306.08 Round up: £310</p>

Memberships/Subscriptions	<p>LRALC: LRALC went up by £5 this year from £250 to £255. Suggest £265? (Although they have a history of some strange increases, not really based on anything. Will have accurate figure for January meeting). Confirmed: £255</p> <p>NALC: NALC have announced their fee will increase by 3.6% next year. Will be £15.21. NALC subscription for 2026-2027 from 8.34p per elector to 8.6p per elector. Tur Langton had 176 electors in 2024. Have not had 2025 figure provided yet. Since the difference between estimates is very minor, and there are new properties occupied I have budgeted for an electorate of 200 to be very safe, so £17.20.</p> <p>SLCC: Was £110 this year, it is dependent on my earnings so I don't know how much it increased based on previous year. Suggest £120. Confirmed: £116</p> <p>$£255 + £17.20 + £116 = £388.20$ Round up to £390</p>
GDPR / ICO	Is expected to stay that the current rate of £47 when paid by Direct Debit.
Hall Hire	Presume the same £40.
Internal Audit Fees	<p>Leave as £220 the same as this year.</p> <p>Actual was £200 for this year.</p>
Training	<p>Training is the budget where most of the shortfalls from this year have been taken.</p> <p>It started at £350 this year, but has gone down to £258. The only training used this year will be one course for the Clerk.</p> <p>Potential training to happen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Councillor (if a new Councillor) - £50 (may potentially be this financial year instead) • New Chair (if a new Chair) - £50 • Maybe one LRALC course for Clerk - £50 • Clerk undecided on CiLCA (?) (part of cost could possibly be covered by a grant)
Insurance	<p>Was £342.19 this year which includes everything and the full amount for the speed signs.</p> <p>Reduced from £450 to £400.</p>
137 Spend	£25 for RBL donation or another poppy wreath.

Grass Cutting	<p>Leicestershire Gardens quotation: £125/cut and £35/trim (ex. VAT); presuming same amount of cuts and strims:</p> <p>125 * 15 = £1875 35 * 3 = £105 Total: £1980</p> <p>Leicestershire Gardens quotation: £125/cut and £35/trim (ex. VAT)</p> <p>14 cuts = £125 * 14 = £1,750 7 strims = £35 * 7 = £245</p> <p>Total: £1,995</p>
Street Furniture Maintenance	<p>Nothing spent this year. £200 in reserve.</p> <p>Reduced from £300 to £100.</p>
Village Improvements	<p>Nothing spent this year. £450 in reserve.</p> <p>Reduced from £150 to £100.</p>
Loan Repayment	£3,343.74 as usual.
Phone	<p>Will continue to roll over on a monthly contract at £4.40 (£3.67 ex. VAT)</p> <p>3.67 * 12 = £44.04</p> <p>Round up to £60 in case of a surprise price increase.</p>
ICT (website, email domain, cloud)	<p>Namecheap: approx £45 depending on cost and exchange rate. This year it was £36.94, but this is dependent on USD exchange rate.</p> <p>OneDrive: Was £16.66 (£19.99 ex. VAT) this year, may increase. A likely increase would be to £20.82 (£24.99 ex. VAT)</p> <p>Wix paid for up until 2027 - no charge.</p> <p>The IT reserve is £200. It might be worth keeping more in this category to build up funds in case .gov.uk becomes mandatory. Also, to include IT failures/repairs/replacements. And also for the next Wix payment.</p> <p>£45 + £20.82 = £65.82 of definite costs</p> <p>For the budget I have left the total as the same at £350.</p>
Election Expenses	Keep the same at £140.
Chair's Allowance	Keep the same at £30.
Travel	Unused this year. Keep the same at £30 in case of any travel claims by Cllrs or Clerk.
Defibrillator	<p>£176.00</p> <p>£126 for or defib maintenance and £50 if you would like to run defib awareness again next year (early 2027).</p>

Neighbourhood Plan	<p>Leave the same at £200.</p> <p>Any additional website hours for Clerk could be taken from here if any further improvements could be made.</p>
VAT	<p>Ink: £3.33 * 4 = £13.32 Paper: £1 * 3 = £3 Phone: £0.73 * 12 = £8.76 OneDrive: £4.17 Defib: £25.20</p> <p>Grass cutting if 14 cuts/7 strims: £399</p> <p>Total: £453.45 Rounded up to £454 (using Excel to round up - makes calculating any grass cutting changes easier)</p>
Electricity for road signs	<p>£20 again. The £20 from this year will be added to the MVAS reserve in case they want to start charging for it as discussed last year.</p>
Bank fees	<p>£3/month for Lloyds card. £6/month for Unity account.</p> <p>Unity have advised the account fee is increasing to £7/month from February 1st 2026.</p> <p>£3/month for Lloyds card = £36 £7/month for Unity account = £84 Total = £120</p> <p>I would suggest adding slightly more, in case of further increases within the next year. £122 would cover a similar Unity increase in February 2027, but Lloyds may also increase their fee, so £130 to be safe.</p> <p>Total: £130</p>