

**BUDGET 2026/27****Introduction:**

Attached are a budget commentary and schedule showing a breakdown of the following:

- Income – proposed budget plus 2 year forecast
- Expenditure – proposed budget plus 2 year forecast
- Forecast CIL balance
- Forecast Reserves

The budget shows that expenditure is forecast to be £82,241 during the financial year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027. The expenditure is partially offset by anticipated income of £34,097 from rent, grants, cemetery fees and bank credit interest. This additional income reduces the need to set a higher precept and ensures efficient use of council funds.

**Recommendation:**

The Finance & Premises Committee recommends the budget for 2026/27 to the full Council with an **increase** to the **precept** of **3%**. Based on the provisional tax base received this will give a **precept** figure of **£48,149**.

This represents the following **increase** year on year **by property type**:

Year	2025/26	2026/27	
Tax Base	635.67	639.17	
Precept	£46,491	£48,149	Increase pa
Band A	£48.76	£50.22	£1.46
Band B	£56.88	£58.59	£1.71
Band C	£65.01	£66.96	£1.95
Band D	£73.14	£75.33	£2.19
Band E	£89.39	£92.07	£2.68
Band F	£105.64	£108.81	£3.17
Band G	£121.90	£125.55	£3.66
Band H	£146.27	£150.66	£4.39

**For information:**Precept Comparison – 2025/26 financial year

The average Band D precept charged by parish and town councils for 2025/26 was £92.22, an increase of 7.4% on the previous year (information from NALC website).

Across Mid Suffolk in 2025-26, Stradbroke is the 14<sup>th</sup> largest Parish by Tax Base, but only has the 25<sup>th</sup> largest charge per Band D property.

Parish comparison by Band D charge is shown on page 2.

## Parish Comparisons: Band D charge (top 40)

Parish Name	Band D		Tax Base *	
	2025/26	Precept 2025/26	2025/26	
Stowmarket	£ 210.24	£ 1,501,786	7,143.15	
Botesdale	£ 174.28	£ 63,600	364.93	
Eye	£ 163.88	£ 149,345	911.30	
Elmswell	£ 125.67	£ 249,150	1,982.51	
Coddenham	£ 119.75	£ 35,259	294.43	
Norton	£ 115.57	£ 55,000	475.91	
Thurston	£ 108.25	£ 201,497	1,861.37	
Laxfield	£ 107.64	£ 53,000	492.39	
Debenham	£ 101.69	£ 91,166	896.52	
Barham	£ 97.08	£ 56,120	578.09	
Mendlesham	£ 95.94	£ 57,850	602.99	
Needham Market	£ 94.08	£ 180,920	1,923.03	
Redgrave	£ 90.79	£ 26,002	286.39	
Barking	£ 85.87	£ 16,500	192.15	
Bramford	£ 84.25	£ 92,955	1,103.35	
Haughley	£ 83.39	£ 60,030	719.86	
Fressingfield	£ 83.31	£ 37,800	453.72	
Mickfield	£ 79.75	£ 7,280	91.29	
Badwell Ash	£ 78.23	£ 32,487	415.25	
Stoke Ash	£ 76.93	£ 6,742	87.64	
Thwaite	£ 76.93	£ 4,918	63.93	
Framsden	£ 76.18	£ 10,918	143.31	
Beyton	£ 74.63	£ 23,825	319.26	
Little Blakenham	£ 73.65	£ 8,425	114.40	
<b>Stradbroke</b>	<b>£ 73.14</b>	<b>£ 46,491</b>	<b>635.67</b>	
Old Newton with Dagworth	£ 70.17	£ 34,756	495.32	
Gipping	£ 70.16	£ 1,921	27.38	
Rickinghall Inferior	£ 69.83	£ 12,140	173.84	
Rickinghall Superior	£ 69.83	£ 23,860	341.68	
Woolpit	£ 69.04	£ 70,000	1,013.84	
Bacton	£ 67.30	£ 46,733	694.42	
Thorndon	£ 66.91	£ 23,000	343.77	
Hessett	£ 65.42	£ 14,166	216.54	
Somersham	£ 65.37	£ 18,422	281.83	
Denham	£ 64.87	£ 5,606	86.42	
Great Blakenham	£ 64.17	£ 55,125	859.04	
Wattisfield	£ 63.79	£ 13,421	210.40	
Thrandeston	£ 60.93	£ 4,500	73.85	
Rattlesden	£ 60.89	£ 25,811	423.91	
Creeting St. Peter or West				
Creeting	£ 59.90	£ 6,092	101.70	

\* The Tax Base is produced from the Council Tax system at Mid Suffolk District Council which gives a listing of all the properties in each town or parish in the District. The figure is then adjusted to take into account any discounts that are given, for example, single occupancy, second homes or homes that are empty or exempt.

**BUDGET 2026/27****Commentary:**

A breakdown of the Budget, Forecasts, CIL and Reserves is included as a separate schedule.

The following information is included in the review of the Budget for 2026/27 and forecast figures for 2027/28 and 2028/29:

**EXPENDITURE**

Area	Notes
Staffing Costs	<u>Includes:</u> All gross wages and salaries. Employers National Insurance Pension Contributions @ 17% for 3 years <u>Assumptions:</u> No change to Clerk's SCP, general increase in salary scales of 3%. Minimum wage will increase to £12.71 ph
Admin/General	Some general Neighbourhood Plan review costs are included in "stationery" and "meeting costs". Payroll costs budgeted to include all staff. New phone needs to be purchased in 2025/26 associated contract budgeted for following years. Other areas such as subscriptions and office 365 costs include 5% increase per annum.
Grants & Donations	No additional requests for grants and donations were received by deadline to be included in budget. F&P Committee increased Music Day donation to £1500
Health Centre	Administration costs are included in general staffing and administration cost centres in all years.
Street Cleaning	Includes 25% uplift for cost of bin emptying
Grass Cutting	2026/27 1 <sup>st</sup> year of 3 year quote. All forecast figures include figures from quote received.
Cemetery / Church	£3.5k per annum is included for tree/chapel works, alongside grass cutting. All forecast figures include figures from quote received.
LGR	A contingency figure needs to be included in the event of additional services being taken on by Parish Council, eg street lighting, leisure centre etc

**INCOME**

Area	Notes
Precept	Provisional tax base received, final version due early January 2026. A 3% increase in precept is budgeted.
Grants	Assumed grants will increase in line with any increase in minimum wage
Health Centre	District Valuer agreed rent increase to £25,100 pa, back dated to November 2023. Back rent of £3,825 to be paid in year. Rent review due 2026/27.
Cemetery	Figure varies year on year. Average figure used for budgeting purposes.
Interest	Dependent on CIL funds held and prevailing interest rates.
CIL123	Dependent on successful bids: future possible bids for fitness track round new land. In-year forecast includes a bid for new play equipment at Westhall.
Misc.	Includes shed rent and other small income.

	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	2025-26 Forecast	2026-27 Budget	2027-28 Forecast	2028-29 Forecast
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Staffing Costs	£ 38,205	£ 40,385	£ 40,637	£ 41,479	£ 42,781	£ 44,115
Total Admin/Gen Expenses	£ 15,118	£ 10,361	£ 11,240	£ 10,760	£ 10,944	£ 11,131
Total Grants & Donations	£ 760	£ 1,800	£ 1,800	£ 2,300	£ 2,300	£ 2,300
Total Health Centre	£ 19,545	£ 13,000	£ 12,000	£ 3,800	£ 3,925	£ 4,050
Total Highways	£ 8,301	£ 9,532	£ 8,932	£ 9,128	£ 9,480	£ 9,874
Total Other	£ 7,772	£ 12,659	£ 31,093	£ 10,074	£ 10,124	£ 10,174
LGR contingency	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 4,700	£ 4,300	£ 3,900
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>£ 89,701</b>	<b>£ 87,737</b>	<b>£ 105,702</b>	<b>£ 82,241</b>	<b>£ 83,854</b>	<b>£ 85,545</b>
VAT	£ 7,791	£ 7,000	£ 9,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
<b>INCOME</b>						
<b>Precept</b>	<b>£ 45,200</b>	<b>£ 46,491</b>	<b>£ 46,491</b>	<b>3% increase £ 48,149</b>	<b>3% increase £ 49,593</b>	<b>3% increase £ 51,081</b>
<b>Other Income</b>						
MSDC/SCC Grants	£ 10,039	£ 6,076	£ 12,576	£ 6,297	£ 6,518	£ 6,739
Health Centre rent	£ 22,400	£ 25,000	£ 28,925	£ 25,100	£ 25,100	£ 25,100
Cemetery	£ 2,670	£ 1,500	£ 1,500	£ 1,500	£ 1,500	£ 1,500
Interest	£ 3,559	£ 1,000	£ 2,500	£ 1,000	£ 1,000	£ 1,000
CIL123	£ 14,712	£ -	£ 15,000	£ -	£ -	£ -
Miscellaneous	£ 8,375	£ 5,300	£ 1,300	£ 200	£ 200	£ 200
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 61,754</b>	<b>£ 38,876</b>	<b>£ 61,801</b>	<b>£ 34,097</b>	<b>£ 34,318</b>	<b>£ 34,539</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>£ 106,954</b>	<b>£ 85,367</b>	<b>£ 108,292</b>	<b>£ 82,246</b>	<b>£ 83,911</b>	<b>£ 85,620</b>
VAT reclaim	£ 16,823	£ 7,791	£ 12,991	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000

CIL:	Totals at Mar-26	2026-27 Income	Totals	
Income				
Veldon	£ 2,764.53	£ -	£ 2,764.53	
Foxgrove	£ 8,030.42	£ -	£ 8,030.42	
All Saints Green	£ 157,450.51	£ -	£ 157,450.51	
Willow Cottage	£ 5,523.34	£ -	£ 5,523.34	
Tarquin Barn	£ 10,327.23	£ -	£ 10,327.23	
Peacock close	£ 20,846.18	£ -	£ 20,846.18	
Greenlea Lodge	£ 68.31	£ -	£ 68.31	
Total	£ 205,010.52	£ -	£ 205,010.52	
	Forecast to Mar-26	2026-27 Spend	Totals	
Expenditure				
Play equipment Westhall	£ 5,000.00	£ -	£ 5,000.00	dependent on quotes received
Highways safety	£ 40,000.00	£ -	£ 40,000.00	
Playingfield	£ 5,579.24	£ 3,000.00	£ 8,579.24	Could be spent in 2025-26
Church Clock	£ 7,480.00	£ -	£ 7,480.00	
NP Plan	£ -	£ 15,000.00	£ 15,000.00	Could be spent in 2025-26
Health Centre interior works	£ 80,091.00	£ -	£ 80,091.00	
Chapel @ cemetery	£ 14,390.00	£ -	£ 14,390.00	
Bowls Club pavillion	£ 3,400.00	£ -	£ 3,400.00	
Cricket nets	£ 11,780.00	£ -	£ 11,780.00	
Health Centre Alarm	£ 2,210.48	£ -	£ 2,210.48	
Total	£ 169,930.72	£ 18,000.00	£ 182,930.72	Balance £ 22,079.80

<b>Forecast reserves @ 31/3/2026:</b>			
Health Centre	£ 18,587	Youth Council (restricted)	£ 475
Playpark equipment	£ 629	Forecast general reserves	£ 39,336
Maintenance	£ 1,000		
Election Costs	£ 1,500	<b>Total reserves</b>	<b>£ 66,797</b>
Community Projects	£ 905		
Playing Field Drainage	£ 1,950		
Defibrillator	£ 415	PC general reserves target:	
Ditch/Tree Maintenance	£ 2,000	Minimum 9 mths precept	£ 36,112
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 26,986</b>	Maximum 12 mths precept	£ 48,149