

Open

# Council

# Agenda

6pm  
Wednesday, 25 February 2026  
Council Chamber  
Wyre Forest House  
Finepoint Way  
Kidderminster



## Council

### **Public Information**

1. If you have any questions regarding the agenda, the attached papers or the meeting being webcast, please do not hesitate to contact the officer named below.
2. The Council meeting is open to the public except for any exempt/confidential items. These items are normally discussed at the end of the meeting
3. The public are welcome to speak at meetings of Council provided they have requested to speak in advance of the Agenda being published. Details of the guidance for public speaking can be found on our website [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk)
4. If you have any special requirements regarding access to the venue and its facilities including audio and visual needs please let us know in advance so that we can make arrangements for you.
5. This Agenda can be made available in larger print on request; if you require a copy please contact:

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**COUNCIL MEETING**

**17 February 2026**

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND HONORARY ALDERMEN**

**PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Dear Member

**YOU ARE INVITED** to attend a meeting of the Wyre Forest District Council to be held **at 6.00p.m. on Wednesday 25 February 2026**, in the Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster.

The Agenda for the meeting is enclosed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "I R Miller".

Ian Miller  
Chief Executive

## **Disclosure of Interests**

**Members and co-opted Members of the Council are reminded that, in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and the statutory provisions of the Localism Act, they are required to consider in ADVANCE of each meeting whether they have a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI), an other registrable interest (ORI) or a non-registrable interest (NRI) in relation to any matter on the agenda. If advice is needed, Members should contact the Monitoring Officer or other legal officer in good time before the meeting.**

If any Member or co-opted Member of the Council identifies a DPI or ORI which they have not already registered on the Council's register of interests or which requires updating, they should complete the disclosure form which can be obtained from Democratic Services at any time, copies of which will be available at the meeting for return to the Monitoring Officer.

Members and co-opted Members are required to disclose any DPis and ORIs at the meeting. Where the matter relates to a DPI they may not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not stay in the meeting unless granted a dispensation.

Where the matter relates to an ORI they may not vote on the matter unless granted an advance dispensation.

Where a Member or co-opted Member has an NRI which directly relates to their financial interest or wellbeing, or that of a relative or close associate, they must disclose the interest at the meeting, may not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not stay in the meeting unless granted a dispensation.

Where a matter affects the NRI of a Member or co-opted Member, the Code of Conduct sets out the test which must be applied by the MEMBER to decide whether disclosure is required. Again please ensure you have spoken in ADVANCE to the relevant legal officer and determined whether it is appropriate to declare the NRI and leave.

## **Conduct at formal meetings**

Members are reminded that whilst they may differ from time to time on political views, it is important that they always treat each other with respect.

Debate can be robust without being personal or unkind.

Members help is appreciated in ensuring the highest standards of conduct at formal meetings.

## **(A) TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL**

The Council

1. Is the ultimate decision making Body.
2. Determines the Budget (but reserves powers to itself in relation to requirements).
3. Is responsible for appointing (and dismissing) the Leader of the Council.
4. Appoints at its Annual Meeting, the Regulatory Committees, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other Committees/Forums necessary to conduct the Council's business.
5. Decides on matters where the Cabinet is not minded to determine a matter in accordance with Council policy.

## **(B) MATTERS RESERVED TO THE COUNCIL**

1. Those reserved by Law e.g. levying a rate, borrowing money, promotion of or opposition to a Bill in Parliament.
2. Matters reserved to the Council by financial regulations.
3. The adoption and amendment of Standing Orders, including the powers and duties of Committees and other forums.
4. Power to make, amend, revoke or enact or enforce any byelaws.
5. The determination of the objectives of the Council.
6. Matters of new policy or variation of existing policy as contained within the budget and policy framework.
7. Local Development Framework adoption.
8. Any function where a decision would be contrary to a plan, policy, budget or strategy previously adopted by the Council, which would be contrary to the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations or Executive arrangements.
9. The Scheme of Delegations to Officers.

## **WEBCASTING NOTICE**

This meeting is being filmed\* for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's website site ([www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk)).

At the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 1998. The footage recorded will be available to view on the Council's website for 6 months and shall be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy.

**By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to be filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and or training purposes.**

If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured they should sit in the Stourport and Bewdley Room where they can still view the meeting.

If any attendee is under the age of 18 the written consent of his or her parent or guardian is required before access to the meeting room is permitted. Persons under 18 are welcome to view the meeting from the Stourport and Bewdley Room.

**If you have any queries regarding this, please speak with the Council's Legal Officer at the meeting.**

\* Unless there are no reports in the open session.

Wyre Forest District Council

Council

Wednesday, 25 February 2026

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

Part 1

Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	<b>Prayers</b>  To be read by Rev Jason Borlase of Kidderminster Baptist Church.	
2.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
3.	<b>Declarations of Interests by Members</b>  In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI), an other registrable interest (ORI) or a non-registrable interest (NRI) in relation to any matter on the agenda.  Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
4.	<b>Minutes</b>  To approve as a correct record and sign the Minutes of the last meeting held on 10 December 2025.	9
5.	<b>Public Participation</b>  In accordance with the Council's Scheme for Public Speaking at Meetings of Full Council, to allow members of the public to present petitions, ask questions, or make statements, details of which have been received by 12 noon on Monday 16 February 2026.  <b>No requests for public participation were received by the deadline.</b>  <i>If you wish to speak on an urgent matter that has arisen since the deadline and you could not reasonably have known about it at the time, you should register your interest in speaking no later than 9am on the day of the meeting of Council. In the case of a request to speak on an urgent matter, the Solicitor to the Council will rule on whether or not the matter is urgent and that ruling will be final.</i>	

6.	<p><b>Chairman's Communications</b></p> <p>To note the engagements of the Chairman of the Council since the Council's last meeting.</p>	16
7.	<p><b>Leader of the Council Announcements</b></p> <p>To receive announcements from the Leader of the Council.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Independent Remuneration Panel Report for 2026/27 and Subsequent Years</b></p> <p>To receive a report from the Solicitor to the Council to decide the scheme of allowances to be paid to Members for the municipal year 2026/27 and for subsequent years.</p>	17
9.	<p><b>Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026-2029 and Capital Strategy 2025-2035</b></p> <p>To receive a report from the Head of Resources that invites Council to approve the Council's budget for 2026-2029 having considered the proposed budget decision recommended to Council by Cabinet.</p> <p>This report also seeks approval of the Capital Strategy for 2026-2036 including prudential indicators which set limits for non-financial investments and to fulfil the key requirements of the MHCLG Investment Guidance. As part of the overall approval sought the report of the Head of Resources in respect of statutory duties placed on Local Authority Chief Financial Officers in relation to budget setting and monitoring is considered.</p> <p><i>The appendices to this report have been circulated electronically.</i></p>	31
10.	<p><b>Policy and Budget Framework</b></p> <p>Matters which require a Decision by Council.</p> <p>(a) <b>Recommendations from Treasury Management Review Panel – 9 February 2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Treasury Management Strategy 2026-27</b></li> </ul> <p>(b) <b>Recommendations from Cabinet – 11 February 2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Food Waste Collections</b></li> </ul> <p>Please note that the reports and associated documents, referred to above, have been circulated electronically to Members. Public inspection copies are available on request. Please refer to the front cover for contact details.</p>	45  47
11.	<p><b>Questions</b></p> <p>To receive questions submitted by Members of the Council and the replies of the Leader of the Council, or relevant Cabinet Member, in accordance with Standing Order 1.9, details of which have been</p>	

	<p>received by 12 noon on Monday 16 February 2026.</p> <p><b>Four questions have been submitted by the deadline.</b></p> <p><i>In the case of an urgent matter that has arisen since the deadline above, and could not have been reasonably known at that time, it must be delivered in writing to the Solicitor to the Council no later than 9am on the day of Council.</i></p>	48
12.	<p><b>Motions Submitted under Standing Orders</b></p> <p>To consider Motions in the order in which notice has been received.</p>	
13.	<p><b>Emergency Motions submitted under Standing Orders</b></p> <p>To consider Emergency Motions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 4.1 (i).</p>	
14.	<p><b>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</b></p>	
15.	<p><b>Exclusion of the Press and Public</b></p> <p>To consider passing the following resolution:</p> <p>“That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in the paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.</p>	

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

16.	<p><b>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</b></p>	
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**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY,  
KIDDERMINSTER**

**10 DECEMBER 2025 (6PM)**

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**Present:**

Councillors: P Harrison (Chairman), G Connolly (Vice-Chairman), E Bourne, J F Byng, L Carroll, V Caulfield, R Drew, P Dyke, K Gale, N Gale, M J Hart, K Henderson, D Little, N Martin, M McDonnell, D Morehead, F M Oborski MBE, T L Onslow, M Rayner, C Rogers, D Ross, D Russell, A Sutton and L Whitehouse.

**C.53 Prayers**

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Councillor Chris Nicholls, a former Chairman of the Council. Prayers were said by Rev Melissa Beynon of the Benefice of Ribbesford with Bewdley & Dowles and Wribbenhall.

**C.54 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: J Aston, B Brookes, N J Desmond, H E Dyke, J Griffiths, I Hardiman, S Miah, N Wilson and P W M Young.

**C.55 Declarations of Interests by Members**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C.56 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2025, and the minutes of the special meeting held on 12 November 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

Recognition was given to Councillor F Oborski, who had recently been named as the winner of the Lifetime Legend Award at the Cllr Awards 2025, and which she dedicated to the people of Offmore and Comberton.

**C.57 Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**C.58 Chairman's Communications**

The Council received a list of functions attended by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman since the Council's last meeting.

The Chairman thanked members and staff for their contributions to the Foodbank collection. He also extended an invitation to the Carol Service taking place on Sunday.

**C.59 Leader of the Council Announcements**

The Leader of the Council referred members to his tabled report. A copy of the announcements is available for viewing on the Council's website.

[https://forms.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/council/docs/doc60996\\_20251210\\_council\\_report.pdf](https://forms.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/council/docs/doc60996_20251210_council_report.pdf)

**C.60 Political and Constitutional Structures 2025/2026 – Political Balance and Appointment of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Audit Committee and Licensing Committee**

Council considered a report from the Solicitor to the Council to approve the revised table of political balance and to elect Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the two committees for the remainder of the municipal year 2025/2026.

The Leader of the Council presented the report. He gave a summary of the background and key issues detailed in the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval.

Councillor D Ross seconded the recommendations.

**Decision: The Council:**

- 1.1 APPROVED the revised table of political balance in Appendix 1 of the report.**
- 1.2 ELECTED Councillor George Connolly as Chairman of the Audit Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2025/2026.**
- 1.3 ELECTED Councillor Paul Harrison as Vice Chairman of the Audit Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2025/2026.**
- 1.4 ELECTED Councillor Ken Henderson as Chairman of the Licensing Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2025/2026.**
- 1.5 ELECTED Councillor John Byng as Vice Chairman of the Licensing Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2025/2026.**

**C.61 Community Governance Reviews – approval of reorganisation Orders**

A report was considered from the Chief Executive that asked Council to approve the making of reorganisation orders, following decisions

by Council in July on the outcome of community governance reviews in the parish of Wolverley and Cookley; and with respect to the boundary between Kidderminster Foreign and Kidderminster and between Stourport-on-Severn and Kidderminster.

The Leader of the Council presented the report. He gave a summary of the background and key issues detailed in the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval.

Councillor D Ross seconded the recommendations.

**Decision: The Council:**

- 1.1 APPROVED the reorganisation order for Wolverley, Cookley and Lea Castle in Appendix 1 of the report; and GRANTED delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Solicitor to the Council and the Head of Resources to finalise the order as set out in paragraph 4.3 of the report.**
- 1.2 APPROVED the reorganisation order for Kidderminster, Kidderminster Foreign and Stourport-on-Severn in Appendix 2 of the report.**

**C.62 Policy and Budget Framework - Matters which require a Decision by Council.**

**(a) Recommendations from the Treasury Management Review Panel, 3 November 2025 - Annual Report on Treasury Management Service and Actual Prudential Indicators 2024-25.**

The Chairman of the Treasury Management Review Committee, Councillor K Gale, presented the recommendations and formally moved them for approval.

Councillor D Ross seconded the proposals.

Upon a vote, the proposal was unanimously agreed.

**Decision: Council:**

- APPROVED the actual 2024-25 prudential and treasury indicators in the report;**
- APPROVED the actual 2024-25 non-treasury prudential indicators for Capital Portfolio Fund properties;**
- NOTED the annual treasury management report for 2024-25, including information on the non-treasury prudential indicators for Capital Portfolio Fund properties.**

(b) **Recommendations from the Treasury Management Review Panel, 3 November 2025 - Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-Year Review Report 2025-26**

The Chairman of the Treasury Management Review Committee, Councillor K Gale, formally moved the recommendation for approval.

Councillor D Ross seconded the proposals.

Upon a vote, the proposal was unanimously agreed.

**Decision: The Council APPROVED the Mid-year Review and all updated Prudential Indicators, Ratios and the Liability Benchmark.**

(c) **Recommendations from Licensing & Environmental Committee, 1 December 2025 - Review of Fees and Charges for the Council's Licensing and Regulatory Services Function 2026/27**

The Chairman of the Licensing and Environmental Committee, Councillor K Henderson, formally moved the recommendation for approval.

Councillor J Byng seconded the proposals.

Upon a vote, the proposal was unanimously agreed.

**Decision: The Council AGREED that the proposals for fees and charges within the Council's Licensing, Food, Health, Safety, Pollution Control and Technical Services functions for 2026/27, as detailed in the report, be included in the Council's 2026/27 budget strategy.**

**C.63 Questions**

Two questions had been submitted by members of the council in accordance with standing orders.

**1. Question from Councillor L Whitehouse to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services**

Could the Cabinet Member inform this Council and the public about the arrangements for leaf clearing across the district, particularly in high footfall areas such as town centres and main footway walking routes to schools?

**Answer from the Leader of the Council (in the absence of the Cabinet Member for Operational Services)**

This District Council works exceptionally hard to ensure that our roads and, importantly, our footways and pavements are appropriately swept and that we do have safe walking routes. Ultimately, there's a bit of an onslaught in the autumn, in September / October, it all comes at once, the leaves come off the trees, and we only have certain resource. But we do have two large mechanical road sweepers and four small pavement sweepers and we have dedicated routes where there's high footfall, and our red routes and town entrances, schools, busy pedestrian zones and we also have reactive

## **Agenda Item No. 4**

sweepers as well – elected members, members of the public, Parish Council clerks will contact our Council by reporting them in the usual way online. Obviously, if there's any issues that cause a major health and safety risk those are dealt with diligently and expeditiously and indeed we also do sweeping in our urban streets as well and, if we want to do that, we do often do letter drops to houses where the parked vehicles that cause issues with the ability to our street cleaners to clean those areas. So that's the plan and happy to take a supplementary question, if one arises.

### **Supplementary question**

I thank the Leader for his response. Could the Leader just confirm to this Council that he will do all that he can to make sure that all high footfall locations are swept and that also includes schools? The reason for the question was I've been contacted by a number of people in relation to there being more leaves this year compared to previous year hence the question.

### **Answer**

Of course, I will but we had a major change in government last year so, that's probably the reason why.

### **2. Question from Councillor M McDonnell to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Arts and Community Safety**

It is with great sadness and disappointment that I have heard Kidderminster Carpet Museum is to close for good very soon. When I tabled my question, I was told that it would be in early 2026, but now I understand the closure will take place on 20 December 2025. Is there really nothing WFDC can do to assist this valuable resource to stay open?

### **Answer from the Leader of the Council (the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Arts and Community Safety)**

Councillor McDonnell, let me assure you that you're not only one that's saddened to hear that news and I, too, am genuinely saddened and I think the best thing that I can say in answer to your question is just wait a very short period of time and you will hear ten minutes of what I think this Council and we could do to try and assist the Carpet Museum.

### **Supplementary question**

Councillor McDonnell raised a supplementary question about whether consideration had been given about using the facilities at Rushock where the artefacts etc. are stored, but she recognised this would come under debate under the motions? However, the Solicitor to the Council advised that as this will be discussed under the motion, it is not appropriate to discuss it now.

## **C.64**

### **Motions Submitted under Standing Orders**

Two motions had been submitted in accordance with standing orders.

#### **1. Notice of Motion from Councillor M Hart**

Councillor M Hart presented the motion on behalf of the Conservative Group. Councillor D Ross seconded the proposal.

Councillor Hart outlined the reasons for the motion.

Councillor Whitehouse moved an amendment to the motion, requesting some additional wording is inserted into the motion, recognising that the second motion on the agenda cannot be considered under the “6 month rule”. Councillor V Caulfield seconded the amendment to the motion.

Councillor Hart advised that the position of the administration was that they would maintain the motion unamended.

A few members spoke in favour of the amendment to the motion, as it added value to the original motion, and Councillor Hart responded.

Upon a vote, the proposed amendment to the motion was rejected.

Several members spoke in favour of the motion, outlined possibilities for the future of the carpet archives, and the reasons why they were supporting the proposal.

Upon a vote, the motion was agreed.

**Decision: The Notice of Motion from Councillor M Hart be agreed:**

#### **Closure of Kidderminster Carpet Museum**

**This Council expresses its sadness at the recent announcement by the trustees of the Kidderminster Carpet Museum of its impending closure.**

**This Council is pleased to hear that the trustees are looking at ways of preserving the archive.**

**This Council confirms that it sadly is not in a position to offer either short term or long term revenue funding.**

**This Council recognises the district’s rich history and values arts and culture and is committed to continue funding our own District Museum located in Bewdley which has a net revenue budget of circa £500k pa.**

**This Council recognises the heritage of Kidderminster’s Carpet industry and the affect it had on the people of Kidderminster and the wider local community for over 200 years, in particular employing over 20,000 at its height.**

**This Council calls upon the local community and Kidderminster Town Council to see what they are able to do to support the museum, in particular if any artefacts could be displayed at the town hall.**

**This Council agreed to offer what support it is able to, in particular seeing if any of our own historic council buildings in our ownership could display some of the archive should the trustees so wish.**

2. The motion submitted by Councillor Whitehouse was withdrawn as it dealt with the same subject as the first motion that had been approved.

**C.65 Emergency Motions submitted under Standing Orders**

There were no emergency motions.

**C.66 Council tax setting – direction to Audit Committee**

Council considered a report from the Head of Resources and Section 151 Officer to approve a direction to the Audit Committee in respect of council tax setting in the event that Worcestershire County Council or any other major precepting authority does not set its council tax before the Council's budget setting meeting on 25 February 2026.

Councillor D Ross presented the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval.

Councillor G Connolly seconded the proposals.

Upon a vote, the recommendations were agreed.

**Decision: The Council:**

- **Subject to paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 and in accordance with section 67(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council AGREED to DIRECT the Audit Committee to exercise the functions of setting amounts of council tax for the financial year commencing on 1 April 2026 and subsequent financial years;**
- **the direction in paragraph 2.1 shall apply only to the original setting of council tax for a financial year and only if a major precepting authority has not calculated its council tax and issued its precept to Wyre Forest District Council before the Council's budget meeting held in February each year;**
- **only duly-appointed members of the Audit Committee who are members of Wyre Forest District Council shall be entitled to vote in a meeting of the Committee to set amounts of council tax, and no substitutes shall be permitted.**

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.20pm.

The meeting is available for viewing on the Council's website.  
<https://wyreforestdc.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts>

Chairman's List of Functions – 2025/26

December 2025 to February 2026

Thurs 4 Dec	Bewdley Dementia Support Group Christmas Bash	Bewdley Rowing Club
Sat 6 Dec	Evesham Christmas Tree Festival Concert 2025	The Parish Church of All Saints, Market Place
Thurs 11 Dec	Mayor of Stourport's Christmas Carol Concert	Church of St. Michael and All Angels
Sun 14 Dec**	The Mayors' and Chairman of WFDC Joint Christmas Carol Service	St. Mary's Church, Kidderminster
	** Attended by both the Chairman and Vice Chairman	
Fri 19 Dec	Kidderminster Male Choir Festive Family Fun	Kidderminster Town Hall
Sat 20 Dec	Kidderminster Choral Society, Wyre Forest Young Voices and Primary Chords Christmas Gala Concert	Kidderminster Town Hall
Sat 24 Jan	Mayor of Bewdley Bingo Afternoon	Wharton Park Golf & Country Club, Bewdley
Sun 25 Jan	WFDC Holocaust Memorial Day	St. Mary's and All Saints Church, Kidderminster
Tues 27 Jan	Worcestershire Interfaith Forum, Platform Housing and Worcester City Council Annual Holocaust Memorial Day event	Guildhall, Worcester
Sat 31 Jan	WFDC Chairman's Charity Dinner	Kidderminster Golf Club
Sun 1 Feb	Mayor of Redditch Mayoral Civic Service	Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Church, Beoley Road West, Redditch
Sat 14 Feb	Mayor of Bewdley Valentine's Dinner	The Pines Golf Club, Bewdley

**Updated Agenda Item No. 6**

Sun 15 Feb	Mayor of Droitwich Spa Mayoral Civic Service	St Peter's Church, Droitwich Spa
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\* Denotes attendance by Vice Chairman

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL  
25 FEBRUARY 2026

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL REPORT FOR 2026/27  
AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>CABINET MEMBER</b>	The Leader of the Council
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	Caroline Newlands Solicitor to the Council
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	Appendix A - Independent Remuneration Panel Report and Recommendations  Appendix B – Revised Members Allowances Scheme 2026-2027 wef 1 April 2026

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To receive the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to decide the scheme of allowances to be paid to Members for the municipal year 2026/27 and for subsequent years.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 The Council is RECOMMENDED to:**

**2.2 note the report;**

**2.3 decide that the basic and special responsibility allowances should be increased by 3.2% with effect from 1 April 2026 as recommended by the panel; and**

**2.4 decide that basic and special responsibility allowances should be uprated from 1 April 2027 in accordance with the NJC pay increase for the majority of staff for April 2026.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 No 1021 require local authorities to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel to review and provide advice on Members' allowances before they adopt or amend a scheme.

3.2 On 20 September 2023 Council decided that it would establish an Independent Remuneration Panel in 2025 to provide recommendations for 2026/27.

3.3 A panel was appointed in December 2025 and undertook its work during January 2026. The Panel reviewed and gave consideration to a range of

## Agenda Item No. 8

indicators and research on Member allowances as detailed in their report before making its decision. The Panel undertook the work in accordance with its terms of reference and having regard to the current financial context and forthcoming changes to Local Government governance arrangements.

- 3.4 The panel comprised of Tim Hipkiss, a retired as Deputy Head of a comprehensive school in the West Midlands in 2003, after 22 years in post; Wayne Jay, an industry award winning Operational and supply chain executive; and Clair de Groot, who has over 40 years' experience in governance, executive support and administration across local government, including district and unitary authorities, as well as the voluntary and private sectors. The advert for Panel Membership was published on the Council's website from 14 November until 28 November 2025. The Solicitor to the Council considered the applications and appointments were made in consultation with Group Leaders. Following a report to Group Leaders it was agreed that the recommendations from the review would be an interim measure pending Local Government Reorganisation.

### 4. **KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The IRP's report is in Appendix A. It recommends that the basic allowance is increased by 3.2% in line with the April 2025 staff pay award, subject to financial affordability. However, the Panel recommends that this should be reviewed as part of a future full review.
- 4.2 Accordingly, the Panel has not recommended the introduction of an automatic uplift mechanism but recommends that a staff pay award would act as a trigger to review the Basic Allowance. Such an award is expected for April 2026, but it is not yet known – indeed the national employers have not yet made an offer. The outcome of the pay round for staff may not be known for some time but is expected to be concluded well in advance of April 2027 and therefore can be reflected in increases in members' allowances for the final year of the council's existence before reorganisation. This approach avoids the cost and work involved in reconvening a panel before reorganisation.
- 4.3 The Panel recommends the existing Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) structure and multipliers remain unchanged. The SRAs are based on multiples of the basic allowance, therefore they would also go up by 3.2%.
- 4.4 There is no proposed changes to the Carer's Allowance for the care of children and for other dependents, including those with disabilities and the elderly.

The Panel recommends that the changes should be implemented from 1 April 2026.

- 4.5 The report in Appendix A also recommends that a full and prompt review of Members' Allowances be undertaken by the new unitary authority or authorities once governance arrangements are confirmed. This is a matter for that Council elected in May 2027, not Wyre Forest District Council.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Panel's recommendations have additional financial implications so far as basic and special responsibility allowances are concerned. To account for the 3.2% increase, the total cost of the basic allowances will increase by £6,000 and the increase in the SRAs is £2,500. Both amounts have been rounded up. This has been reflected in assumptions within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2026-27 onwards.
- 5.2 The cost implication of the increase in April 2027 cannot be calculated as it depends on the increase for most staff in the NJC in April 2026, which is not yet known.
- 5.3 The cost implication of convening the Panel in 2025 was less than £1k and met from existing budgets.

**6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Regulation 19 of the 2003 Regulations provides that, in making or amending the scheme of allowances, the Council is required to 'have regard to the recommendations made in relation to it by an Independent Remuneration Panel'. Under regulation 10(5), the Council cannot rely on an index for annual adjustment of allowances for a period longer than four years without seeking a recommendation from a Panel about the application of an index to the scheme of allowances.
- 6.2 Regulation 10(1) of the 2003 Regulations requires that, before the beginning of each financial year, an authority shall determine the scheme for the payment of allowances for that year. However, regulations 10(3) and (6) allow a council to amend its scheme at any time during a year and a council may backdate any changes to the start of the financial year concerned. In this case, the Panel recommends that the changes should be implemented from 1 April 2026.

**7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 This report has been screened for its equality impact on the areas of race, disability, gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation and age. It is not considered to have a disproportionate impact on any target area and therefore no full equality impact assessment is required.

**8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 8.1 Regulation 19 requires the Council to have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Review Panel. Whilst the Council does not have to follow the recommendations, as with any decision of Council, it is subject to the risk of challenge by the way of judicial review and therefore reasons for decisions must be made clear.

**9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 The Council is invited to consider the recommendations set out in the Panel's report. The Wyre Forest District Council Scheme of Members' Allowances,

section 17 of the Constitution, will be updated in accordance with the Council's decisions.

**10. CONSULTEES**

- 10.1 Leader of the Council.
- 10.2 Chief Executive and Head of Resources.
- 10.3 Group Leaders.

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2003/1021/contents/made>

**Independent Remuneration Panel for**

**Wyre Forest District Council**

**Report and Recommendations**

**2025 Refresh Review**

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## Recommendations

The Independent Remuneration Panel recommends that Wyre Forest District Council:

- (i) Increase the Basic Allowance by 3.2%, in line with the April 2025 staff pay award, subject to financial affordability
- (ii) Confirms that this does not introduce an automatic uplift mechanism but recommends that a staff pay award would act as a trigger to review the Basic Allowance
- (iii) Retains the existing Special Responsibility Allowance structure and multipliers
- (iv) Makes no change to the current Dependent Carers' Allowance, noting that this should be reviewed as part of a future full review
- (v) Notes that Wyre Forest District Council remains at the lower end of Worcestershire allowances
- (vi) Recommends that a full and prompt review of Members' Allowances be undertaken by the new unitary authority or authorities once governance arrangements are confirmed
- (vii) Recommends that, following implementation of the 2025 uplift, the Members' Allowances Scheme should remain unchanged, save that a staff pay award may act as a trigger for consideration of an uplift in line with the Panel's guiding principles, unless materially changed circumstances arise or a full review is undertaken

## Introduction

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require local authorities to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP to make recommendations to the Council on its Members' Allowances Scheme).

This report sets out the findings and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel following an interim review of the Members' Allowances Scheme in 2025. The Panel has undertaken this work in accordance with its Terms of Reference, having regard to the current financial context and forthcoming changes to local government governance arrangements.

## Role of the Independent Remuneration Panel

The role of the Independent Remuneration Panel is to provide independent advice to the Council to ensure that Members' Allowances are:

- Fair, reasonable and transparent

- Capable of public explanation and justification
- Proportionate to the responsibilities and time commitment involved
- Affordable and sustainable

The Panel's recommendations are advisory in nature and it is for Council to determine whether they are accepted.

## **Background Evidence and Information Considered**

The Panel met on two occasions and communicated electronically as needed. The Panel conducted its work in accordance with the legislation governing the role of the Panel and statutory guidance produced in 2003.

The Panel received a comprehensive information pack and, in reaching its recommendations, the Panel considered the following:

- The current Members' Allowances Scheme
- The recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in September 2023
- The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003
- Benchmarking information across Worcestershire district councils
- The 3.2% pay award applied to council staff in April 2025
- An awareness of affordability considerations within the Council
- The Panel's Terms of Reference, including carers' allowance and ICT provision
- The changes to local government governance arrangements from 2028 which are yet to be confirmed

## **Legislative and Governance Context**

The Panel had regard to the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and the requirement that any Members' Allowances Scheme should be transparent, equitable and publicly defensible.

The Panel also noted the importance of maintaining stability and continuity in the Members' Allowances Scheme during a period of organisational and governance change.

## **Basic Allowance**

The Panel considered the purpose of the Basic Allowance, which is intended to recognise the time commitment and responsibilities undertaken by all councillors, including:

- Attendance at meetings

- Casework and constituency duties
- Community engagement and representation

The Panel noted that council staff received a 3.2% pay award in April 2025. In the interests of fairness and consistency, the Panel considers it appropriate to recommend a corresponding uplift to the Basic Allowance.

The Panel emphasises that this recommendation is not intended to introduce an automatic uplift mechanism for future years and is made subject to the Council confirming financial affordability. It also recommends that a staff pay award would act as a trigger to review the Basic Allowance.

## **Recommendation**

That the Basic Allowance be increased by 3.2%, in line with the April 2025 staff pay award, subject to financial affordability.

## **Estimated Annual Cost Impact**

Assumptions used:

- Total councillors: 33
- Roles attracting Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs):
  - 1 Leader
  - 1 Deputy Leader
  - 6 Cabinet Members
  - 5 Committee Chairs (Overview & Scrutiny, Planning, Licensing & Environmental, Audit, Ethics & Standards)
  - 2 Vice-Chairs (Overview & Scrutiny, Planning)
  - 3 Political Group Leaders (where eligible)
- Each councillor receives only one SRA

## **Cost Impact Calculation**

- Basic Allowance uplift of 3.2% from £5,098 to £5,261:  $£163 \times 33$  councillors = £5,379
- Special Responsibility Allowance: approximately £3,150 based on an increase for each role following the increase of Basic Allowance

## **Total Estimated Annual Increase**

The Panel notes that applying a 3.2% uplift to the Basic Allowance, with all Special Responsibility Allowances remaining as fixed multipliers of the Basic Allowance, results in an estimated additional annual cost of approximately £8,529 (£5,379 Basic plus c£3,150 SRA).

## **Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs)**

The Panel reviewed the current Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) structure, including the roles eligible for SRAs and the associated multipliers.

The Panel is satisfied that:

- The range of SRA roles remains appropriate
- The use of multipliers linked to the Basic Allowance remains a fair and transparent approach

### **Recommendation**

That no changes be made to the existing SRA structure or multipliers. Any uplift to SRAs should occur only as a consequence of an agreed uplift to the Basic Allowance.

## **Dependent Carers' Allowance**

The Panel reviewed the arrangements for the Dependent Carers' Allowance in accordance with its Terms of Reference.

The Panel notes that the carers' allowance is paid on a per-hour basis and is intended to support councillors with caring responsibilities, helping to reduce barriers to participation in council business.

The Panel considers that the current arrangements remain appropriate at this time. Given the scope of this refresh, the Panel considers that any review of the carers' allowance rate or structure would be more appropriately undertaken as part of any future full review of the Members' Allowances Scheme.

### **Recommendation**

That no changes are made to the current Dependent Carers' Allowance arrangements at this time, and that the allowance be considered as part of any future full review of Members' Allowances.

## **Worcestershire Comparison**

The Panel considered comparative information across Worcestershire district councils. It was felt that there was no value in looking wider at this stage given the pending local government reorganisation.

The Panel noted that Wyre Forest District Council continues to sit at the lower end of the range for Members' Allowances within Worcestershire. The Panel

considers that this position remains appropriate, including following the recommended uplift.

## **Future Review and Local Government Reorganisation**

The Panel considered the wider context of forthcoming changes to local government reorganisation within Worcestershire.

The Panel notes that there will be a change in governance arrangements from 2028, with the Government expected to make a decision in mid-2026 on the precise structure, including whether Worcestershire will move to a single unitary authority or two unitary authorities.

Given this upcoming change in governance, the Panel considers it appropriate to avoid undertaking a full structural review of the Members' Allowances Scheme prior to local government reorganisation. The Panel felt that it would be appropriate that a full, comprehensive IRP review be undertaken by the successor unitary authority or authorities once governance arrangements are confirmed. Any future review should reassess:

- The Basic Allowance
- SRAs and role profiles
- Carer's Allowance rates
- The overall structure of the scheme in light of new responsibilities.

## **Recommendation**

The Panel therefore recommends that a full review of Members' Allowances be undertaken by the new unitary authority or authorities, once established, to ensure that any future scheme reflects the governance arrangements, scale and responsibilities in place from 2028 onwards.

## **Continuation of the Members' Allowances Scheme**

The Panel considered the potential for changes to the timetable for local government reorganisation, including the possibility that the anticipated changes do not proceed.

The Panel considers that, regardless of the outcome of any reorganisation proposals, it is important that the Members' Allowances Scheme provides clarity, stability and consistency.

The Panel therefore agrees that, following the implementation of the 2025 uplift, the Members' Allowances Scheme should continue unchanged, other than in circumstances where a staff pay award is agreed and the Council considers it

appropriate to trigger consideration of an uplift in accordance with the guiding principles set out in this report.

Any such consideration should remain subject to financial affordability and should not be regarded as automatic. In the absence of materially changed circumstances, the Panel considers that no further changes should be made unless and until a full review of Members' Allowances is undertaken.

## **Recommendation**

The Panel recommends that, following implementation of the 2025 uplift, the Members' Allowances Scheme should remain unchanged, save that a staff pay award may act as a trigger for consideration of an uplift in line with the Panel's guiding principles, unless materially changed circumstances arise or a full review is undertaken.

## **Implementation of Recommendations**

The Panel recommends an implementation date of 1 April 2026.

## **Panel Membership**

The Independent Remuneration Panel comprised the following members:

### **Tim Hipkiss**

Tim retired as Deputy Head of a comprehensive school in the West Midlands in 2003, after 22 years in post. He was then involved in the assessment of trainee teachers and was Quality Assurance Manager for the West Midlands Consortium until 2011. He was Independent member of the Wyre Forest District Council Standards and Ethics Committee until 2012. In September 2012 Tim became an Independent Person for Worcestershire County Council, and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service. He has been asked to consider several cases for these bodies as well as those from Wyre Forest District Council. He has also processed issues at Town Council and Parish Council level.

Tim has enjoyed many years of long-distance walking and revived the ancient English Amino Route which runs from Droitwich to Pill in North Somerset. He produced, with his walking companions, a book to accompany the walk. Tim has been a resident of Wyre Forest for nearly 50 years.

### **Wayne Jay**

Wayne Jay is an industry award winning Operational and supply chain executive. He has led large scale transformational change across UKI and global operations. He has extensive leadership experience having been a member of various commercial, operation and executive boards.

Wayne is an accomplished strategic and tactical leader with a relentless lens on corporate governance. He has been a volunteer with the Youth offending service in West Mercia for the past fifteen years. He has lived in Wolverley with his family for over 20 years.

**Clair de Groot**

Clair de Groot brings over 40 years' experience in governance, executive support and administration across local government, including district and unitary authorities, as well as the voluntary and private sectors. Her career spans a wide range of professional settings, supporting senior leaders, elected members and boards in decision-making, scrutiny, compliance and effective governance, and contributing to the efficient operation of organisations. She has also previously served as a Trustee and Chair of the Board of Trustees for a large regional charity, providing strategic leadership, governance oversight and financial accountability.

Clair has lived in the Wyre Forest area for over 30 years, having additionally grown up in Kidderminster and Stourport, and offers a strong local perspective alongside a detailed understanding of the operational and strategic challenges faced by district councils and their communities.

The Panel confirms that all members acted independently and without political affiliation.

**Tim Hipkiss, Wayne Jay, Clair de Groot**

**January 2026**

## Agenda Item No. 8 Appendix B

### Revised Members' Allowances Scheme 2026/2027

With effect from 1 April 2026

	<b>£ per annum</b>
<b>Basic Allowance All Councillors</b>	5,261

### Special Responsibility Allowance

<b>Band 1</b> Leader	15,782
<b>Band 2</b> Deputy Leader	9,205
<b>Band 3</b> Cabinet Members	7,891
<b>Band 4</b> Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair of Planning Committee	6,576 6,576
<b>Band 5</b> Chair of Licensing & Environmental Committee Chairman of Audit Committee	3,945 3,945
<b>Band 6</b> Political Group Leaders (subject to a minimum of 4 members) Vice Chair Overview and Scrutiny Committee Vice Chair Planning Committee Chair of Ethics and Standards Committee	1,315 1,315 1,315 1,315

**Note: Members may not claim allowances from more than one body in respect of any duty.**

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**  
**25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**

**Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026-2029  
and Capital Strategy 2025-2035**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor D Ross
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	Head of Resources
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Helen Ogram, Ext 2907 Helen.ogram@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
Appendix 1 Appendix 2  Appendix 3 Appendix 4  Appendix 5	Base Budget Projections 2026-2029 Capital Programme and updated non-treasury prudential Fees and Charges – Council Report of the Head of Resources/Chief Financial Officer in respect of Sections 25-28 Local Government Act 2003 Alternative Budget Proposal (Labour Group) <i>The appendices to this report have been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details.)</i>

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To present the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2026-2029 and make recommendations to Council on the proposed budget decision. This report also seeks approval of the Capital Strategy for 2026-2036 including prudential indicators which set limits for non-financial investments and to fulfil the key requirements of the MHCLG Investment Guidance. To present the report of the Head of Resources in respect of statutory duties placed on Local Authority Chief Financial Officers in relation to budget setting and monitoring for consideration.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The **CABINET** having re-considered the Financial Strategy 2026-2029, the results of the Budget consultation exercise, alternative budget proposals and recommendations of the Strategic Review Panel **RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL** that it:

**2.1 THREE YEAR BUDGET, CAPITAL STRATEGY AND POLICY FRAMEWORK 2026-2029**

2.1.1 **APPROVES** the updated Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2026-2029.

2.1.2 **APPROVES** the Cabinet Proposals – taking into account the impact on the Council’s Capital and Revenue Budgets for 2026-2029 as shown in the tables in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.5 and as set out below:

- a.) Tackle illegal parking and abandoned cars by continuing to fund extra Civil Enforcement Officers. We will maintain the temporary increase in staffing levels planned for 2026-27 into 2027-28 at a cost of £42k in 2027-28.
- b.) Help to keep our streets free from environmental crimes. We will tackle antisocial behaviour and help our residents to feel safe in their communities by expanding the current level of staffing in our environmental protection team at a cost of £43k/£90k in 2026/27 and 2027/28.
- c.) Fund an increase in litter picking activity in the tourist season to help keep streets, parks and public spaces looking their best for everyone at a cost of £30k/£32k in 2026/27 and 2027/28.
- d.) Provide extra support for cultural events over the next 2 years to bring more people into our towns, help people feel proud of where they live and support people’s wellbeing at a cost of £25k in both 2026-27 and 2027-28.
- e.) Increase funding to support delivery of the key actions in the Kidderminster 2040 Vision, making it a sustainable place that celebrates its heritage and natural environment including strengthening the museum sector. A one-off transformation grant payable over two years to support development of a new business model for the Museum of Carpet in order for them to become an alternative heritage museum body at a cost of £25k in both 2026-27 and 2027-28.
- f.) A core funding allocation to support continuation of economic development activity within the district that was previously funded from UK Shared Prosperity Fund. No new generic funding streams were announced for Worcestershire Districts in either the Budget or the Comprehensive Spending Review. This allocation could support continuation of existing projects for example the Business Growth Service delivered by Worcestershire LEP to protect jobs and deliver economic growth at a cost of £70k in both 2026-27 and 2027-28.
- g.) Support the wider roll out across the district of on street recycling/litter bins, enhancing cleanliness and environmental sustainability and boosting recycling rates. Initial pilot to be run in our three town centres in 2026-27 with further roll-out in future years if successful at a cost of £3,500 in all three years – 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29.

**In addition, approval is sought for:**

- h.) The revenue implications of the capital spending proposal to deliver the new vision for Bridge Street – a redevelopment scheme to revitalise the area with a sustainable, heritage led proposal that attracts visitors and businesses, a cost of £3k in 2027-28 and £22k in 2028-29.
- i.) Continuation of the policy to support localism and facilitate the transfer of assets to local council control in order to keep them community focussed and for the transfer of income generating assets such as small car parks in return for the taking on of further service. This will be considered on a case by case basis when the Government's decision in respect of unitarization is known.
- j.) An increase to the commercial income target for the Commercial Strategy Delivery Units to support the Wyre Forest Forward Transformation and Financial Resilience programme. We will increase demand for our charged for services to achieve an increase the existing target of £52k in 2027-28, and £70k in 2028-29.
- k.) An increase to the efficiency and transformation targets by reviewing how services are delivered, being smarter about how they are procured and how we intervene to reduce the need for late-stage services  
£55k/£85k/£110k

2.1.3 **APPROVES** the fees and charges in line with this Strategy, and the impact on the Council's Revenue Budget for 2026-2029, as shown in Appendix 3.

2.1.4 **APPROVES** the Council's updated Capital Strategy:

- a) **Approval** of the Capital Strategy 2025-2035 set out in Appendix 1 of the December Cabinet report and the updated, associated Quantitative Indicators set out in Appendix 2C of this report.
- b) **Approval** of variations to the Capital Programme as set out in Appendices 2A, of this report (which updates Appendix 1 of the Capital Strategy report to December 2025 Cabinet).
- c) **Notes** the indicative Vehicle, Equipment and Systems Renewals Schedule as set out in Appendices 2B, of this report (which updates Appendix 1 of the Capital Strategy report to December 2025 Cabinet).
- d) **Approval** of the limits for gross debt for non-treasury investments compared to net service expenditure and for commercial income as a percentage of net service expenditure as set out in Appendix 2C of this report.

2.1.5 **APPROVES** that any Final Accounts savings arising from 2025-2026, together with surplus Earmarked Reserves, be allocated by the Head of Resources in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio.

2.1.6 The General Fund Revenue Budget be **APPROVED** including all updates from the position in December 2025 as set out in this report.

## **2.2 COUNCIL TAX AND BUSINESS RATES**

2.2.1 That Council Tax is increased by the higher limit specified by the Government of 2.99% and, noting that the Council has delegated the Council Tax setting decision under Chapter III of Part I of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to the Audit Committee:

- a. **ENDORSES** setting the Council Tax for Wyre Forest District Council on a Band D Property at £258.08 for 2026-2027 which represents an increase of 2.99% on Council Tax from 2025-2026.
- b. **ENDORSES** the provisional Council Tax on a Band D Property in 2027-2028 of £265.80 and £273.75 in 2028-2029, being increases of 2.99%.

2.2.3 **NOTES** the Head of Resources' (as Chief Financial Officer) opinion on the budget proposals, recommended by the Cabinet in this report, as detailed in Appendix 4 of this report.

## **3. KEY ISSUES**

3.1 On 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025, Cabinet considered reports on proposals for the Budget Strategy for the period 2026-2029 including the intrinsically linked Capital Strategy 2025-2035. The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was announced on the 17<sup>th</sup> December. The Final Settlement was approved by the House of Commons on 11<sup>th</sup> February. This report provides the updated position and a proposed budget decision for Council to consider.

3.2 The Budget Consultation survey was launched on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and ran until Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The results of this consultation were considered by the Strategic Review Panel on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January and reported as part of the February 2026 MTFS report to Cabinet. The responses informed the proposals in this report. The Strategic Review Panel meeting also received Alternative Budget Proposals for consideration by Cabinet in formulation of their final proposals. Following careful consideration of these proposals by the Strategic Review Panel two additional items were included as Cabinet proposals. Cabinet proposals are set out below at paragraphs 3.15. An alternative budget proposal from the Labour Group is included in this report at Appendix 5. A Further updated proposal may be provided, if necessary, for Full Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

3.3 A revised **Capital Programme** is in Appendix 2 for Council approval including a revised set of Quantitative Indicators for the Assessment of Risk Exposure. Procurement adverts for all items on the renewals schedule may be placed without further consent by Cabinet subject to the route to procurement being agreed with the Procurement Officer and Contracts Solicitor and the requirements of the Procurement Act 2023 being met.

- 3.4 The approach to be taken to **fees and charges** within the financial strategy recommended by Cabinet this year continues to have regard to demand and other market conditions. As a result, some fees and charges may be frozen or increased by less than the average of 5%. Cabinet decided in December that car park fees will generally be frozen in 2026-27.
- 3.5 Fees and Charges requiring Council approval are detailed in Appendix 3.

### **Spending Proposals**

- 3.6 Following careful consideration of the budget consultation responses and Alternative Budget Proposals by the Strategic Review Panel on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and further dialogue with colleagues and partners, the Cabinet Proposals are revised. The proposals demonstrate investment to deliver priorities and actions set out in the corporate plan. A freeze in car park charges in 2026-27 to help bring more people into towns was approved by Cabinet in December. This is anticipated to cost £60k/£63k/£67k.
- 3.7 There are eleven Cabinet Proposals this year as set out below:
  - 3.7.1 Tackle illegal parking and abandoned cars by continuing to fund extra Civil Enforcement Officers. We will maintain the temporary increase in staffing levels planned for 2026-27 into 2027-28 at a cost of £42k in 2027-28.
  - 3.7.2 Help to keep our streets free from environmental crimes. We will tackle antisocial behaviour and help our residents to feel safe in their communities by expanding the current level of staffing in our environmental protection team at a cost of £43k/£90k in 2026/27 and 2027/28.
  - 3.7.3 Fund an increase in litter picking activity in the tourist season to help keep streets, parks and public spaces looking their best for everyone at a cost of £30k/£32k in 2026/27 and 2027/28.
  - 3.7.4 Provide extra support for cultural events over the next 2 years to bring more people into our towns, help people feel proud of where they live and support people's wellbeing at a cost of £25k in both 2026-27 and 2027-28.
  - 3.7.5 Increase economic development funding to support delivery of the key actions in the Kidderminster 2040 Vision, making it a sustainable place that celebrates its heritage and natural environment including strengthening the museum sector. A one-off transformation grant payable over two years to support development of a new business model for the Museum of Carpet in order for them to become an alternative heritage museum body at a cost of £25k in both 2026-27 and 2027-28.
  - 3.7.6 A core funding allocation to support continuation of economic development activity within the district that was previously funded from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. No new generic funding streams were announced for Worcestershire Districts in either the Budget or the Comprehensive Spending Review. This allocation could support continuation of existing projects for example the Business Growth Service delivered by Worcestershire LEP to

protect jobs and deliver economic growth at a cost of £70k in both 2026-27 and 2027-28.

- 3.7.7 Support the wider roll out across the district of on street recycling/litter bins, enhancing cleanliness and environmental sustainability and boosting recycling rates. Initial pilot to be run in our three town centres in 2026-27 with further roll-out in future years if successful at a cost of £3,500 in all three years – 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29.
- 3.7.8 The revenue implications of the capital spending proposal to deliver the new vision for Bridge Street – a redevelopment scheme to revitalise the area with a sustainable, heritage led proposal that attracts visitors and businesses, a cost of £3k in 2027-28 and £22k in 2028-29.
- 3.7.9 Continuation of the policy to support localism and facilitate the transfer of assets to local council control in order to keep them community focussed and for the transfer of income generating assets such as small car parks in return for the taking on of further service. This will be considered on a case by case basis when the Government's decision in respect of unitarization is known.
- 3.7.10 Increase commercial income target for the Commercial Strategy Delivery Units to support the Wyre Forest Forward Transformation and Financial Resilience programme. We will increase demand for our charged for services to achieve an increase the existing target of £52k in 2027-28, and £70k in 2028-29.
- 3.7.11 Increase efficiency and transformation targets by reviewing how services are delivered, being smarter about how they are procured and how we intervene to reduce the need for late-stage services £55k/£85k/£110k.
- 3.8 Business Rate projections are shown in table 6.5 below. The business rates retention system (BRRS) is undergoing a full reset in 2026-27. This means that all accumulated business rates growth will be redistributed based on an updated assessment of local authority needs, and new baselines (tariffs and top-ups) have been set for every authority. The primary rationale for forming business rate pools is to collectively pay less levy to central government and retain more of business rates growth locally. In general, amendments to how the rate retention system works and the 2026 reset significantly weaken this rationale, indeed there are to be no business rates pools in 2026-27. Due to the structural changes the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Business rates pool did not submit an application to MHCLG for continuation of the pool for 2026-27. Completion of the NDR1 return and analysis of the reported values indicates that the council will receive less income from business rates than government have calculated we need and so the Council will benefit from the 100% safety net on offer in 2026-27. The amount of safety net payment due is £127k. The safety net will reduce to 97% in 2027-28 and return to 92.5% in 2028-29 – this will reduce the likelihood of any gain from growth in future years of the strategy.
- 3.9 Taking these items into account the projected Base Budget net expenditure for 2026-2027 is estimated to be £16.970m (see paragraph 6.5). This is £404k more than currently estimated to be raised from Council Tax, Business Rates Income retained and all other grants based on a 2.99% pa Council Tax increase (including Extended Producer Responsibility Grant). This total is net of savings targets from

the transformation and financial sustainability work streams (including Wyre Forest Forward, Localism and commercialisation).

**4. LOCAL AUTHORITY REVENUE FINANCE SETTLEMENT FOR 2026-2027**

- 4.1 The Provisional Local Government Settlement was announced on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025. The Final Settlement was published on 9<sup>th</sup> February and approved by the House of Commons on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026.
- 4.2 The 2026-27 local government finance settlement is a multi-year settlement covering the 3 years to 2028-29. This settlement has resulted in more redistribution of funding within the sector than any other for at least the last 25 years. Funding distributions were last updated in 2013/14 and since then there has been an updated 4-year settlement (from 2016/17) and a series of one-year settlements.
- 4.3 There is also a full baseline reset (for the first time since the Business Rates Retention Scheme was introduced in 2013/14), major changes to all the Relative Needs Formulas (RNFs), and the simplification of many grants into either Fair Funding Assessment or into one of four Consolidated Grants. The distribution of resources between authorities will be very different by 2028/29 than it is now.
- 4.4 Shire district councils will only receive a much lower average increase than any other class of authority largely because they lose significantly from the business rates baseline reset. The average position for districts is below inflation and therefore represents a real term cut across the 3 years. Decisions by ministers have tended to favour authorities with social care responsibilities at the expense of district councils. The position is further exacerbated by the failure to pay new burdens funding for the introduction of weekly food waste collections. Wyre Forest District Council will receive grant from the funding floor mechanism that has been introduced to ensure a flat cash (zero growth) position when new burdens and other funding changes are excluded.
- 4.5 This is a 3-year settlement, which gives certainty to authorities in the second and third year. Each of these latter two years will still be subject to an annual settlement process, but any changes will be upwards, with the 3-year settlement representing a minimum level of funding. However, the lateness of the 2026-27 settlement, and the lack of certainty in predicting its outcome, effectively means that authorities have had no greater certainty than usual in advance of budget-setting for this coming year.
- 4.6 The final settlement confirms previous announcements including a referendum limit for shire districts of the higher of up to 3% or £5. The forecast position in relation to total Government grant taking into account the Final Finance Settlement for 2025-2026 is shown in the Tables at 6.5.

**5. COUNCIL TAX BASE**

- 5.1 The Council Tax Base previously reported for 2026-27 has now been confirmed; this has increased from the 2025-26 level of 35,338 to 35,485 being an increase of 147 or 0.4%. This is due to growth in the housing stock and is net of reliefs, exemptions, discounts, disregards and Council Tax Reduction Scheme. It is forecast to rise over the term of the strategy, informed by data from planning applications and the local plan housing allocations, resulting in increases of circa 1.26% or 477 additional properties in 2027-28 and 1.22% or 438 additional properties in 2028-29. The taxbase has been lower than anticipated during 2025-26 (147 vs 538 assumed), this has resulted in an in-year deficit. There are various reasons for this, whilst the gross property charge has increased due to the addition of 821 new dwellings, the increase arising from new build developments has been offset by a higher number of discounts and an uplift in the number of council tax exemptions, disablement and Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS). Further, 174 dwellings were removed from the list and there was a reduction 38 due to exemptions introduced to requirement to pay a levy on long term empty homes.

**6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Cabinet Proposals previously considered have been updated following consideration of the alternative budget proposals presented by the Independent/Green, Liberal and Labour groups to the Strategic Review Panel on 29<sup>th</sup> January (Appendix 5) and discussions with colleagues and partners. The final proposals are summarised below and are included in the table in paragraph 6.5.

ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSALS	KEY	2026-27	2027-28	After 2027-28
		£	£	£
<b><u>Environmental Protection</u></b>				
Additional funding for Environmental Protection Officers to tackle antisocial behaviour and help our residents to feel safe in their communities.	C R S	43,000 1.00	90,000 2.00	-
<b><u>Civil Enforcement</u></b>				
Additional funding for Civil Enforcement Officers to help keep abandoned vehicles off our streets and to ensure consistent, fair and equitable charging for use of our carparking facilities to help support services that local communities value.	C R S	-	42,000 1.00	-
<b><u>Street Scene</u></b>				
Increase the level of litter picking during the tourist season (1st April until 30th September) in our riverside towns of Bewdley and Stourport to tackle antisocial behaviour and make our town centres cleaner, safer and more inviting places to visit.	C R S	30,000	32,000	-
<b><u>Cultural events</u></b>				
and footfall, deliver economic benefits to local businesses including shops, restaurants and other local service providers, provide support for creative industries and help create a vibrant cultural scene.	C R S	25,000	25,000	- -
<b><u>Support our heritage and visitor economy</u></b>				
Increase funding to support delivery of the key actions in the Kidderminster 2040 Vision, making it a sustainable place that celebrates its heritage and natural environment including strengthening the museum sector. A one-off transformation grant payable over two years to support development of a new business model for the Museum of Carpet in order for them to become an alternative heritage museum body.	C R S	25,000	25,000	-
<b><u>Economic development initiatives</u></b>				
Core funding allocation to support continuation of economic development activity within the District that was previously funded from UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocations. No new generic funding streams were announced for Worcestershire Districts in either the Budget or the Comprehensive Spending Review	C R S	70,000	70,000	
<b><u>On Street recycling/litter bins</u></b>				
To support the wider roll out across the District of on street recycling/litter bins, enhancing cleanliness and environmental sustainability and boosting recycling rates. Initial pilot to be run in our three town centres in 2026-27 with further roll-out in future years if successful.	C R S	3,500	3,500	3,500
<b><u>Revenue implications of capital plans</u></b>				
New vision for Bridge Street – a redevelopment scheme to revitalise the area with a sustainable, heritage led proposal that attracts visitors and businesses with an estimated council capital contribution of £4m	C R S	500,000 -	3,500,000 3,000	22,000
<b><u>Localism</u></b>				
To continue to support the localism agenda and facilitate the transfer of assets to local council control in order to keep them community focussed we will continue to keep under review the transfer of income generating assets such as small car parks in return for the taking on of further services, on a case by case basis, and that consideration is given to this further when we know the Government's decision in respect of unitarisation.	C R S	-	-	-
<b><u>Efficiencies/transformation (increase target savings)</u></b>				
Continue to find savings and efficiencies by reviewing how services are delivered, being smarter about how they are procured and how we reduce demand for services.	C R S	55,000 CR	85,000 CR	110,500 CR
<b><u>Commercial income growth target (increase target)</u></b>				
Increase demand for our charged for services to achieve economies of scale and maximise the income we generate.	C R S	-	52,000 CR	70,000 CR
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>C R S</b>	<b>500,000 141,500 1</b>	<b>3,500,000 153,500 3</b>	<b>- 155,000 CR -</b>
<b>Also:</b>				
<b>2.99% pa Council Tax increase</b>				
<b><u>KEY - Changes in Resources</u></b>				
C - Capital				
R - Revenue				
S - Staffing - Stated in FTEs				

6.2 The estimates and assumptions included in the December Cabinet report have been reviewed to reflect latest available information. Expected investment income receipts have been revised upwards by £100k and, following completion of the NNDR1 return, we can confirm our estimates of income from business rates. Following the statutory calculation of the deficit on collection of Council Tax the previous assumption has been revised upwards from zero to a £70k deficit.

6.3 **Review of Earmarked Reserves**

Earmarked reserves are one-off balances set aside for investment towards agreed priorities or to meet known liabilities. Reserves are held to fund specific initiatives or held to cover unforeseen events within the Council’s prudent financial management arrangements. The requirement for financial reserves is acknowledged in statute; specifically, Sections 32 and 43 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require billing and precepting authorities in England and Wales to have regard to the level of reserves needed for meeting estimated future expenditure when calculating the budget requirement.

6.4 A key element in managing the council’s earmarked reserves is regular review to ensure that if they are no longer required they can be released to general reserves or reallocated towards strategic priorities. A review of reserves held was undertaken as part of the 2026-27 budget setting process and it has been confirmed that the planned release and transfer to general reserves of £300k in 2026-27 and £600k in 2027-28 is still appropriate.

**Table 6.4 - Updated Funding Position due to settlement amendments since December Cabinet**

<b>Settlement Funding announcements - adjustments since Draft MTFS</b>	<b>2026-27 £</b>	<b>2027-28 £</b>	<b>2028-29 £</b>
<b>Change in Funding assumption</b>			
<b>Provisional Settlement</b>			
- Revenue Support Grant (and transitional protection)	(981,334)	(812,715)	(829,292)
- Business Rates	1,037,168	1,046,000	1,062,602
<b>Final Settlement</b>			
- Revenue Support Grant (and transitional protection)	332,030	101,430	
- Adjustment grant	(332,030)		
	55,834	334,715	233,311
<b>Overall impact on MTFS since December Cabinet</b>			623,860

6.5 The following tables demonstrate the updated position for the Council when the revisions are incorporated into the Base Budget. The Council is forecast to hold a balance of £3.298m at the end of 2028-29 (see reserves table in 6.6) based on a Council Tax increase of 2.99% pa.

**Table 6.5 - Updated Position post Final Settlement**

	<b>Revised 2025-26 £</b>	<b>2026-27 £</b>	<b>2027-28 £</b>	<b>2028-29 £</b>
<b>Net Expenditure on Services</b>	15,301,620	16,633,190	17,585,320	18,333,920
Total Net Expenditure on Services	<b>15,301,620</b>	<b>16,633,190</b>	<b>17,585,320</b>	<b>18,333,920</b>
Include:				
Cabinet Proposals		141,500	153,500	(155,000)
Net Expenditure	15,301,620	16,774,690	17,738,820	18,178,920
Creation of Earmarked Reserve	719,730	600,000	600,000	
Contribution (from)/to Reserves	293,060	(404,370)	(1,441,610)	(1,017,750)
<b>Net Budget Requirement</b>	<b>16,314,410</b>	<b>16,970,320</b>	<b>16,897,210</b>	<b>17,161,170</b>
<b>Funded by:</b>				
Revenue Support Grant	178,440	3,173,940	3,191,290	3,192,290
Grants rolled into RSG (included in net budget requirement)	0	(299,000)	(299,000)	(299,000)
Transitional Funding (Additional RSG)	0	65,350	0	0
Business Rates	4,973,800	2,789,840	2,854,000	2,911,400
Adjustment Support Grant		332,030		
New Homes Bonus	312,990	0	0	0
Extended Producer Responsibility Grant	1,740,730	1,420,000	1,200,000	1,000,000
Recovery Grant	400,190	400,190	400,190	400,190
Collection Fund Deficit	(239,070)	(70,000)	0	0
Council Tax Income	8,855,000	9,157,970	9,550,730	9,956,290
National Insurance Funding	92,330	0	0	0
WFDC Council Tax: 2.99% increase per annum	<b>250.58</b>	<b>258.08</b>	<b>265.80</b>	<b>273.75</b>
Percentage increase in Council Tax	2.996%	2.993%	2.991%	2.991%

6.6 Reserves available as part of the three-year financial strategy are as shown in the following tables. The reserves position at the end of 2028-29 compared to the December forecast is shown below.

**Table 6.6.1 – Changes to Reserves Statement since December Cabinet**

<b>Detail of Changes</b>	<b>Revised 2025-26 £</b>	<b>2026-27 £</b>	<b>2027-28 £</b>	<b>2028-29 £</b>
Collection Fund Deficit		70,000		
Increased Investment Income	(100,000)			
Decreased funding from Government (Provisional settlement)		55,840	233,280	233,310
Decreased funding from Government (Final settlement)			101,430	
	(100,000)	125,840	334,710	233,310
New/amendments to Draft Cabinet Proposals		70,500	56,500	(80,000)
<b>Total Variance</b>	<b>(100,000)</b>	<b>196,340</b>	<b>391,210</b>	<b>153,310</b>

**Table 6.6.2 – Final Reserves Statement**

<b>Reserves Statement</b>	<b>Revised 2025-26 £</b>	<b>2026-27 £</b>	<b>2027-28 £</b>	<b>2028-29 £</b>
Reserves as at 1st April	4,968,950	5,262,010	5,157,640	4,316,030
Contribution to/(from) Reserves	293,060	(404,370)	(1,441,610)	(1,017,750)
Release of Earmarked to Unallocated (General) Reserves	0	300,000	600,000	0
Reserves as at 31st March	<b>5,262,010</b>	<b>5,157,640</b>	<b>4,316,030</b>	<b>3,298,280</b>

6.7 The table below shows a funding gap of £1.470m in 2028-29 following the updates in this report.

**Table 6.5 – Funding Gap**

Financial Gap	2025-26 £	2026-27 £	2027-28 £	2028-29 £
Savings target at 01/04/2025	195,000	291,000	344,000	344,000
Less achieved or realigned 2025-26	(195,000)	(113,000)	(60,000)	(62,000)
<b>Totals from 2025-28 Strategy</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>178,000</b>	<b>284,000</b>	<b>282,000</b>
<b>Draft new Cabinet Proposals 2026-29 Strategy</b>				
- Wyre Forest Forward Efficiency target		55,000	85,000	110,500
- Income growth			52,000	70,000
<b>Total Income and Efficiency targets in 2026-29 Strategy</b>		<b>233,000</b>	<b>421,000</b>	<b>462,500</b>
<b>Targets in 2026-29 Strategy analysed by programme</b>				
Wyre Forest Forward Savings		41,000	64,000	102,000
Generic Localism Savings		24,000	100,000	100,000
Commercial Income Growth (including Property)		143,000	232,000	250,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>208,000</b>	<b>396,000</b>	<b>452,000</b>
Use of reserves from proposed 2026-29 Strategy		404,370	1,441,610	1,017,750
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>612,370</b>	<b>1,837,610</b>	<b>1,469,750</b>

**7. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

7.1 Equality, Climate Change and Health and Wellbeing Impact assessments will be undertaken as appropriate as part of reviews of service delivery arrangements and implementation of new models. There are no proposals in this report that require an assessment, because of their generic nature. However, the proposed investment in accessible play equipment will enhance provision for disabled children in the district.

**8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

8.1 Achieving financial sustainability, alongside Local Government Reorganisation, is the most significant challenge facing the Council. The Strategic Review Panel provided some options for the Cabinet to consider in making its recommendations on the medium-term financial strategy. The principal risks were outlined in Appendix 5 of the report to Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and are summarised and refreshed where appropriate in Appendix 4 of this report.

8.2 The increased Council Tax Base over the MTFs period, the development and regeneration of Kidderminster and the wider district following the successful grant funded programmes (Future High Streets fund and the Levelling Up Fund), Cabinet Proposals and continuing progress with the Wyre Forest Forward Transformation savings contribute as far as possible to the mitigation of the financial risk within this budget strategy.

- 8.3 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require Local Authorities to fully consider and manage Risk as part of the Budget process. Appendix 5 of the December 2025 report showed an analysis of the significant financial risks which are affecting the Council. This has been reviewed and remains current subject to the comments and updates provided in Appendix 4 of this report.
- 8.4 Local authorities are required to formalise their approach to risk management and evidence it more directly as part of the budgetary process. Further statutory safeguards designed to prevent an authority from over-committing itself financially are as follows:
- Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 which requires the authority to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and that the Chief Finance Officer has personal responsibility for such administration.
  - Section 32 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 which requires the authority to set a balanced budget.
  - The prudential framework, introduced as part of the Local Government Act 2003, covers the way an authority must manage its investments including affordability considerations. The assessment of affordability of financial plans requires a judgement about risk. Prudential Indicators are the monitoring tool to assess performance and risk.
  - The external auditor's duty to satisfy itself that the authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.
  - CIPFA Guidance on Reserves and Balances highlights the need to consider risks facing the authority; the risks posed by the continuing economic uncertainty, supply chain issues exacerbated by global unrest and continued uncertainty about funding reform place pressure on the Council to hold higher levels of reserves to ensure ongoing sustainability.
  - To reinforce these obligations section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 requires the Chief Finance Officer to report to all councillors, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, if there is or is likely to be unlawful expenditure or an unbalanced budget.
- 8.5 CIPFA issued a Financial Management Code (FM Code) in October 2019 which provides guidance for good and sustainable financial management in local authorities provides assurance that authorities are managing resources effectively. A self-assessment against the Code is reported to Audit Committee annually and actions identified to improve the level of compliance.
- 8.6 The Treasury Management Code and Prudential Code provide guidance to support the management of risks associated with Treasury and Capital Financing strategies.
- 8.7 The on-going principle of the Prudential Code is that capital plans must be affordable and proportionate, and an authority must not borrow to invest primarily

for financial return. HM Treasury adopt a tighter definition of commercial investments; HM Treasury guidance is adopted to ensure continued access to PWLB loans.

- 8.8 The financial projections suggest deficits in funding across all three years under consideration, leading to a projected net deficit in year three of some £1.470m. In broad terms this can be explained by the combination of cost pressures not met by government grant, and historic reductions in Revenue Support Grant and other funding sources.

## **9. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### 9.1 Local Government Act 2003

- 9.1.1 The Local Government Act 2003 (Sections 25-28) places duties on Local Authorities on how they set and monitor budgets.
- 9.1.2 Sections 25-27 require the Section 151 Officer to report on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of its proposed financial reserves. This is reported to Council as Appendix 4 of this report.
- 9.1.3 Section 28 places a statutory duty on an Authority to review its budget from time to time during the year. If the Budget Monitoring Report shows that there has been deterioration in the Authority's financial position, the Authority must take such action as it concludes necessary. The Council currently reviews the Budget on a quarterly basis, with CLT/Cabinet receiving monthly budget monitoring reports, and this practice will continue.

## **10. CONSULTEES**

Corporate Leadership Team  
Cabinet

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1 Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.
- 11.2 Cabinet Report on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2026–2029 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025.
- 11.3 Cabinet Report on updated Capital Strategy 2025-2035 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025.
- 11.4 Agenda and Minutes of the Strategic Review Panel.
- 11.5 Provisional and Final Local Government Finance Settlements 2026-2027.
- 11.6 Prudential and Treasury Management Codes December 2021

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCILREVENUE BUDGET TOTAL REQUIREMENTS - DISTRICT COUNCIL PURPOSES

SERVICE	2025/26		2026/27			2027/28			2028/29		
	Original Estimate £	Revised Estimate £	At Nov.24 Prices £	Inflation £	TOTAL £	At Nov.24 Prices £	Inflation £	TOTAL £	At Nov.24 Prices £	Inflation £	TOTAL £
CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL	2,806,520	3,053,830	3,353,840	78,190	3,432,030	3,610,370	140,010	3,750,380	3,520,300	207,650	3,727,950
COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT	6,255,000	6,583,120	7,139,980	259,620	7,399,600	7,653,970	481,180	8,135,150	7,965,550	692,860	8,658,410
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION	564,200	452,190	368,840	51,060	419,900	148,690	98,330	247,020	(170,950)	139,680	(31,270)
RESOURCES	1,945,430	1,568,830	1,142,460	29,500	1,171,960	1,133,810	69,400	1,203,210	1,119,470	105,530	1,225,000
REVENUES, BENEFITS & CUSTOMER SERVICES	1,903,770	1,901,230	1,964,180	68,630	2,032,810	1,985,200	115,760	2,100,960	1,979,130	164,180	2,143,310
STRATEGIC GROWTH	2,619,230	2,589,730	2,719,350	90,620	2,809,970	2,689,550	150,040	2,839,590	2,631,840	208,580	2,840,420
<b>LESS: CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>	16,094,150	16,148,930	16,688,650	577,620	17,266,270	17,221,590	1,054,720	18,276,310	17,045,340	1,518,480	18,563,820
INTEREST RECEIVED	627,000	388,800	342,910	3,860	346,770	236,120	6,610	242,730	386,060	9,260	395,320
	(1,036,110)	(1,236,110)	(838,350)	0	(838,350)	(780,220)	0	(780,220)	(780,220)	0	(780,220)
<b>TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE ON SERVICES</b>	<b>15,685,040</b>	<b>15,301,620</b>	<b>16,193,210</b>	<b>581,480</b>	<b>16,774,690</b>	<b>16,677,490</b>	<b>1,061,330</b>	<b>17,738,820</b>	<b>16,651,180</b>	<b>1,527,740</b>	<b>18,178,920</b>
CREATION OF EARMARKED RESERVE	0	719,730			600,000			600,000			0
<b>LESS: RESERVES</b>	(90,360)	293,060			(404,370)			(1,441,610)			(1,017,750)
<b>NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>15,594,680</b>	<b>16,314,410</b>			<b>16,970,320</b>			<b>16,897,210</b>			<b>17,161,170</b>
<b>LESS: REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT</b>	(178,440)	(178,440)			(3,173,940)			(3,191,290)			(3,192,290)
GRANTS ROLLED INTO RSG (included in net budget requirement)	0	0			299,000			299,000			299,000
TRANSITIONAL FUNDING (additional RSG)	0	0			(65,350)			0			0
BUSINESS RATES INCOME	(4,973,800)	(4,973,800)			(2,789,840)			(2,854,000)			(2,911,400)
ADJUSTMENT SUPPORT GRANT	0	0			(332,030)			0			0
RECOVERY GRANT	(400,190)	(400,190)			(400,190)			(400,190)			(400,190)
COLLECTION FUND (SURPLUS)/DEFICIT	239,070	239,070			70,000			0			0
NEW HOMES BONUS	(312,990)	(312,990)			0			0			0
EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY GRANT	(1,021,000)	(1,740,730)			(1,420,000)			(1,200,000)			(1,000,000)
NATIONAL INSURANCE GOVERNMENT FUNDING	(92,330)	(92,330)			0			0			0
<b>GENERAL EXPENSES -</b>											
COUNCIL TAX INCOME	<b>8,855,000</b>	<b>8,855,000</b>			<b>9,157,970</b>			<b>9,550,730</b>			<b>9,956,290</b>
<b>COUNCIL TAX LEVY</b>		<b>250.58</b>			<b>258.08</b>			<b>265.80</b>			<b>273.75</b>
<b>COUNCIL TAX BASE</b>		<b>35,338</b>			<b>35,485</b>			<b>35,932</b>			<b>36,370</b>

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025-26 ONWARDS

APPENDIX 2A

Detail	2025-26		2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	Prior to 01/04/2025	Total
	Original £	Revised £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	Estimate £	£	£
<b>COMMITTED EXPENDITURE</b>														
<b>1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL</b>														
Headquarters - Office Accommodation	413,610	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,586,390	9,586,390
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>413,610</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,586,390</b>	<b>9,586,390</b>
<b>2. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>														
Improvement to Car Parks (Replacement Car Parking Machines 2025-26)	120,000	150,940	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	443,560	594,500
Stourport Riverside	-	36,440	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	113,560	150,000
Community Safety CCTV Upgrade (Grant Funded)	4,460	4,460	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,400	24,860
Brinton Park HLF Scheme	1,888,250	1,700,000	1,037,240	80,490	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	242,270	3,060,000
Food Waste Collection (funded by Defra grant)	1,154,900	-	1,154,900	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,154,900
Adaptive Play Equipment	50,000	62,490	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37,510	100,000
Bewdley Museum Improvements (part funded by UKSPF grant)	190,570	190,570	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	190,570
Bewdley Museum Improvements (part funded by EIF)	-	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000
Innovation Fund - Capital*	292,390	87,080	249,250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	94,670	431,000
* Subject to Business Cases & approval by the Cabinet/CLT														
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>3,700,570</b>	<b>2,331,980</b>	<b>2,441,390</b>	<b>80,490</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>951,970</b>	<b>5,805,830</b>
<b>3. STRATEGIC GROWTH</b>														
Housing Strategy:														
Better Care Fund (BCF) - Disabled Facilities Grants (subject to confirmation 26-27 onwards)	3,343,870	1,727,390	2,400,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,863,530	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	19,019,840	38,010,760
BCF - Energy Efficiency	100,000	100,440	403,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	226,560	730,000
BCF - Disabled Adapted Units	-	240,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,000	300,000
Housing Assistance - Private Sector Measures (including Decent Homes Grant)	128,910	15,000	179,030	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,182,090	2,376,120
Castle Road Development	70,290	85,640	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,774,570	3,860,210
Raven Street Conversion	-	460	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	77,550	78,010
Flood Relief	28,410	13,410	15,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	170,590	199,000
Bridge Street Flats Conversion	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,090	22,090
Stourport on Severn Property Conversion	-	10,000	120,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	130,000
Warm Homes Local Grant (subject to grant approval/profile of expenditure)	1,095,170	350,440	504,780	504,780	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,360,000
Future Investment Evergreen Fund*	-	921,210	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	441,880	1,363,090
Acquisition of Land at Horsefair, Kidderminster	49,590	49,590	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	410	50,000
Capital Projects Fund*	6,267,750	800,000	7,467,750	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,267,750
North Worcestershire Property Flood Resilience Project	-	30,000	1,166,530	1,103,470	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,300,000
Pride in Place Programme (Birchen Coppice)	-	-	120,000	670,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	-	12,470,000
* Subject to Business Cases & Due Diligence														
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>11,083,990</b>	<b>4,344,580</b>	<b>12,376,090</b>	<b>4,278,250</b>	<b>3,460,000</b>	<b>3,323,530</b>	<b>2,960,000</b>	<b>2,960,000</b>	<b>2,960,000</b>	<b>2,960,000</b>	<b>2,960,000</b>	<b>2,960,000</b>	<b>25,974,560</b>	<b>71,517,030</b>
<b>4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION</b>														
Levelling Up Fund**	400,000	3,842,780	85,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,972,220	17,900,000
Capital Portfolio Fund*	3,050,830	-	4,050,830	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,754,620	20,805,450
Bridge Street, Stourport Development (Provisional; subject to Governance Arrangements) (Capital Portfolio Fund)*	-	-	500,000	1,500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000,000
Bridge Street, Stourport Development (Provisional; subject to Governance Arrangements) (Future Asset Disposal)*	-	-	-	2,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000,000
Future High Steets Fund**	1,976,000	2,961,380	1,356,190	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,678,470	28,996,040
Corporate Property Investment Programme	-	-	150,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	-	1,050,000
* Subject to Business Cases & Due Diligence														
**Any Co-funding subject to full Business Case following the principles of the Capital Portfolio Fund														
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>5,426,830</b>	<b>6,804,160</b>	<b>6,142,020</b>	<b>3,600,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>55,405,310</b>	<b>72,751,490</b>
<b>5. RESOURCES</b>														
ICT Strategy	257,000	514,930	540,810	190,190	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,757,190	6,003,120
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>257,000</b>	<b>514,930</b>	<b>540,810</b>	<b>190,190</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,757,190</b>	<b>6,003,120</b>
<b>6. VEHICLE, EQUIPMENT &amp; SYSTEMS RENEWAL SCHEDULE</b>														
Vehicles & Equipment & Systems Renewal Schedule	2,789,790	2,670,440	2,633,980	424,030	577,530	1,226,280	577,380	219,030	179,030	129,030	309,030	129,030	8,484,330	17,559,120
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>2,789,790</b>	<b>2,670,440</b>	<b>2,633,980</b>	<b>424,030</b>	<b>577,530</b>	<b>1,226,280</b>	<b>577,380</b>	<b>219,030</b>	<b>179,030</b>	<b>129,030</b>	<b>309,030</b>	<b>129,030</b>	<b>8,484,330</b>	<b>17,559,120</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>23,671,790</b>	<b>16,666,090</b>	<b>24,134,290</b>	<b>8,572,960</b>	<b>4,137,530</b>	<b>4,649,810</b>	<b>3,637,380</b>	<b>3,279,030</b>	<b>3,239,030</b>	<b>3,189,030</b>	<b>3,369,030</b>	<b>3,189,030</b>	<b>105,159,770</b>	<b>183,222,980</b>

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025-26 ONWARDS

APPENDIX 2A

Detail	2025-26		2026-27 Estimate £	2027-28 Estimate £	2028-29 Estimate £	2029-30 Estimate £	2030-31 Estimate £	2031-32 Estimate £	2032-33 Estimate £	2033-34 Estimate £	2034-35 Estimate £	2035-36 Estimate £	Prior to 01/04/2025 £	Total £
	Original £	Revised £												
<b>FINANCING</b>														
Capital Receipts: Funding Approved	836,410	1,098,670	1,003,330	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,102,000
Capital Receipts: Future Asset Disposal	-	-	-	2,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000,000
Prudential Borrowing for Capital Projects Fund	6,267,750	800,000	7,467,750	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,267,750
Prudential Borrowing for Capital Portfolio Fund	3,050,830	-	4,550,830	1,500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,050,830
Prudential Borrowing for Castle Road Development	70,290	85,640	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,640
Prudential Borrowing for Brinton Park HLF Scheme	176,380	-	176,380	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	176,380
Prudential Borrowing for ICT Strategy	257,000	514,930	540,810	190,190	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,245,930
Prudential Borrowing for Innovation Fund - Capital	292,390	87,080	249,250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	336,330
Prudential Borrowing for Stourport Riverside	-	36,440	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36,440
Prudential Borrowing for Future High Street Fund	1,250,000	558,000	1,250,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,808,000
Prudential Borrowing for Adaptive Play Equipment	50,000	62,490	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62,490
Prudential Borrowing for Replacement Car Parking Machines	120,000	120,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120,000
Prudential Borrowing for Corporate Property Investment Programme	-	-	150,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	1,050,000
Bridging Finance for Future High Streets Fund (GBSLEP grant delay)	-	2,343,810	2,343,810 CR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unfunded Brinton Park Headroom	-	-	-	24,990	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,990
Better Care Fund Grant (from Worcestershire County Council - subject to confirmation 26-27 onwards)	3,199,570	2,067,830	2,558,700	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,863,530	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	19,490,060
HLF Partner External Funding	1,711,870	1,700,000	162,810	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,862,810
North Worcestershire Property Flood Resilience Funding	-	30,000	1,166,530	1,103,470	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,300,000
Pride in Place Programme Funding (MHCLG)	-	-	120,000	670,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	1,460,000	12,470,000
Future High Street Fund (GBSLEP)	726,000	-	2,450,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,450,000
Levelling Up Fund	400,000	3,842,780	85,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,927,780
DEFRA Flood Grant Funding	28,410	13,410	15,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,410
S.106 Funding (Parking - Contractual Agreement)	-	29,070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29,070
DEFRA Food Waste Collection Funding	1,154,900	-	1,154,900	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,154,900
Warm Homes Local Grant Funding	1,095,170	350,440	504,780	504,780	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,360,000
CCTV Grant (PCC)	4,460	4,460	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,460
UK Shared Prosperity Fund Grant	190,570	190,570	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	190,570
Vehicles, Equipment & Systems (Prudential Borrowing)	2,789,790	2,670,440	2,633,980	424,030	577,530	1,226,280	577,380	219,030	179,030	129,030	309,030	129,030	-	9,074,790
Direct Revenue Funding	-	60,030	238,050	55,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	353,580
	23,671,790	16,666,090	24,134,290	8,572,960	4,137,530	4,649,810	3,637,380	3,279,030	3,239,030	3,189,030	3,369,030	3,189,030	-	78,063,210

VEHICLE, EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS RENEWAL SCHEDULE 2025-26 ONWARDS

Detail			Classification	2025-26		2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36
				Original	Revised	Original	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
				£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>1. VEHICLES</b>															
Refurbishment Fund	GARAGE2	R229	REFURBISHMENT FUND		40,000										
Bin Stock Renewals	EQ001	R002	BIN STOCK RENEWALS	122,890		129,030	129,030	129,030	129,030	129,030	129,030	129,030	129,030	129,030	129,030
Tractor	AV070	R160	TRACTOR	60,000	60,000										
JCB Digger	AV183	R001	JCB DIGGER	72,000	72,000										
Midi Tractor	AV189	R040	MIDI TRACTOR	45,000		47,250									
Tractor ( wx13 auv )	AV225	R160	TRACTOR	105,500	105,500										
Dennis Eagle Refuse Freighter	AV234	R002	REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	260,000	249,250										
Dennis Eagle Refuse Freighter	AV237	R002	REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	260,000	249,250										
Dennis Eagle Refuse Freighter	AV238	R002	REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	260,000	249,250										
Dennis Eagle Refuse Freighter	AV239	R002	REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	260,000	249,250										
Dennis Eagle Refuse Freighter	AV241	R002	REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	260,000	249,250										
Dennis Eagle Refuse Freighter	AV268	R002	REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	260,000	249,250										
Kia Rio	AV272	R193	CAR	25,000	27,500					31,500					
Kubota F3440	AV273	R160	RIDE ON MOWER AND FLAIL						45,000						
Kubota F3440	AV274	R160	RIDE ON MOWER AND FLAIL						45,000						
Forest TR8 Chipper	AV277	R252	CHIPPER							42,000					
Indespension Trailer (for chipper)	AV278	R252	TRAILER							7,350					
Vauxhall Astra 2.0 cdti	AV279	R160	CAR	31,000	31,000					31,500					
Viajet Roadsweeper	AV280	R200	ROAD SWEEPER 15000kg												
Small Van	AV281	R229	3500KG VAN	45,000		45,000					45,000				
Small Van	AV282	R160	LIGHT VAN	45,000		45,000					45,000				
Small van	AV283	R516	LIGHT VAN							45,000					
Iveco Cargo for Bulky	AV284	R200	TIPPER 7500kg	75,000	75,000										
Ford Connect	AV285	R193	LIGHT VAN	40,000	40,000					45,000					
Iveco Daily	AV286	R002	TIPPER 3500kg	49,200	49,200										
John Deere 1445	AV287	R160	RIDE ON MOWER						47,250						
Isuzu	AV288	R163	BOXED VAN 7500kg	40,000	40,000										
Mechanical Sweeper (Small JOHNSON C200)	AV289	R200	PAVEMENT SWEEPER						120,000						
Dennis Eagle Refuse Freighter	AV290	R002	REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	145,000	249,250										
Dennis Eagle Refuse Freighter	AV291	R002	REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg	145,000		249,250									
Iveco Daily for Bulky	AV292	R160	TIPPER 3500kg	49,200	49,200	49,200									
Mower	AV293	R160	RIDE ON MOWER	45,000	45,000										
Isuzu	AV294	R252	BOXED VAN 7500kg			60,000									
Mower	AV296	R160	RIDE ON MOWER	45,000	45,000										
Ride on Mower	AV297	R160	RIDE ON MOWER	45,000	45,000										
Tipper Vehicle	AV298	R254	TIPPER 3500kg			49,200									
Iveco Daily	AV299	R160	TIPPER 3500kg			49,200									
Small Van	AV300	R229	SMALL VAN			40,000									
Iveco Daily	AV301	R160	TIPPER 3500kg			49,200									
Iveco Daily	AV302	R160	TIPPER 3500kg			49,200									
Iveco Daily	AV303	R160	TIPPER 3500kg			49,200									
Iveco Daily	AV304	R160	TIPPER 3500kg			49,200									
Iveco Daily	AV305	R160	TIPPER 3500kg			49,200									
Iveco Daily	AV306	R160	TIPPER 3500kg			49,200									
Iveco Cargo small Refuse Freighter	AV307	R002	MEDIUM REFUSE FREIGHTER 12000kg RCV			138,600									
Dennis Eagle Refuse Freighter	AV308	R002	REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg			249,250									
Dennis Eagle Refuse Freighter	AV309	R005	REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg			249,250									
Dennis Eagle Refuse Freighter	AV310	R002	REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg			249,250									
Dennis Eagle Refuse Freighter	AV311	R002	REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg			249,250									
Iveco Daily	AV312	R200	TIPPER 3500kg			50,000									
Iveco Daily	AV313	R200	TIPPER 3500kg			50,000									
Iveco Daily	AV314	R200	TIPPER 3500kg		50,000	50,000									
Iveco Daily	AV315	R200	TIPPER 3500kg			50,000					50,000				
4x4 Offroad Vehicle	AV316	R163	4x4			40,000									
Isuzu	AV317	R252	BOXED VAN 7500kg				60,000								
Refuse Freighter	AV318	R002	REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg			249,250									
Mechanical Sweeper (Johnson CN201)	AV319	R200	PAVEMENT SWEEPER							120,000					
Iveco Daily	AV320	R200	TIPPER 3500kg				50,000								
Iveco Daily	AV321	R200	TIPPER 3500kg				50,000								
Ford Connect	AV322	R160	LIGHT VAN							42,000					
Ford Connect	AV323	R200	LIGHT VAN							42,000					
Ford Connect	AV324	R185	LIGHT VAN							42,000					
Iveco Daily Refuse Freigher	AV325	R002	SMALL REFUSE FREIGHTER 7500kg RCV				135,000								
Mechanical Sweeper (Johnson VT650)	AV326	R200	ROAD SWEEPER 15000kg					178,500							
Mechanical Sweeper	AV327	R200	PAVEMENT SWEEPER					120,000							
Mechanical Sweeper	AV328	R200	PAVEMENT SWEEPER					120,000							
Mercedes Refuse Freighter	AV329	R003	REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg						280,000						
Mercedes Refuse Freighter	AV330	R005	REFUSE FREIGHTER 26000kg						280,000						
Mercedes Refuse Freighter	AV331	R002	REFUSE FREIGHTER 18000kg						280,000						
<b>2. OTHER</b>															
Financial Management System Replacement	FMS001		Financial Management System Replacement		27,400										
Flail	R476	R160	Flail												
Wessex Proline	R600	R160	Pull Along Mower Attachment					30,000							
Lighting system upgrade (Wyre Forest House)	SINGSITE	R251	Lighting Upgrades WFH		51,000										
Parking machines	TICKETMC	R185	Ticket Machine Replacements											180,000	
				2,789,790	2,720,440	2,683,180	424,030	577,530	1,226,280	577,380	219,030	179,030	129,030	309,030	129,030

Note: Procurement adverts for all items on this renewals schedule may be placed without further consent by Cabinet subject to the route to procurement being agreed with the Procurement Officer and Contracts Solicitor and the requirements of the Procurement Act 2023 being met

## QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS FOR ASSESSMENT OF RISK EXPOSURE 2025-29 (updated for February Council)

APPENDIX 2C

Capital Portfolio Fund as at February 2026		2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	
<b>DEBT TO GROSS SERVICE EXPENDITURE RATIOS</b>						
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non treasury property investments debt to gross service expenditure (GSE) ratio	<i>Gross debt of non treasury property acquisitions as a percentage of gross service expenditure, where gross service expenditure is a proxy for the size and financial strength of a local authority.</i>	34.84%	35.76%	35.90%	35.57%
<b>DEBT TO NET SERVICE EXPENDITURE RATIOS</b>						
	Non treasury property investments debt to net service expenditure (NSE) ratio	<i>Gross debt of non treasury property acquisitions as a percentage of net service expenditure, where net service expenditure is a proxy for the size and financial strength of a local authority.</i>	114.44%	104.39%	98.71%	96.32%
<b>LOAN TO VALUE RATIOS</b>						
	Loan to PPE value ratio (property)	<i>The amount of non treasury property debt compared to the total asset value (Long term assets - PPE).</i>	29.92%	29.92%	29.92%	29.92%
	Loan to value ratio (property only)	<i>The amount of property debt compared to the total property asset value (property portfolio only).</i>	124.45%	96.63%	96.63%	96.63%
<b>CFR RATIOS</b>						
<input type="checkbox"/>	CFR - Property	<i>Property CFR as a proportion of the gross CFR</i>	32.81%	34.86%	36.53%	36.68%
<b>FINANCING COSTS TO NET SERVICE EXPENDITURE RATIOS</b>						
<input type="checkbox"/>	Property investments financing costs to net service expenditure (NSE) ratio	<i>Non treasury property acquisitions financing costs as a percentage of net service expenditure, where net service expenditure is a proxy for the size and financial strength of a local authority.</i>	5.67%	5.18%	4.91%	4.80%
<b>INCOME/INVESTMENT COVER RATIOS</b>						
	Property investment cover ratio	<i>The total net income/(loss) from property acquisitions, compared to the interest expense.</i>	(10.53%)	14.59%	34.27%	34.27%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Property target income returns (excluding financing costs)	<i>Net revenue income (excluding financing costs) compared to equity. This is a measure of achievement of the portfolio of properties.</i>	5.79%	5.21%	5.77%	5.78%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Property target income returns/(losses) (including financing costs)	<i>Net revenue income compared to equity. This is a measure of achievement of the portfolio of properties.</i>	(0.38%)	0.41%	0.96%	0.96%
	Commercial income to NSE ratio	<i>Dependence on non-fees and charges income to deliver core services. Fees and charges should be netted off gross service expenditure to calculate NSE.</i>	4.12%	4.29%	4.69%	4.71%
	Net income/(loss) from commercial and service investments as a percentage of net revenue	<i>The net return from the property portfolio compared to the total net service expenditure.</i>	(0.35%)	0.44%	0.98%	0.96%
<b>TRENDS</b>						
	Gross income	<i>The income received from the property portfolio at a gross level over time.</i>	(£1,714,050)	(£1,725,700)	(£1,854,780)	(£1,868,240)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Operating costs	<i>The trend in operating costs of the non-financial investment portfolio over time, as the portfolio expands.</i>	£899,240	£781,850	£809,510	£821,470
<input type="checkbox"/>	Financing costs	<i>The trend in financing costs of the non-financial property portfolio over time, as the portfolio expands.</i>	£868,290	£869,710	£871,170	£872,680
	Net (income)/loss	<i>The income received from the property portfolio at a net level (less costs) over time.</i>	£53,480	(£74,140)	(£174,100)	(£174,090)

Local quantitative indicators

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL****FEES AND CHARGES 2026-2027****COUNCIL**

Cost Centre	ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE OPTION	KEY	CHANGES IN RESOURCES		
			2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
R637	<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE &amp; SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL</b>	C	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	<b>Environmental Health - Water Sampling</b>	R	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Water sampling and analysis charges are set by Worcs Regulatory Services. Increase of 4% in 2025/26. WRS propose increase of 3% in 2026/27	S	0.00	0.00	0.00
R637	<b>Environmental Health - Control of Dogs</b>	C	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	The charges levied for the Control of stray dogs are set by Worcs Regulatory Services on a cost recovery basis. Charges are consistent across all authorities within the Shared Service.	R	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
		S	0.00	0.00	0.00
R638	<b>Licensing Activities - Hackney Carriages</b>	C	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Increase of 5% in 2025/26. Increase charges by 5% in 2026/27	R	£2,800.00	£2,800.00	£2,800.00
		S	0.00	0.00	0.00
R638	<b>Licensing Activities - Animal Activity Licensing</b>	C	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	The Animal Activity licensing charges were introduced in October 2018, covering animal boarding, dog breeding, pet shops riding establishments and performing animals. Increase of 3% in 2025/26. WRS propose increase of 3% in 2026/27	R	£520.00	£520.00	£520.00
		S	0.00	0.00	0.00
R638	<b>Licensing Activities - Other General Licensing</b>	C	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Increase charges by 5% in line with Council Policy.	R	£460.00	£460.00	£460.00
		S	0.00	0.00	0.00
R638	<b>Licensing Activities - Gambling Act 2005 (Premises)</b>	C	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	No Increase as Maximum Charge applied	R	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
		S	0.00	0.00	0.00
R638	<b>Licensing Activities - Scrap Metal Dealers Licence</b>	C	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Scrap metal dealers licence is a 3 year licence which was introduced in 2014. Level of charges are recommended by Worcs Regulatory Services. Increase of 3% in 2025/26. across all Districts. WRS propose increase of 3% in 2026/27	R	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
		S	0.00	0.00	0.00
R638	<b>Licensing Activities - Street Trading</b>	C	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Increase charges by 5% in line with Council Policy.	R	£790.00	£790.00	£790.00
		S	0.00	0.00	0.00
R605	<b>STRATEGIC GROWTH</b>	C	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	<b>Development Management - Pre-Application Advice</b>	R	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
	Increase some charges by 5% in line with Council Policy.	S	0.00	0.00	0.00
R605	<b>Development Management - High Hedges</b>	C	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Increase charges by 5% in line with Council Policy.	R	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
		S	0.00	0.00	0.00
R605	<b>Development Management - Sale of Documents</b>	C	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Increase charges by 5% in line with Council Policy.	R	£250.00	£250.00	£250.00
		S	0.00	0.00	0.00

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL****FEES AND CHARGES 2026-2027****COUNCIL**

Cost Centre	ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE OPTION	KEY	CHANGES IN RESOURCES		
			2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
R605	<b>Development Management - Amendment Fees, Fast Track Application Fees and Invalid Application Fees</b> New Fees Introduced 1st April 25. Increase charges by 5% in line with Council Policy.	C	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
		R	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
		S	0.00	0.00	0.00
R605	<b>Development Management - BNG Monitoring Fees and S.106 Monitoring and Administration Fees</b> New Fees Introduced 1st April 26.	C	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
		R	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
		S	0.00	0.00	0.00
R625	<b>Building Control - Decision Notices</b> To increase charges by 5% for copies of decision notices held by the Council prior to the formation of the North Worcestershire Building Control Shared Service.	C	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
		R	£10.00	£10.00	£10.00
		S	0.00	0.00	0.00
R310	<b>RESOURCES</b> <b>Council Tax and NNDR</b> Summons Costs £50 Liability Order Costs <u>£30</u> <u>£80</u> Bi-annual review of summons costs and liability orders to reflect inflation and additional Magistrates Court costs.	C	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
		R	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
		S	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>TOTALS</b>	C	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
		R	<b>£7,330.00</b>	<b>£7,330.00</b>	<b>£7,330.00</b>
		S	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

Service	Worcestershire Regulatory Services	Service Manager	Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer
Service Area	Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council	Cabinet Member	Culture, Leisure, Arts and Community Safety

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge TO 31-03-2026 Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2026 Charges before VAT	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2026 Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
<b>Water Sampling and Analysis Charges - Fees Recommended By Worcestershire Regulatory Services</b>			
<b>POLLUTION CONTROL</b>			
<b>Water Sampling Charges</b>			
The Regulations allow local authorities to charge a fee, to enable reasonable costs of services (lab fees etc) to be recovered			
<b>Proposed Fees and Charges</b>			
Risk Assessment per hour (minimum 1 hour)	66.00 per hour	68.00 per hour	No VAT currently charged
Sampling (each visit) per hour (minimum 1 hour)	66.00 per hour	68.00 per hour	No VAT currently charged
Investigation per hour (minimum 1 hour)	66.00 per hour	68.00 per hour	No VAT currently charged
Granting an Authorisation per hour (minimum 1 hour)	66.00 per hour	68.00 per hour	No VAT currently charged
Analysing a sample			
taken under regulation 10 (small supplies)	66.00 per hour + lab analysis cost	68.00 per hour + lab analysis cost	No VAT currently charged
<b>(Plus extra lab costs for additional parameters where required)</b>			
taken during monitoring for Group A parameters	66.00 per hour + lab analysis cost	68.00 per hour + lab analysis cost	No VAT currently charged
taken during audit monitoring	66.00 per hour + lab analysis cost	68.00 per hour + lab analysis cost	No VAT currently charged
<b>Trading Certificates</b>			
Health/Export - Annual specific export inspection	570.00	490.00	588.00
Health/Export - Certificate	124.80	107.00	128.40
Per hour (minimum 1 hour)	56.00	58.00	No VAT currently charged
FHRS (Food Hygiene Rating Scheme) re-rating	198.00	204.00	No VAT currently charged
Food Advisory Visits	166.00	170.00	No VAT currently charged

**NOTES:**

Where the request is made by the Owner/Occupier and the Authority is not the only service provider - VAT will be added.  
 Where the authority instigates the testing under regulations i.e. Periodic tests, assessments - VAT is not applicable in this instance.  
 Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>

<b>Service</b>	<b>Worcestershire Regulatory Services</b>	<b>Service Manager</b>	<b>Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer</b>
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Chief Executive &amp; Solicitor to the Council</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Culture, Leisure, Arts and Community Safety</b>

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

<b>INCOME DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>Current Charge TO 31-03-2026</b>	<b>Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2026</b>	<b>Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2026</b>
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
<b>Control of Dogs - Fees Recommended By Worcestershire Regulatory Services</b>			
<b>Stray Dogs</b>			
Statutory Fine per dog seized	£25.00	£25.00	No VAT currently charged
Kennelling charge per dog per day	£21.00	£24.00	No VAT currently charged
Administration Fee per stray dog seized	£19.00	£20.00	No VAT currently charged
Out of Hours Charge	£52.00	£58.00	No VAT currently charged
Repeat stray charge	£47.00	£48.50	No VAT currently charged
Treatment Costs (wormer, flea treatment)	£13.50	£15.00	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Vet fees/treatment charges (if applicable)	Charged at Cost	Charged at Cost	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Return charge (during office hours when resource available)	£47.00	£70.00	No VAT currently charged
Penalty charge for non-compliance of Microchipping regulations	£16.00	£16.50	No VAT currently charged
<b>Commercial Animal Services</b>			
Dog Training Facility Welfare Assessment Check (upon request)	Upon Request	Upon Request	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Dog Kennelling per dog per day (excluding any hospitalisation)	Upon Request	Upon Request	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Dog Kennelling of dangerous dogs per dog per day (excluding any hospitalisation)	Upon Request	Upon Request	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Boarding of non-canine animals charges quoted at time	Upon Request	Upon Request	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Administration Charge	included in kennelling charges	included in kennelling charges	n/a
Veterinary Fees including Hospitalisation	Charged at Cost	Charged at Cost	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Transportation charge to include Collection, transport to vets if required and return of Dog/Animal to include travel time per hour	Upon Request	Upon Request	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Transportation charge to include Collection, transport to vets if required and return of Dangerous Dog to include travel time per hour	Upon Request	Upon Request	VAT Charged at Current Rate
Rehoming of animal	Upon Request	Upon Request	VAT Charged at Current Rate
<b>Environmental Information Regulations request</b>			
Where request relates to 'Environmental Information held by WRS'	£51.00	£53.00	No VAT currently charged
an hourly rate charge applied to locate and provide the information requested			

**NOTES:**

Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>



<b>Service</b>	<b>Worcestershire Regulatory Services</b>	<b>Service Manager</b>	<b>Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer</b>
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Chief Executive &amp; Solicitor to the Council</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Culture, Leisure, Arts and Community Safety</b>

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

<b>INCOME DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>Current Charge TO 31-03-2026</b>	<b>Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2026</b>	<b>Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2026</b>
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
<b>Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Fees</b>			
Hackney Carriage Vehicle (includes renewal plates and twice yearly vehicle inspections)	£269.00	£282.00	No VAT currently charged
Private Hire Vehicle (includes renewal plates and twice yearly vehicle inspections)	£242.00	£254.00	No VAT currently charged
Change of Business (Sell Car and Transfer Plate)	£127.00	£133.00	No VAT currently charged
Temporary Replacement HC & PH vehicle (excluding plates & decals)	£126.00	£132.00	No VAT currently charged
Badge Upgrade (Private Hire to Dual Licence)	NA	£28.00	No VAT currently charged
<b>Initial or Replacement Licences/Plates (if lost or damaged)</b>			
External Car Plate	£60.00	£63.00	No VAT currently charged
Internal (Executive Vehicles) Car Plate	£26.00	£27.00	No VAT currently charged
Vehicle Decals - Replacements	£23.00	£24.00	No VAT currently charged
Exemption Notice (Executive Vehicles)	£36.00	£38.00	No VAT currently charged
<b>Vehicle Testing</b>			
Vehicle Retest Fee (if re-tested within 48 hours of failure)	£36.00	£31.67	£38.00
Vehicle Retest Fee (if re-tested after 48 hours of failure)	£68.00	£59.17	£71.00
Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers Licence (valid for 1 year)	£134.00	£141.00	No VAT currently charged
Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers Licence (valid for 3 years)	£370.00	£389.00	No VAT currently charged
Disclosure and Barring Service check	£71.00	£75.00	No VAT currently charged
Drivers Badge	£30.00	£32.00	No VAT currently charged
Drivers' Knowledge Test (re-test)	£63.00	£66.00	No VAT currently charged
Private Hire Operators (valid for 1 year)	£134.00	£141.00	No VAT currently charged
Private Hire Operators (valid for 5 years)	£549.00	£576.00	No VAT currently charged

**NOTES:**

Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>

<b>Service</b>	<b>Worcestershire Regulatory Services</b>	<b>Service Manager</b>	<b>Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer</b>
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Chief Executive &amp; Solicitor to the Council</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Culture, Leisure, Arts and Community Safety</b>

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

<b>INCOME DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>Current Charge</b>	<b>Proposed Charge</b>	<b>Proposed Charge</b>
	<b>TO 31-03-2026</b>	<b>FROM 01-04-2026</b>	<b>FROM 01-04-2026</b>
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
<b>Licensing and Registration - Animal Activity Licence</b>			
<b>Animal Activity Licence - General</b>			
Animal Boarding, Dog Breeding, Pet Shops, Riding Establishments			
Application Fee	£366.00	£377.00	No VAT currently charged
1 Year Licence Fee	£205.00	£211.00	No VAT currently charged
2 Year Licence Fee	£405.00	£417.00	No VAT currently charged
3 Year Licence Fee	£608.00	£626.00	No VAT currently charged
Variation Fee	£267.00	£275.00	No VAT currently charged
Inspection Fee	£181.00	£187.00	No VAT currently charged
Vet Fees	Charged at Cost recovery	Charged at Cost recovery	
<b>Animal Activity Licence - Franchise</b>			
Application Fee	N/A	£377.00	No VAT currently charged
Variation Fee	N/A	£275.00	No VAT currently charged
Inspection Fee per host)	N/A	£187.00	No VAT currently charged
<b>Animal Activity Licence</b>			
Animal Activity Licence - Training and Keeping Animals for Exhibition			
Application Fee	£244.00	£251.00	No VAT currently charged
1 Year Licence Fee	N/A	N/A	No VAT currently charged
2 Year Licence Fee	N/A	N/A	No VAT currently charged
3 Year Licence Fee	£334.00	£344.00	No VAT currently charged
Variation Fee	£176.00	£180.00	No VAT currently charged
Inspection Fee	£181.00	£187.00	No VAT currently charged
Vet Fees	Charged at cost recovery	Charged at Cost recovery	
<b>Animal Activity – Primate Licence</b>			
Application Fee	N/A	£366.00	No VAT currently charged
Renewal Fee	N/A	£300.00	No VAT currently charged
Variation Fee	N/A	£267.00	No VAT currently charged
Inspection Fee	N/A	£182.00	No VAT currently charged

**NOTES:**

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<b>Service</b>	<b>Worcestershire Regulatory Services</b>	<b>Service Manager</b>	<b>Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer</b>
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Chief Executive &amp; Solicitor to the Council</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Culture, Leisure, Arts and Community Safety</b>

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

INCOME DESCRIPTION		Current Charge TO 31-03-2026 Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2026 Charges before VAT	Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2026 Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
<b>Licensing and Registration</b>				
Dangerous Wild Animals	Initial	£477.00	£501.00	No VAT currently charged
	Renewal	£314.00	£330.00	No VAT currently charged
	Vet fees/Animal welfare visit (if applicable)			
Zoo Licences	Initial	£2,288.00 (plus Inspector's expenses)	£2,402.00 (plus Inspector's expenses)	No VAT currently charged
	Renewal	£2,057.00 (plus Inspector's expenses)	£2,160.00 (plus Inspector's expenses)	No VAT currently charged
	Vet fees/Animal welfare visit (if applicable)	Charged at Cost	Charged at Cost	
Acupuncture, Tattooing, Electrolysis, Ear Piercing, Skin Piercing & Semi-Permanent Skin				
Colouring -				
Certificate of Registration:	(a) Person	£244.00	£256.00	No VAT currently charged
	(b) Premise	£350.00	£368.00	No VAT currently charged
Variation Fee		NA	£74.00	No VAT currently charged
Hypnotism				
Application for authorisation		£56.00	£59.00	No VAT currently charged
Sex Establishments				
	Initial	£6,049.00	£6,351.00	No VAT currently charged
	Renewal	£2,323.00	£2,439.00	No VAT currently charged
	Transfer	£464.00	£487.00	No VAT currently charged
	Variation	price on application	price on application	No VAT currently charged
Pavement Licence	New Application (2 Year Licence)	£500.00	*£500.00	No VAT currently charged
	Renewal (2 Year Licence)	£350.00	*£350.00	No VAT currently charged

**NOTES:**

\*Maximum Charge Applicable  
 Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>



<b>Service</b>	<b>Worcestershire Regulatory Services</b>	<b>Service Manager</b>	<b>Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer</b>
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Chief Executive &amp; Solicitor to the Council</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Culture, Leisure, Arts and Community Safety</b>

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

<b>INCOME DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>Current Charge</b>	<b>Proposed Charge</b>	<b>Proposed Charge</b>
	<b>TO 31-03-2026</b>	<b>FROM 01-04-2026</b>	<b>FROM 01-04-2026</b>
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
<b>Gambling Premises Licence Fees</b>			
<b>Gambling Premises Licence - New Application</b>			
Adult Gaming Centre	*£2,000.00	*£2,000.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	*£3,000.00	*£3,000.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	*£2,500.00	*£2,500.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	*£3,500.00	*£3,500.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	*£2,000.00	*£2,000.00	No VAT currently charged
Temporary Use Notices	£520.00	*500.00	No VAT currently charged
<b>Gambling Premises Licence - Annual Fee</b>			
Adult Gaming Centre	*£1,000.00	*£1,000.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	*£600.00	*£600.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	*£1,000.00	*£1,000.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	*£1,000.00	*£1,000.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	*£750.00	*£750.00	No VAT currently charged
<b>Provisional Statement Application</b>			
Adult Gaming Centre	*£2,000.00	*£2,000.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	*£3,000.00	*£3,000.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	*£2,500.00	*£2,500.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	*£3,500.00	*£3,500.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	*£2,000.00	*£2,000.00	No VAT currently charged
<b>Licence Application (Provisional Statement Holders)</b>			
Adult Gaming Centre	*£1,200.00	*£1,200.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	*£1,200.00	*£1,200.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	*£950.00	*£950.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	*£1,200.00	*£1,200.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	*£950.00	*£950.00	No VAT currently charged
<b>Application to Transfer</b>			
Adult Gaming Centre	£923.00	£969.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	£1,170.00	*£1,200.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	£923.00	*950.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	£1,170.00	*£1,200.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	£923.00	*£950.00	No VAT currently charged
<b>Application to Vary</b>			
Adult Gaming Centre	£973.00	*£1,000.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	£1,457.00	*£1,500.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	£1,214.00	*£1,250.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	£1,704.00	*£1,750.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	£973.00	*£1,000.00	No VAT currently charged
<b>Reinstatement of Licence</b>			
Adult Gaming Centre	£923.00	£969.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	£1,170.00	*£1,200.00	No VAT currently charged
Betting Premises (Tracks)	£923.00	*950.00	No VAT currently charged
Bingo Club	£1,170.00	*£1,200.00	No VAT currently charged
Family Entertainment Centre	£923.00	*£950.00	No VAT currently charged

**NOTES:**

\* Maximum Charge under Gambling Act 2005 (Premises)

Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>



**Wyre Forest**  
District Council

<b>Service</b>	<b>Worcestershire Regulatory Services</b>	<b>Service Manager</b>	<b>Worcestershire Regulatory Services Officer</b>
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Chief Executive &amp; Solicitor to the Council</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Culture, Leisure, Arts and Community Safety</b>

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

<b>INCOME DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>Current Charge</b>	<b>Proposed Charge</b>	<b>Proposed Charge</b>
	<b>TO 31-03-2026</b>	<b>FROM 01-04-2026</b>	<b>FROM 01-04-2026</b>
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
<b>Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 - Fees Recommended By Worcestershire Regulatory Services</b>			
Site Licence - Initial (3 year licence)	£320.00	£330.00	No VAT currently charged
Site Licence - Renewal (3 year licence)	£265.00	£273.00	No VAT currently charged
Collectors Licence - Initial (3 year licence)	£160.00	£165.00	No VAT currently charged
Collectors Licence - Renewal (3 year licence)	£105.00	£108.00	No VAT currently charged
Variation of Licence	£72.00	£74.00	No VAT currently charged
Copy of licence (if lost or stolen)	£28.00	£29.00	No VAT currently charged

**NOTES:**

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**Wyre Forest**  
District Council

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<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Chief Executive &amp; Solicitor to the Council</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Culture, Leisure, Arts and Community Safety</b>

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

<b>INCOME DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>Current Charge</b>	<b>Proposed Charge</b>	<b>Proposed Charge</b>
	<b>TO 31-03-2026</b>	<b>FROM 01-04-2026</b>	<b>FROM 01-04-2026</b>
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
<b>Street Trading</b>			
Single Unit up to 12 x 12 (max 5m length) Food - Initial	£2,981.00	£3,130.00	No VAT currently charged
- Renewal	£2,837.00	£2,979.00	No VAT currently charged
Single Unit up to 12 x 12 (max 5m length) Non-Food - Initial	£2,483.00	£2,607.00	No VAT currently charged
- Renewal	£2,241.00	£2,353.00	No VAT currently charged
Day Licence	NA	£80.00	No VAT currently charged
Consecutive Day Fee	NA	£25.00	No VAT currently charged
For every additional 12 x 12 or part thereof or length more than 5m	£1,227.00	£1,288.00	No VAT currently charged
Mobile Traders - Initial	£1,170.00	£1,229.00	No VAT currently charged
Mobile Traders - Renewal	£1,170.00	£1,229.00	No VAT currently charged

**NOTES:**

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<b>Service</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>Service Manager</b>	<b>Planning Manager</b>
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Strategic Growth</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Economic Regeneration, Planning and Green Agenda</b>

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

<b>INCOME DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>Current Charge</b>	<b>Proposed Charge</b>	<b>Proposed Charge</b>
	<b>TO 31-03-2026</b>	<b>FROM 01-04-2026</b>	<b>FROM 01-04-2026</b>
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
<b>Pre-application Advice</b>			
<b>Pre-Application advice</b>			
Householder	£46.00	£75.00	£90.00
<b>Biodiversity/Protected Species/BNG related advice</b>			
Small Scale Developments (including one site meeting)	£105.00	£91.67	£110.00
Major Scale Developments (including one site meeting)	£230.00	£201.67	£242.00
<b>Residential Development including Conversions (see note 1)</b>			
1 dwelling (Fee for the first three meetings)	£197.00	£232.50	£279.00
2-3 dwellings (Fee for the first three meetings)	£426.00	£432.50	£519.00
4-5 dwellings (Fee for the first three meetings)	£549.00	£540.00	£648.00
6-7 dwellings (Fee for the first three meetings)	£771.00	£735.00	£882.00
8-9 dwellings (Fee for the first three meetings)	£1,026.00	£957.50	£1,149.00
10-24 dwellings (Fee for the first three meetings)	£1,415.00	£1,358.33	£1,630.00
25-49 dwellings (Fee for the first three meetings)	£2,108.00	£1,964.17	£2,357.00
50 - 74 dwellings (Fee for the first three meetings)	£2,691.00	£2,475.00	£2,970.00
75 - 99 dwellings (Fee for the first three meetings)	£3,457.00	£3,145.00	£3,774.00
100 - 149 dwellings (Fee for the first three meetings)	£4,221.00	£3,813.33	£4,576.00
150 - 199 dwellings (Fee for the first three meetings)	£4,292.00	£3,875.83	£4,651.00
200 - 299 dwellings (Fee for the first three meetings)	£5,499.00	£4,931.67	£5,918.00
300 - 499 dwellings (Fee for the first three meetings)	£6,265.00	£5,601.67	£6,722.00
500+ dwellings (Fee for the first three meetings)	£6,775.00	£6,048.33	£7,258.00
<b>Non Residential/Commercial Development (see note 1)</b>			
Gross floor area up to 75m2	£96.00	£84.17	£101.00
Gross floor area 76m2 - 249m2	£192.00	£168.33	£202.00
Gross floor area up to 250m2 - 499m2	£383.00	£335.00	£402.00
Gross floor area 500m2 - 999m2	£831.00	£727.50	£873.00
Gross floor area 1,000m2 - 2,499m2	£2,042.00	£1,786.67	£2,144.00
Gross floor area 2,500m2 - 4,999m2	£3,191.00	£2,792.50	£3,351.00
Gross floor area 2,500m2 - 9,999m2	£4,340.00	£3,797.50	£4,557.00
Gross floor area +10,000m2	£6,127.00	£5,360.83	£6,433.00
<b>Other Categories</b>			
Advertisements	£96.00	£84.17	£101.00
Change of Use (Minor Developments)	£192.00	£168.33	£202.00
Change of Use (Major Developments)	£576.00	£504.17	£605.00
Change of Use	£192.00	£168.33	£202.00
Telecommunications	£287.00	£250.83	£301.00
Glasshouses/Poly Tunnels	£102.00	£89.17	£107.00
Others (see note 2)	£96.00	£84.17	£101.00
Installation of Solar Farm/Panels	£92.00	£80.83	£97.00
<b>Historic Environmental and Tree related enquiries</b>			
Separate Listed Building and Conservation Area Advice (Up to 3 Separate Matters - see note 3)	£76.00	£66.67	£80.00
Cost per additional matter to be considered	£20.00	£17.50	£21.00
Separate Tree related Advice - number of trees not exceeding 10	£76.00	£66.67	£80.00
Separate Tree related Advice - number of trees over 10 but not exceeding 30 (see Note 4)	£153.00	£134.17	£161.00
<b>Exemptions</b>			
As set out in Guidance Note (e.g. Parish Councils, etc)			
North Worcestershire Water Management Officer site visit	£69.00	£60.00	£72.00
Planning Officer/Tree&Biodiversity/Conservation Officer additional site visit	£69.00	£60.00	£72.00

**NOTES:**

Note 1 - Includes other development proposals such as variation or removal of conditions-proposed changes of use, car parks and certificates of lawfulness. Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>



**Wyre Forest**  
District Council

<b>Service</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>Service Manager</b>	<b>Planning Manager</b>
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Strategic Growth</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Economic Regeneration, Planning and Green Agenda</b>

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

<b>INCOME DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>Current Charge</b>	<b>Proposed Charge</b>	<b>Proposed Charge</b>
	<b>TO 31-03-2026</b>	<b>FROM 01-04-2026</b>	<b>FROM 01-04-2026</b>
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
<b>High Hedge Applications</b>			
<b>High Hedge Applications</b>			
Householder	£522.00	£548.00	No VAT currently charged
Other	£522.00	£548.00	No VAT currently charged
Concession (for those in receipt of housing or council tax benefits)	£232.00	£244.00	No VAT currently charged

**NOTES:**

Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>

<b>Service</b>	<b>Planning &amp; Building Control</b>	<b>Service Manager</b>	<b>Planning Manager</b>
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Strategic Growth</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Economic Regeneration, Planning and Green Agenda</b>

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

<b>INCOME DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>Current Charge TO 31-03-2026</b>	<b>Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2026</b>	<b>Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2026</b>
<b>Planning Advice Building Control Decision Notices (Pre 01-01-2012) Sale of Copy Documents</b>	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
Reply to general individual queries, Planning or Building Control for up to 6 questions (after that the full Local Land Charge Search fee will be charged)	£46.00 per Question	£48.00 per Question	No VAT currently charged
If any query requires a site visit to be made (e.g. compliance with conditions)	£101.00	£106.00	No VAT currently charged
Written confirmation that an Enforcement Notice/s215/BCN has been complied with	£200.00	£210.00	No VAT currently charged
Comfort Letter for Replacement tree planting/tree work compliance	£100.00	£105.00	No VAT currently charged
Comfort Letter for Planning / Conservation	£200.00	£210.00	No VAT currently charged
<b>Charges for Copy Documents</b> See Note 2 below			
Monthly Decision List - Emailed	Free	Free	Free
Weekly Planning Application List - Emailed	Free	Free	Free
Decision Notices	£28.00	£24.17	£29.00
Decision Notices Additional Copies	£2.00	£1.75	£2.10
A4 - For each copy	£2.00	£1.75	£2.10
A3 - For each copy	£2.00	£1.75	£2.10
A2 - For each copy	£5.00	£4.42	£5.30
A1 - For each copy	£6.90	£6.00	£7.20
A0 - For each copy	£8.60	£7.50	£9.00

**NOTES:**

Note 1 - Copies, where appropriate, are available free up to a cumulative single transaction value of £10 for individuals (the discretion of Head of Service to be applied in cases of multiple separate transactions) and charged at full cost to representatives of professional and/or commercial companies.

Note 2 - Copies of all planning application plans and decision notices made from 2006 onwards are available online at zero cost at <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings.aspx>

Customers may be able to order and pay for some services online – please refer to <http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk>



<b>Service</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>Service Manager</b>	<b>Planning Manager</b>
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Strategic Growth</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Economic Regeneration, Planning and Green Agenda

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Proposed Charge
	TO 31-03-2026	FROM 01-04-2026	FROM 01-04-2026
<b>Amendment Fees</b>	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
<b>Prior Approval application</b>	£40.00	£42.00	No VAT currently charged
<b>Householder Application</b>	£80.00	£84.00	No VAT currently charged
<b>Minor Application</b>			
Up to 9 dwellings and up to 0.99 hectares or 999 square metres floor area	£120.00	£126.00	No VAT currently charged
<b>Small Major Application</b>			
Between 10 and 199 dwellings and between 1.9 and 3.9 hectares or 1,000 and 9,999 square metres floor area	£160.00	£168.00	No VAT currently charged
<b>Major Application</b>			
200+ dwellings and over four hectares or 10,000 square metres floor area	£200.00	£210.00	No VAT currently charged

**NOTES:**

Note 1: - A maximum of 3 amendments per application



**Wyre Forest  
District Council**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>Service Manager</b>	<b>Planning Manager</b>
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Strategic Growth</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Economic Regeneration, Planning and Green Agenda</b>

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

<b>INCOME DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>Current Charge TO 31-03-2026 Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)</b>	<b>Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2026 Charges before VAT</b>	<b>Proposed Charge FROM 01-04-2026 Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)</b>
<b>Fast Track Application Fees</b>			
<b>Prior Approval</b>			
Application to be determined within 28 days from receipt of a fast track fee	£135.00	£142.00	No VAT currently charged
			No VAT currently charged
<b>Householder Applications</b>			
Application to be determined within 28 days from receipt of a fast track fee	£168.75	£177.00	No VAT currently charged
<b>Lawful Development Certificate for Proposed Development/Use</b>			
Application to be determined within 5 working days following receipt of a fast track fee	£101.25	£106.00	No VAT currently charged

**NOTES:**

- Note 1 - Fast-track applications must be received within three calendar days of submitting your application on the planning portal.  
 Note 2 - We are still required to get local views on prior approvals and householder applications, so the statutory consultation timeframes still apply.  
 Note 3 - Fast tracking your application does not impact the council's recommendation or decision and does not guarantee approval of your application.  
 Note 4 - The fast-track fee is non-refundable in all circumstances  
 Note 5 - The fast-track service is not available to Wyre Forest District Council staff or Wyre Forest District Council elected members who live and work in the district, because all such applications are automatically considered by the planning committee  
 Note 6 - If a householder application is 'called in' by a local councillor for consideration by the council's planning committee, we cannot guarantee the fast-track timeframe will be met. Fast-track refunds are not available should an application be 'called in'.  
 Note 7 - Fast track fees are exempt from vat.



**Wyre Forest  
District Council**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>Service Manager</b>	<b>Planning Manager</b>
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Strategic Growth</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Economic Regeneration, Planning and Green Agenda

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Proposed Charge
	TO 31-03-2026	FROM 01-04-2026	FROM 01-04-2026
<b>Invalid Application Fees</b>	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
<b>Householder/Advertisement</b>			
Householder applications/Advertisement	£35.00	£37.00	No VAT currently charged
<b>Minor Application</b>	£70.00	£74.00	No VAT currently charged
Up to 9 dwellings and up to 0.99 hectares or 999 square metres floor area			
<b>Small Major application</b>			
Between 10 and 199 dwellings and between 1.9 and 3.9 hectares or 1,000 and 9,999 square metres floor area	£105.00	£110.00	No VAT currently charged
<b>Major application</b>	£140.00	£147.00	No VAT currently charged
200+ dwellings and over 4 hectares or 10,000 square metres floor area			

**NOTES:**

Note 1 - If the application is invalid we will let the applicant know by letter/email.

Note 2 - The applicant can then withdraw application and receive a refund from the Planning Portal/Council or can pay the 'Invalid application fee' and the LPA will help the applicant so the application can be validated.



Service	Planning	Service Manager	Planning Manager
Service Area	Strategic Growth	Cabinet Member	Economic Regeneration, Planning and Green Agenda

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Proposed Charge
	TO 31-03-2026	FROM 01-04-2026	FROM 01-04-2026
<b>BNG Monitoring</b>	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
<b>Complexity of Habitat</b>			
<b>Low Distinctiveness (Grassland, Urban, Arable Heathland Woodland)</b>			
Less than 1 unit	Free	£1,761.00	£1,761.00
1 unit or more but less than 5 units	Free	£1,915.00	£1,915.00
5 or more units but less than 10 units	Free	£3,636.00	£3,636.00
12 or more but less than 30 units	Free	£6,782.00	£6,782.00
30 or more units	Free	£10,235.00	£10,235.00
<b>Moderate Distinctiveness (Grassland, Urban, Heathland Woodland)</b>			
Less than 1 unit	Free	£2,221.00	£2,221.00
1 unit or more but less than 5 units	Free	£2,834.00	£2,834.00
5 or more units but less than 10 units	Free	£5,333.00	£5,333.00
12 or more but less than 30 units	Free	£9,788.00	£9,788.00
30 or more units	Free	£16,693.00	£16,693.00
<b>High and Very High Distinctiveness (Grassland, Heathland Woodland)</b>			
Less than 1 unit	Free	£3,223.00	£3,223.00
1 unit or more but less than 5 units	Free	£4,448.00	£4,448.00
5 or more units but less than 10 units	Free	£8,290.00	£8,290.00
12 or more but less than 30 units	Free	£17,753.00	£17,753.00
30 or more units	Free	£34,393.00	£34,393.00
<b>High or Very High Distinctiveness (Wetland, Ponds, Lakes, Rivers)</b>			
Less than 1 unit	Free	£3,223.00	£3,223.00
1 unit or more but less than 5 units	Free	£4,755.00	£4,755.00
5 or more units but less than 10 units	Free	£8,703.00	£8,703.00
12 or more but less than 30 units	Free	£15,302.00	£15,302.00
30 or more units	Free	£33,567.00	£33,567.00
<b>Individual Trees and Hedges (if the only Habitat on site)</b>			
Less than 1 unit	Free	£1,567.00	£1,567.00
1 unit or more but less than 5 units	Free	£2,026.00	£2,026.00
5 or more units but less than 10 units	Free	£3,358.00	£3,358.00
12 or more but less than 30 units	Free	£5,167.00	£5,167.00
30 or more units	Free	£14,689.00	£14,689.00

**NOTES:**

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**Wyre Forest  
District Council**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>Service Manager</b>	<b>Planning Manager</b>
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Strategic Growth</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Economic Regeneration, Planning and Green Agenda</b>

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

INCOME DESCRIPTION	Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Proposed Charge
	TO 31-03-2026	FROM 01-04-2026	FROM 01-04-2026
<b>S.106 Monitoring and Administration</b>	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
<b>S106 Monitoring</b>			
Small Developments (less than £1,500 contributions)	Free	£250.00	£250.00
Minor Developments (less than 10 dwellings) for up to 5 obligations	Free	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
Per trigger for each additional obligation (Monitoring fee capped at £2,500)	Free	£500.00	£500.00
Major Developments (10-199 dwellings) for up to 5 obligations	Free	£2,500.00	£2,500.00
Per trigger for each additional obligation (Monitoring fee capped at £5,000)	Free	£500.00	£500.00
Major Development (200-500 dwellings) for up to 5 obligations	Free	£3,500.00	£3,500.00
Per trigger for each additional obligation (Monitoring fee capped at £10,000)	Free	£500.00	£500.00
Large Scale Development (500+ dwellings) for up to 5 obligations	Free	£4,500.00	£4,500.00
Per trigger for each additional obligation (Monitoring fee capped at £10,000)	Free	£500.00	£500.00
Deed of Variation	Free	£350.00	£350.00

**NOTES:**

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<b>Service</b>	<b>Revenues</b>	<b>Service Manager</b>	<b>Head of Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services</b>
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Revenues, Benefit and Customer Services</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Finance and Capital Portfolio</b>

**PROPOSAL OF SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES**

<b>INCOME DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>Current Charge</b>	<b>Proposed Charge</b>	<b>Proposed Charge</b>
	<b>TO 31-03-2026</b>	<b>FROM 01-04-2026</b>	<b>FROM 01-04-2026</b>
	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)	Charges before VAT	Charges inclusive of VAT (if applicable)
<b>Council Tax and NNDR</b>			
Summons costs	£50.00	£50.00	No VAT currently charged
Liability Orders	£30.00	£30.00	No VAT currently charged

**NOTES:**

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## **Report of the Chief Financial Officer in respect of Sections 25-28 Local Government Act 2003**

### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To consider the report of the Head of Resources in respect of statutory duties placed on Local Authority Chief Financial Officers in relation to budget setting and monitoring. The report provides councillors with assurance that the budgets have been compiled appropriately and that the levels of reserves held is adequate.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION** (see 2.2.3 of main report)

#### **THAT COUNCIL NOTE:**

- 2.1 The Chief Financial Officer's opinion on the budget proposals, recommended by the Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026, as detailed in this report.**

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Sections 25 to 28 of the Local Government Act 2003 (The Act) place statutory duties on Local Authorities on how they set and monitor budgets. The Act requires local authorities to ensure that the budget estimates are robust, reserves are adequate and the Budget is monitored on a regular basis.
- 3.2 Section 25 requires the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to report to the Council on the robustness of the estimates it makes when calculating its budget requirement under Section 32 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and on the adequacy of its proposed financial reserves. The Council has a corresponding duty under Section 25 to have regard to the CFO's report when making decisions about the calculations in connection with which the report has been made (decisions about the Budget and setting the Council Tax). The CFO is also the officer appointed under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and at Wyre Forest District Council this role is fulfilled by the Head of Resources and section 151 Officer.
- 3.3 Section 26 requires authorities to adhere to their approved policies in relation to Reserves when setting budgets to ensure that the minimum Reserve levels are maintained.
- 3.4 Section 27 requires the Chief Financial Officer, at the time of the budget setting, to report if it appears that a reserve in relation to the previous financial year is likely to be inadequate. The reasons for the inadequacy and a recommended course of action must be considered by Council.
- 3.5 Section 28 places a statutory duty on the Council to review its budget and all calculations related to it from time to time. If the review shows a deterioration in the financial position, the Council must take such action as it considers necessary (if any) to address the situation.
- 3.6 Whilst Sections 25-27 relate specifically to budget and council tax setting for the following financial year, these Sections are being more widely interpreted by External

Auditors to include the period of the Council's Financial Strategy; as a consequence it is necessary to report not only on next year's Budget but on the period covered by the Three Year Budget Strategy (2026-29).

#### **4. KEY ISSUES – CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S OPINION ON 2026-29 BUDGET & THREE YEAR BUDGET STRATEGY**

##### **4.1 Macroeconomic context within which the council operates**

Wyre Forest is a predominantly rural district centred around the 3 towns of Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley. Residents in the district earn marginally less than the West Midlands average, the unemployment rate is slightly below and the population is older than the UK average. There are significant pockets of wealth and deprivation across the district and most homes fall into bands A or B. The District performs the worst out of the 6 Worcestershire Districts for many health outcomes.

##### **4.2 Overview of financial management track record**

The Council has a good financial management track record with the 2022-23 revenue outturn being in line with the Revised 2022-23 budget in the 2023-26 MTFs and the 2023-24 revenue outturn being a small underspend against the Revised 2023-24 budget in the 2024-27 MTFs. The 2024-25 outturn was a more substantial underspend due to the release of balance sheet provisions no longer required and treasury management performance being significantly above expectation due to the base rate falling at a slower rate than the market expected. A combined finance and performance report is considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet on a quarterly basis.

The Cabinet formally monitors budgets and performance in accordance with Section 28 of the 2003 Act, including 'Budget Risk Management' and takes appropriate action to ensure financial accountability. These quarterly reports are also considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In addition, Cabinet/CLT receive monthly budget headline data and monitoring updates. Reporting is regularly reviewed and refined including in relation to external income generation to provide relevant management information to improve the pace of decision making. The quarterly budget and performance reporting framework ensures that budget pressures are identified in a timely fashion to allow maximum time for action to be taken in year to address potential overspends. The framework includes close financial support to managers and services to ensure that processes and controls are in place to enable tight financial control.

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 have been incorporated into the Council's Financial Regulations. For the 2024-25 Outturn these regulations required the Council's Statement of Accounts be produced and approved by the Chief Financial Officer on or before 30<sup>th</sup> June and that the accounts be audited and published by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Both deadlines were achieved. The Council has a consistent record of meeting the reporting and auditing timeframe. One of only three Councils to receive an opinion on its Statements for 2022-23 by the deadline and the first District to have their accounts audited and published for 2023-24. The 2024-25 Accounts were approved by Audit Committee on 26 November and published in mid-December.

### 4.3 Compliance with codes and standards

The Council complies with all CIPFA codes and relevant accounting standards including CIPFA's Prudential Code, the Treasury Management Code and the Financial Management code. A formal review of the action plan developed under the Financial Management Code was considered by Audit Committee in November 2025, ahead of preparation of this report.

The assessment of affordability of financial plans requires a judgement about risk and for capital plans this is covered in the Prudential Framework and associated codes and guidance. The latest revision to the Prudential Code and the Treasury Management Code was issued in December 2021. These codes include a requirement for a detailed capital strategy that sets out the long term context in which capital expenditure and investment decisions are made, giving due regard to both risk and reward and the achievement of priority outcomes. The code outlines reporting requirements for long term financial and risk implications in relation to non-treasury investments and requires that investments are not primarily made to generate a financial return. The revised Treasury Management Code enhances and strengthens the skills and training requirements for staff and members involved with the Treasury function. The Capital Strategy proposed for this budget cycle provides high-level projections over a 10-year timeframe to provide information for transparency and decision making, particularly in relation to movements in the Balance Sheet, Capital Financing Requirements and Minimum Revenue Provision which all impact on the revenue budget and reserves requirement. Prudential Indicators are the monitoring tool to assess performance and risk for treasury management and non-treasury capital expenditure and are reported to members in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Capital Strategy prepared under the CIPFA Treasury Management and Prudential Codes.

### 4.4 Robustness of estimates

- 4.4.1 This report is being prepared in a profoundly uncertain time for local government in two tier District/County areas following Central Government's proposal to reorganise responsibilities into unitary councils. The case for reorganisation of local government is based on achieving efficiencies and creating more sustainable local authorities. Should reorganisation move forwards in line with the published timetable, Wyre Forest District Council will cease to exist in April 2028. It is unclear at this stage what costs are likely to occur as a result of reorganisation, but it is anticipated that this will be significant. Allowance has been built into the MTFS for costs in 2026-27 (£350k) and 2027-28 (£1m).
- 4.4.2 The provisional local government finance settlement for 2026-27 included implementation of the fairer funding review, a full business rates reset and revaluation as well as a three-year provisional settlement. The reset will redistribute accumulated business rates growth since 2013/14 across all authorities, effectively "re-basing" the system. The final settlement introduced a significant change to the figures published at provisional settlement. The base 2025/26 year was recast so the final settlement reflects a larger change in resources even though only a modest £85k additional grant was announced. The provisional settlement presented a 0% change in WFDC's core spending power between 2025-26 and 2026-27 after the application of the funding floor mechanism. The final settlement shows a 2.32% change. This constitutes a real term, below inflation reduction. The outcome of the Fair Funding Review and business rates reset has been built into the council's

MTFS. The 2026-27 budget builds on the estimated outturn position for 2025-26 (revised budget) and is projected forwards, taking account of known changes, for 2027-28 and 2028-29. The revenue budget and capital programme supports delivery of the Council's priorities.

- 4.4.3 The Council faces a range of unfunded pressures as a result of the local government settlement. They include inflation; preparatory costs of reorganisation and providing replacement funding for the most valued activities that were funded from the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund which has been brought to an end.
- 4.4.4 The new statutory duty to introduce a weekly food waste collection from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 was taken by the previous Government in May 2024. The detailed funding arrangements were expected to be settled as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026. It was commonly understood that the new burdens funding would be delivered by specific grant, the same mechanism that has been used for the capital funding and transitional funding. However, DEFRA and the Government have chosen not to comply with the requirements of the new burdens doctrine and MHCLG have said funding need is included in the relative needs formula and rolled funding into the overall settlement.

#### **4.4.5 Key assumptions around growth, inflation and the impact of macro conditions**

The budget includes reasonable assumptions for growth, inflation and demand. The expected tax base growth reflects the mix of properties expected to be delivered and reductions arising from reliefs, exemptions, discounts, disregards and the Council Tax reduction scheme have been factored into calculations. The additional demand on operational services from housing growth has been factored into forward plans including work on route optimisation for waste collection services. Modest assumptions have been made across the strategy period for pay inflation (3%, 3%, 2%) and a separate pay risk reserve is held to mitigate against the impact of awards above assumption. The impact of national policy on the National Living Wage has been tested against our establishment, and the expected impact is included within the budget being presented. A granular approach has been adopted for contract inflation and at subjective level for non-contractual expense items. Demand for homelessness support has been factored into estimates including that arising from a potential peak in demand as landlords respond to the imminent abolition of no fault evictions (section 21 notices) with introduction of the Renters Rights Act 2025, as has the impact of Millpond House, the new build temporary accommodation development in Kidderminster that has delivered 20 units of accommodation.

The budget assumes that new burdens funding will be received to meet the cost of implementing the Renters Rights Act 2025. There is a risk that costs will not be met in full by the Government.

An estimate was included for the cost of the new burden relating to the introduction of weekly food waste collections in the budget report considered by Cabinet in December 2025. The formal procurement exercise closed on 5 January 2026. The annual operational costs of the most competitively priced bid was in excess of £1m, significantly higher than the £600k that the soft market testing had suggested and

higher than the Council had initially budgeted as part of the draft medium term financial strategy.

MHCLG has encouraged councils not to enter financial commitments that would have an adverse effect on their successor unitary council. For example, the MHCLG's explanatory note on "Financial decisions before local government reorganisation" (25 July 2025) states "it is essential that decisions regarding ongoing service delivery and the medium term financial strategy of existing councils do not compromise the future sustainability of new councils". Food waste collections are not an "ongoing service" but a new duty that has been imposed on councils. The full year financial impact of proceeding with award of contract would be at least £1.4m, this represents about 8% of the Council's net revenue budget.

The amount included in the December MTFS in relation to 2026-27 would cover the cost of the service with a delayed November start but the amount for future financial years would be insufficient to meet the full cost of the service to WFDC in 2027-28 and to its successor in subsequent years. Funding the new service is considered to be beyond the financial capacity of the Council to absorb when the MTFS already involves drawing over £1m a year from reserves in 2027-28 and beyond.

The Council has been placed in an impossible position because the Government has not provided WFDC with the additional funding in CSP to implement what is manifestly a very significant new burden. Cabinet decided to not award a contract following the procurement exercise at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

The funding identified for the introduction of the service in the draft MTFS considered by Cabinet in December is earmarked to a risk reserve to address risks associated with local government reorganisation and challenge to non-compliance with the new duty. This will allow the new shadow authority to consider introduction of the service in 2028-29 and to dovetail arrangements with other geographical areas covered by the successor unitary authority.

#### **4.4.6 Income assumptions**

Council tax and business rates income assumptions have been reviewed and are adjusted to take account of collection rate experience, the prevailing economic conditions, appeals and local knowledge.

Demand for some chargeable services has not returned to pre covid levels, the net impact of the reduced demand is reflected in the expenditure and income projections included in the budget presented for consideration. There remains a risk that income targets are not achieved due to changes in behaviour or Government legislation. Achievement of income against targets is regularly reviewed. The Transformation and Commercial Board examines activity.

The Council's property estate has been reviewed to assess the likely outcome of rent reviews, breaks and renewals with a pragmatic approach taken on void periods, rent incentives and rent increases. The historic backlog of rent reviews has been cleared. Work is on-going to ensure service charge liabilities are correctly charged to tenants. However, there remains a risk that income assumptions will not be achieved. To mitigate against the impact of this risk crystallising, 20% of the net income achieved from property holdings funded from borrowing is held in a property risk earmarked reserve.

#### 4.4.7 Grant assumptions

A prudent position has been adopted in respect of unguaranteed grants, the Funding Floor, Revenue Support grant and retention of Business Rates Growth.

Grant	Provisional Settlement 2026-27	Future Years assumptions
New Homes Bonus	£nil	2025-26 was confirmed as the final year of this grant.
Funding guarantee/Funding Floor	£65k	No allocations are assumed from this funding stream in 2027-28 and 2028-29
Recovery Grant	£400k	Allocation included for three years of the settlement only
Revenue Support Grant	£3.174m	New needs analysis from 2026-27 following Fair Funding review. Budgeted for future years at the level indicated by the provisional (multi year) settlement. Amounts reflect reductions due to Resources Adjustment.
Business Rates Growth	£nil	Business rates reset in 2026-27 with all growth lost. Baseline funding level reset to £2.790m
Council Tax		2.99% increase assumed all years, equivalent to the government's assumption in Core Spending Power (CSP)
Tax Base	0.4% (147) vs government assumption of 1.47% (519)	Council tax base has grown by 0.4% (147) during 2025-26 (against a projection of 538), growth of 1.2% is assumed for future years. The resources deduction assumes growth of 1.47% (the average taxbase growth between 2021/22 and 2025/26)

#### 4.4.8 Savings requirement and feasibility of the plans to achieve the required savings

The Strategy takes a measured approach to identifying achievable savings and modest income growth targets based on pipeline proposals. The Cabinet have been proactive in removing any targets that are considered aspirational. The timetable for delivering the transformation programme (Wyre Forest Forward, income growth and Localism) under the four delivery units outlined in the Commercial Strategy will need to be carefully managed to ensure that the Council can deliver against the medium-term financial strategy. The need to drive forward the strategy is recognised and capacity within the Senior Management Team (the Corporate Leadership Team) has been strengthened by a restructure and realignment of responsibilities. The measures identified enable a balanced budget over the 3 year medium term but are not sufficient to fully close the financial gap. If planned

efficiencies do not accrue from the pipeline projects Cabinet will need to support alternative proposals to make savings.

The Future High Streets and Levelling Up Fund programmes will regenerate Kidderminster and surrounding areas and promote economic growth. These schemes will complete in 2025-26. This will help move the Council towards a sustainable balanced budget in the future, that is less reliant on the use of reserves. The overall funding gap in year 3 of the strategy remains at circa £1.470m in the 2026-29 Strategy due to the impact of Local Government Reorganisation, the outcome of fair funding review, underfunding of new burdens, contract inflation and wage growth, despite welcome progress in achieving Wyre Forest Forward transformational savings and receipt of Extended Producer Responsibility grant funding. The expected fall in interest rates and reduced cashflow balances will significantly reduce investment income over the strategy period. The funding gap represents a key risk to ongoing financial sustainability.

The programme of change continues to be progressed under the current Transformation and Financial sustainability programme and work stream 4 of the Commercial Strategy. Services currently provided solely for the district by WFDC continue to be examined and options for service collaborations with another council or councils in Worcestershire or other organisations are being explored and progressed where financially advantageous. The council will host the Worcestershire Homes Adaptation Service from April 2026 to deliver adaptations funded primarily from Disabled Facilities Grant (Better Care Fund passported from Worcestershire County Council). This collaboration work stream has been given fresh impetus following the Government's white Paper on Devolution and local government reorganisation in two tier areas. This includes exploring the possibility of joint venture vehicles with the private sector and the option of a joint waste collection and disposal authority. This process could involve the transfer of relevant assets to other organisations or their placing in joint venture vehicles and outsourcing to the private sector as an option for some services will be considered.

Work is planned to continue to reduce costs through internal efficiency, growth in income by increasing our customer base, maximising income from the council's property estate through active management and regenerating our towns to further increase income from the Council's assets, taxbase and valuation lists.

#### **4.4.9 Financial risks relating to commercial ventures, partnerships and or investment.**

The Capital strategy retains the Capital Portfolio Fund for the acquisition or development of property assets to further Council priorities. It is expected that the fund will make a contribution to the Council's financial sustainability although it is likely that proposals that grow our tax base will be favoured in future. No assumption relating to a net revenue stream from service investments has been assumed in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Business cases will need to evidence how proposals deliver against corporate objectives to evidence that capital expenditure is classified as service investment. It is recognised that any acquisitions proposed for outside the district but within the functional economic geography will need a particularly strong evidence based case to demonstrate how priorities are supported. Service investments are taken or held primarily for the purposes of delivering public services including housing, regeneration and local infrastructure. Financial return will be a secondary consideration except where it

supports the financial viability of a proposal by covering financing costs. This will ensure that the council continues to have access to PWLB loans.

4.4.10 **Other financial risks facing the council and mitigations in place** are set out in section 8.

**4.4.11 Debt service cost and exposure to interest rate risks**

The Council’s Capital Financing requirement includes headroom for the Capital Portfolio Fund (£4m) and the Capital projects fund (£7.5m), both of which require business cases that demonstrate the annual cost of financing (borrowing costs) can be met from revenue savings or income before approval is given to proceed and do not increase exposure to interest rate risk. Actual external borrowing is currently £31m with circa £11m internal borrowing. A laddered approach to borrowing has been taken with annual maturities being approximately equivalent to the annual Minimum Revenue Provision charge. This approach reduces exposure to interest rate risk on refinancing as well as reducing the risk of gross debt exceeding the Capital Financing requirement. CIPFA’s Liability Benchmark encourages Council’s to internally borrow where cashflow balances are available to defer borrowing decisions and reduce the overall cost of borrowing. The Council has adopted a policy to internally borrow in line with CIPFA’s best practice approach. The data set included in CIPFA’s 2025 Resilience Indicators shows that relative to the Council’s near neighbours our debt and reserves position relative to income position is low risk.

**4.5 Adequacy of reserves**

4.5.1 A summary of usable reserves available to support the 2025-28 Medium Term Financial Strategy and to manage future risk is outlined below:

Revenue Reserves	Balance	
	£000	£000
<b>Earmarked Reserves at 31st January 2026*</b>		
Total Earmarked Reserves		14,787
Less Existing Commitments		(10,469)
<b>Available Balance</b>		<b>4,319</b>
Of Which		
General Risk Reserve	1,148	
Innovation Fund	535	
External Funding	65	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1,748</b>	
General Unallocated Reserves (projection at 31st January 2026)		5,162
Working Balance		1,800
<b>Estimated available Revenue Reserves at 1st April 2026</b>		<b>11,281</b>

**4.5.2 Reserves narrative summarising the purpose of earmarked reserves and the basis of calculation of general reserves**

The Council have adopted the general principles of the CIPFA Guidance on Local Authority Reserves and Balances, which outline a minimum Reserve (Working Balance) for this Council which has been adhered to in the Financial Strategy 2026-29.

This year's MTFS maintains the increased working balance of £1.8m. Overall levels of reserves held have reduced (including Earmarked Reserves) during 2025-26. The working balance will continue to be kept under review.

Earmarked Reserves are held to meet the cost of known liabilities and to manage future risk. The Council currently holds earmarked reserves of £14.787m (as at mid-January 2026). It should be noted that the Council has commitments against such earmarked reserves and the forecast balance after commitments is £4.319. A General Risk Reserve is also held of circa £1.1m as at mid-January 2026. The level of this reserve and the innovation fund will be reconsidered as part of the Final Accounts process. A Planned Property Maintenance reserve is held, taking 20% of the net proceeds from Capital Portfolio purchases (assets funded by borrowing) to help mitigate future unknown risk.

The reserves position presented in the strategy assumes that the efficiency savings and income growth proposed in the strategy from the transformation and financial resilience programme are achieved. The funding gap presents the financial position if these savings or growth plans do not proceed or fail to achieve targets set.

It is important that the level of reserves is carefully monitored and reviewed as wider economic conditions and pay inflation adds additional financial risk and reserves continue to be important mitigation. Future funding levels for new burdens continue to be uncertain making financial planning beyond the short term difficult.

#### **4.5.3 A review of the authority's resilience using CIPFA's Resilience Index**

The CIPFA Financial Resilience Index 2025 and the indicators of poor financial resilience have been examined. The Financial Stress indicators suggest that the Council was in a slightly weaker position at the end of 2024-25 than at the end of 2023-24. However, it should be noted that the indicators are backwards looking and do not take account of decisions in 2025-26. There are no areas of significant concern in relation to the financial stress indicators.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 These are contained within the main MTFS report.

## **6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 These are contained in Paragraph 3 of this report.

## **7. IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

7.1 This is a financial report and there is no requirement to undertake Impact Assessment screening.

## 8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 Strategic risk management is delivered, in accordance with the Risk Management Strategy, across the Council to identify and manage risks appropriately. Contained within the Financial Strategy 2026-29 and subsequent Cabinet reports are the significant risks and mitigating actions which have been identified, allied to the budget process.
- 8.2 Achieving ongoing financial sustainability is the most significant risk facing the Council. There are four significant financial risks affecting the Council over the next three years:
- Funding uncertainty as a result of Local Government Finance Reforms changing key funding streams, allocation methodologies and new burden's funding regime.  
*Mitigation - Prudent funding assumptions built into strategy and level of risk reserves maintained*
  - Rising prices has resulted in significant pay inflation in the public sector. There is a possibility that increases will continue to be ahead of inflation. Although the National Living wage remains below WFDC's lowest pay point on the main pay scales, the gap with the bottom point on the NJC pay scale is much closer and this will have a knock-on impact on the NJC pay award agreed for April 2026, as the Local Government Employers will need to keep local government pay ahead of the possible National Living Wage. There is a risk that the pay settlement for 2026-27 will exceed the growth expectations included in the MTFS.  
*Mitigation – Specific £300k pay inflation risk reserve maintained*
  - Reliance on local income sources including from fees and charges, the Capital Portfolio Fund and other demand led income streams, there is a risk this may not be realised in line with projected expectations  
*Mitigation – Transformation and Commercial Board reviews and monitors performance and to act as a catalyst for growth. Senior management resource has been realigned to help meet ambition.*
  - Risk that further savings required from service collaborations, if pipeline proposals don't materialise, will prove challenging to deliver in the timeframe required.  
*Mitigation – Alternative delivery models are available that can be delivered within the timeframe. The innovation fund balance is available to support any upfront costs if an alternative approach is pursued.*
- 8.3 The Council proposes to keep the current £1.8m level of the working balance reserve under review. This fund is available to provide cover for urgent unforeseen expenditure e.g. in respect of a civil emergency. The Innovation Fund is held to fund one-off costs of transformation for example to fund one-off severance costs following service reviews if they arise. The General Risk Reserve also mitigates more generic risks. Consideration of levels will be given as part of the Final Accounts process, in accordance with the delegations in the main budget report on this agenda. In addition to these generic reserves, earmarked reserves are held to cover specific commitments and therefore limit financial risk. The Planned Property Maintenance reserve takes 20% of the net proceeds from Capital Portfolio purchases to mitigate future unknown risk; this is a fundamental element of the methodology used for the assessment of risk using the latest CIPFA guidance.

## 9. FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 The Council continues to be reliant on contributions from reserves to balance its budget over the term of the Financial Strategy. The Provisional Finance Settlement, did not provide the level of funding needed to support staffing and investment decisions that would contribute to future financial sustainability.
- 9.2 To reduce the financial risks now faced, it is essential that net expenditure and funding be better aligned by the progression of efficiency plans for reductions in spending and increased income generation. This realignment work continues but it is important that focus is maintained in 2026-27 ahead of local government reorganisation.
- 9.5 The assessment of affordability of financial plans requires a judgement about risk. This has been updated in the latest Capital Strategy and continues to be kept under review taking into account the changes to CIPFA Codes and access to PWLB loans. This places relevant focus on reporting and planning for long term financial liabilities and risk implications in relation to non-treasury investments. The 10 year Capital Programme helps achieve this.
- 9.6 Development of a commercial approach and income generation continues to be a part of the solution to close the funding gap. All business cases will continue to include an appropriate assessment of risks gauged against potential rewards; review of risk and performance will be conducted at least annually for each area of commercial activity. This regular review includes the option to cease more commercial activity if appropriate.
- 9.7 Financial Resilience remains a key risk for this and most other Councils. It is essential that the Council better aligns expenditure with income to alleviate the reliance on reserves.

## 10. CONCLUSION AND CALL TO ACTION

### 10.1 In respect of the Budget Proposals recommended by the Cabinet, in my opinion, as s151 Officer

- the estimates made for the purposes of Section 32 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 calculations are robust.
- The Reserves outlined in the Three Year Budget and Policy Framework Report to the Cabinet on this agenda are adequate in relation to the 2025-28 Budget.

## 11. CONSULTEES

- 11.1 Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio  
 11.2 CLT

**12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Local Government Act 2003 Sections 25-28

Local Government Finance Act 1992 Section 32

CIPFA revised Prudential Code and Treasury Management Code December 2021

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026-29 Cabinet December 2025 and February 2026

CIPFA Financial Resilience Index 2025

CIPFA Financial Management Code – October 2019

## WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

## LABOUR GROUP PROPOSALS 2026-27 ONWARDS

ACTIVITY AND DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSALS	KEY	2026-27	2027-28	After 2027-28
		£	£	£
<b>Environmental Protection</b>				
Additional funding for Environmental Protection Officers to tackle antisocial behaviour and help our residents to feel safe in their communities.	C R S	43,000 1.00	90,000 2.00	-
<b>Environmental protection</b>				
To fund enhanced surveillance including use of hidden cameras with night vision to help identify offenders and secure convictions and vehicle seizures	C R S	10,000	10,000	
<b>Civil Enforcement</b>				
Additional funding for Civil Enforcement Officers to help keep abandoned vehicles off our streets and to ensure consistent, fair and equitable charging for use of our carparking facilities to help support services that local communities value.	C R S	-	42,000 1.00	-
<b>Street Scene</b>				
Increase the level of litter picking during the tourist season (1st April until 30th September) in our riverside towns of Bewdley and Stourport to tackle antisocial behaviour and make our town centres cleaner, safer and more inviting places to visit.	C R S	30,000	32,000	-
<b>Cultural events</b>				
Supporting cultural events in the three towns to increase tourism and footfall, deliver economic benefits to local businesses including shops, restaurants and other local service providers, provide support for creative industries and help create a vibrant cultural scene.	C R S	25,000	25,000	- -
<b>Support our heritage and visitor economy</b>				
Increase funding to support delivery of the key actions in the Kidderminster 2040 Vision, making it a sustainable place that celebrates its heritage and natural environment including strengthening the museum sector. A one-off transformation grant	C R S	25,000	25,000	-
<b>Economic development initiatives</b>				
Core funding allocation to support continuation of economic development activity within the District that was previously funded from UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocations. No new generic funding streams were announced for Worcestershire Districts in either the Budget or the Comprehensive Spending Review	C R S	70,000	70,000	
<b>On Street recycling/litter bins</b>				
To support the wider roll out across the District of on street recycling/litter bins, enhancing cleanliness and environmental sustainability and boosting recycling rates. Initial pilot to be run in our three town centres in 2026-27 with further roll-out in future years if successful.	C R S	3,500	3,500	3,500
<b>Revenue implications of capital plans</b>				
New vision for Bridge Street – a redevelopment scheme to revitalise the area with a sustainable, heritage led proposal that attracts visitors and businesses with an estimated council capital contribution of £4m	C R S	500,000 -	3,500,000 3,000	22,000
<b>Localism</b>				
To continue to support the localism agenda and facilitate the transfer of assets to local council control in order to keep them community focussed we will continue to keep under review the transfer of income generating assets such as small car parks in return for the taking on	C R S	-	-	-
<b>Efficiencies/transformation (increase target savings)</b>				
Continue to find savings and efficiencies by reviewing how services are delivered, being smarter about how they are procured and how we reduce demand for services.	C R S	65,000 CR	95,000 CR	110,500 CR
<b>Commercial Income growth target (increase target)</b>				
Increase demand for our charged for services to achieve economies of scale and maximise the income we generate.	C R S	-	52,000 CR	70,000 CR
<b>TOTALS</b>	C R S	500,000 131,500 1	3,500,000 143,500 3	- 155,000 CR -
<b>Also:</b>				
2.99% pa Council Tax increase				

**KEY - Changes in Resources**

C - Capital

R - Revenue

S - Staffing - Stated in FTEs

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL  
25 FEBRUARY 2026**

**POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK  
MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL**

**RECOMMENDATIONS  
TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW PANEL  
9 FEBRUARY 2026**

**Purpose of Report**

To consider recommendations from the Treasury Management Review Panel on matters outside the policy framework or approved budget of the Council.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Would Councillors please note that the related reports and documents have not been included in the Council book, as they have already been sent to Members via the review panel agenda pack. The Treasury Management Review Panel is not open to the press or public.

<b>RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN OF REVIEW PANEL</b>
<p><b>Treasury Management Strategy 2026-27</b></p> <p><b>The Treasury Management Review Panel recommends to Council to:</b></p> <p><b>1.1 APPROVE the restated Prudential Indicators and Limits for the financial years 2026-27 to 2035-36, along with the Liability Benchmark, included in Appendix 3 of the report. These will be revised for the February 2026 Council meeting, as per paragraph 7.2 of the report, following any changes to the Capital Programme brought about as part of the budget process.</b></p> <p><b>1.2 APPROVE the updated Treasury Management and Investment Policy and Strategy Statements for the period 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027 (the associated Prudential Indicators are included in Appendix 3 and the detailed criteria is included in Section 10 and Appendix 5).</b></p> <p><b>1.3 APPROVE the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement that sets out the Council’s policy on MRP included in Appendix 1.</b></p> <p><b>1.4 APPROVE the Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator included in Appendix 3.</b></p>	<p><b>Councillor K Gale</b></p>

<b>1.5</b>	<b>NOTE that the Capital Strategy 2026-36, to be approved separately by Council, sets out the policy statement covering non-treasury investments including the related suite of prudential indicators.</b>	
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**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL  
25 FEBRUARY 2026**

**POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK**

**RECOMMENDATIONS  
CABINET  
11 FEBRUARY 2026**

**Purpose of Report**

To consider recommendations from the Cabinet which, while within the policy framework or approved budget of the Council, do not comply with a statutory duty.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Would Councillors please note that the related reports and documents have not been included in the Council book, as they have already been sent to Members via the Cabinet agenda pack. A public inspection copy is available on request. The policy documents, referred to below, have been posted on the Council’s website. See the report on page 12 of the pdf at this link:

[https://forms.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/council/docs/doc61115\\_20260211\\_cabinet\\_agenda.pdf](https://forms.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/council/docs/doc61115_20260211_cabinet_agenda.pdf)

<b>RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL</b>	<b>CABINET MEMBER</b>
<p><b>Food Waste Collections</b></p> <p><b>The Cabinet recommend to Council that it endorses the decisions taken by Cabinet:</b></p> <p><b>(a) not to award a contract following the recent procurement exercise;</b></p> <p><b>(b) not to make any arrangements for weekly collections of food waste from domestic properties until the Government provides additional funding to cover the cost of the new burden.</b></p>	<p><b>Councillor N Desmond</b></p>

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL  
25 FEBRUARY 2026**

**QUESTIONS**

**1. Question from Councillor P Young to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and the Green Agenda**

Regarding the allocation of section 106 money: who is responsible for deciding to which project the funds should be allocated?

**2. Question from Councillor L Carroll to the Leader of the Council**

Can the Leader please name who will sit on the interview panel for the appointment of the independent Chair of the committee overseeing the allocation of the Labour Government's Pride of Place funding in Birchen Coppice?

**3. Question from Councillor P Young to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and the Green Agenda**

What is the latest position regarding the following disused sites:  
The former Post Office in the Horsefair  
The British Heart Foundation on New Road

**4. Question from Councillor P Young to the Leader of the Council**

Are Consultants being employed to advise on the proposed new Unitary authority and what is the anticipated cost?