



BUDGET 2026/27

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 03/26

9 FEBRUARY 2026

The purpose of this report is to summarise the Town Council's anticipated expenditure for the financial year 2026/27 and provide the basis for the formal adoption of a Budget for that year and the setting of the related Precept.

No. DETAILS

1) BALANCES

- a) A letter from the Isle of Wight Council requests the Island's 33 Town and Parish Councils to submit their Precept requirement for 2026/27 by 9 February 2026.
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2) BUDGET CONSULTATION

- a) Ventnor Town Council completed a consultation regarding the budget setting for 2026/27. The results have previously been circulated to members of the council for their consideration following the informal budget meeting of 19th January.
 - b) A total of 41 responses were received, with the following headline results relating to services:
 - i. 83% support continued support of the **Wellbeing Café**
 - ii. 91% support continued funding of the **Ventnor Community Playgroup**
 - iii. 74% support continued funding of **Youth Work** in town
 - iv. 71% support continued funding of the **Warmer Ventnor Project**
 - v. 88% support VTC continuing to part-fund some of the costs associated with **Ventnor Library**
 - vi. 55% support VTC continuing to subsidise the **No.31 Bus Service**
 - vii. 60% of respondents wanted **Beach Safety** from May to September, with 33% wanting the service from mid-July to early-September only. 6% preferred outsourcing this to a Lifeguard service
 - viii. 64% of respondents would support charging for use of **Public Toilets**
 - ix. 86% support an increased provision in the town's budget to **Upgrade the Public toilets**
 - c) The full results of the consultation will be published in due course.
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3) DRAFT BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/27

- a) The Council has held informal budget meetings in October, December, and January to arrive at the attached draft budget.
 - b) At the end of March 2025, Ventnor Town Council reported that its reserves had decreased to -£7,198. Following a continued recognition that the Council must focus on financial recovery, and advice from internal and external auditors, it was agreed to increase our contribution to reserves – with the contribution in 2026/27 being £30,000. It is hoped that in following years, contributions will continue in order to replenish the reserves to an acceptable level.
 - c) It is worth noting that in earlier drafts this draft, a more generous allowance was made for members of staff paid against nationally set pay scales, to match the initial demand of the unions of 10%. Given the unlikelihood of Unions achieving this, a lower 7.5% has been allowed.
 - d) The draft budget presented suggests an increase of 35p per week per Band D household (equating to 8.77%)
 - e) Members requested that this increase be presented also in terms of Band C households – being an increase of 31p per week.
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4) RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to:

- i. Adopt the draft budget attached to this report.
 - ii. Confirm its Precept requirement for 2026/27 to be £655,454
 - iii. Authorise the Town Clerk to inform the Isle of Wight Council accordingly
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Ventnor Town Council Draft Budget 2026-27

		2025-26 Budget	Predicted Outturn	Variance	Predicted 2026-27 Costs	2025-26 Budget	Predicted Outturn	Variance	Predicted 2026-27 Income	Precept requirement 2025-26
Policy & Resources Committee										
1	Leadership & Administrative Salaries	166,347	160,330	6,017	167,500					167,500
2	Cleaning, Maintenance, Paddling Pool, Beach Safety salaries	135,598	135,598	-	137,815					137,815
3	Youth, Business & Voluntary Salaries	101,586	104,119	- 2,533	111,249					111,249
4	Affiliation & Membership fees	1,250	1,230	20	2,000					2,000
5	Insurance	12,407	12,291	116	16,000					16,000
6	Website & Communications	1,310	1,200	110	1,350					1,350
7	Audit	1,680	2,115	- 435	2,250					2,250
8	Bank charges/Interest	800	552	248	650	4,000	5,600	1,600	4,750	4,100
9	Legal	1,000	500	500	1,500					1,500
10	Election costs	5,500	144	5,356	5,000					5,000
11	PWLB - Central Car Park Toilets	7,560	7,556	4	7,556					7,556
12	PWLB - Salisbury Gardens	9,507	9,507	-	9,507					9,507
13	PWLB - Tennis Club	1,911	1,990	- 79	1,990	1,911	1,990	79	1,990	-
Policy & Resources Committee Total		446,456	437,132	9,324	464,367	5,911	7,590	1,679	6,740	457,627
Environment & Transport Committee										
14	Metrological honorarium	600	600	-	600					600
15	Spring Hill Gardens	2,250	1,950	300	2,350					2,350
16	Floral Ventnor	2,205	2,205	-	2,350					2,350
17	Playgrounds	840	840	-	875					875
18	Grounds Maintenance	34,125	33,125	1,000	33,000					33,000
19	Benches	1,650	4,650	- 3,000	3,000	3,000	9,750	6,750	3,000	-
20	Beach Cleaning	200	200	-	-	1,730	1,730	-	-	-
21	Car Parks	31,850	33,500	- 1,650	39,892	44,250	44,250	-	46,463	6,571
22	No. 31 Bus	26,520	26,428	92	18,508	17,700	17,700	-	6,250	12,258
23	Sustainability, Biodiversity & Community Orchard	3,000	3,000	-	3,000					3,000
24	Boniface Fields	7,500	8,500	- 1,000	10,225	4,500	4,500	-	4,650	5,575
25	Ventnor Park	36,000	36,000	-	37,620	3,000	2,200	800	2,250	35,370
Environment & Transport Committee Total		146,740	150,998	- 4,258	151,420	74,180	80,130	5,950	62,613	88,808
Business & Community Committee										
26	Meeting Room Rent	1,200	1,200	-	-					-
27	Putting Green	2,250	1,250	1,000	1,500	3,500	3,500	-	3,500	2,000
28	Ventnor Library	25,600	20,000	5,600	21,000					21,000
29	Warmer Ventnor	2,730	2,730	-	2,750					2,750
30	Community Development	2,600	2,600	-	2,717					2,717
31	Business & Voluntary	500	500	-	500					500
32	Youth Service	2,250	2,250	-	3,500					3,500
33	Wellbeing Café	1,950	2,150	- 200	2,250				1,500	750
34	Small Grants	2,000	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	-	2,000	-
Business & Community Committee Total		41,080	34,680	6,400	36,217	5,500	5,500	-	7,000	29,217
Buildings Maintenance Committee										
36	Stationery	1,350	600	750	1,400					1,400
37	Equipment	1,250	2,500	- 1,250	1,750					1,750
38	Photocopying	2,850	2,350	500	1,850					1,850
39	Telecoms	6,975	6,975	-	7,800					7,800
40	Cleaning Sundries	350	-	350	-					-
41	Maintenance & Cleaning Sundries	2,000	1,000	1,000	2,000					2,000
42	Van	2,350	2,350	-	2,650					2,650
43	Office Rent	11,700	11,700	-	11,700					11,700
44	Public Toilets	19,445	21,500	- 2,055	26,750					26,750
45	Paddling Pool	1,150	1,532	- 382	1,750					1,750
46	Outfit Gym	1,250	1,250	-	1,500					1,500
47	Ventnor Central	9,500	8,500	1,000	9,000					9,000
48	First Aid Hut	1,000	1,350	- 350	1,650					1,650
49	Salisbury Gardens	38,450	35,000	3,450	37,050	66,272	70,272	4,000	67,048	29,998
50	Buildings - capital Repairs	12,000	12,000	-	10,000					10,000
Buildings Maintenance Committee Total		111,620	108,607	3,013	116,850	66,272	70,272	4,000	67,048	49,802
GRAND TOTAL		745,896	731,417	14,479	768,854	151,863	163,492	11,629	143,401	625,454

	2025-26	2026-27	Difference	%increase
Expenditure	745,896	768,854	22,958	3.08%
Income	151,863	143,401	8,462	-5.57%
Contribution to reserves	5,000	30,000	25,000	500.00%
Precept Requirement	599,033	655,454	56,420	9.42%
Council Tax Base	2,860.6	2,877.7	17.1	0.60%
Per Band D household	£ 209.41	£ 227.77	£ 18.36	8.77%

£0.35 per week increase per band D household