

**Agenda Item:**

**APPENDIX**

**Report to:** Full Council

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**Subject:** Budget Report 2026-2027

**Summary:** The Council is asked to note the budget amendments and resolutions from the Amenities, Finance and Audit and Engagement and Communications Committee and agree the budget and precept for 2026-2027.

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**1. Background and objective**

- 1.1 The Full Council is responsible for reviewing the complete budget papers for the setting of the budget and precept request to Rother District Council for 2026-2027 financial year.

**2. Purpose of the report**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of the budget amendments and committee resolutions from the Amenities committee meeting 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025, the Engagement and Communications committee meeting 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and Finance and Audit Committee 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

**3. Budget 2026-2027**

Using the 2025-2026 budget as the baseline for setting the 2026-2027 budget, I reviewed the ongoing expenditure costs to the council and have made the following amendments.

- . New Budgets added for the Town Rangers – split into Motor Vehicles, Tools/Equipment and Uniform/PPE.
- . Allotments Water – Increase to £2,000 due to increase water costs.
- . Devolution new budget line for professional/legal fees - £3,600
- . Public Toilets – All toilets to remain open and operated by BoSTC – Total budget £170,000 to include cleaning, utilities and maintenance.

- . Additional grass verge cutting – This has been amended see below under Finance and Audit Committee.
- . Civic Regalia - £7,000 – New budget as the Engagement and Communications committee are investigating Past Mayor and Past Deputy Mayor badges, repairs to current regalia and additional requirements for Macebearer, Mayor and Town Crier.
- . Printing/publication/advertising – reduced from £8,000 to £6,000 due work now undertaken in house.
- . Events – New budget for miscellaneous items to be used for all events, all events are now split into individual cost centres for transparency and budget control.
- . The events budgets – Christmas switch on, Remembrance Day, Bexhill day, BOB memorial/wing walk, these budgets have been increased to cover the costs of expanding the events.
- . Christmas Lights Central – increase to £62,000 to cover repairs, infrastructure requirement changes.
- . Staff Costs, Town Ranger salaries – These have been aligned with SCP increments, NJC proposed increase 3.2% (based on 2025-2026 increase 3.2% being the highest for lowest SCP).
- . Subsistence - £500.00 – New budget was covered by Repairs and Renewals in previous years.
- . Recruitment - £2,000 – New budget
- . Training – increased from £2,000 to £6,000 due to new staff members and Town Rangers training requirements.
- . Stationery - £5,000 – New budget was covered by Repairs and Renewals previously, increased due to internal printing for advertising of events.
- . Rent and Rates - £51,916 – this is based on maintaining the hub (break clause March 2027) and relocating to new premises. £16,000 Hub rent, £8,100 Hub rates and £27,816 new premises inclusive.
- . Utilities - £8,000 – This is reduced from £15,000 – costs for the Hub utilities are lower than expected, based on 2025-2026 costs.
- . Insurance – Increase due to general cost increases
- . External Audit Fees – Increased due to the cost of the 24-25 bill.

. Furniture - £2,000 – New budget – additional furniture required for additional offices at Villas.

. Meeting Room Hire – increase from £1,700 to £2,000 – contingency for additional meetings.

### **Amenities Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025**

The Committee recommended the following:

Future Projects increase from £5,000 to £10,000

Grit Bins increase from £1,500 to £3,000

Neighbourhood Plan increase from £1,000 to £20,000

### **Engagement and Communications Committee – 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

The Committee recommended the following:

New Website – the committee resolved to appoint new website provider – New budget line of £10,000, including a contingency of around £4,000.

VE Day - £2,000 to remain in the budget to organise an annual event/remembrance.

Noticeboards - £800.00 had been input to the budget for maintenance however this now to be done in house by Town Rangers so budget removed.

Road Closures – it was resolved by the committee to not support the payment of road closures for the Bexhill Carnival - £4,630 and Bexhill Street Market - £3,990.00 x 2 =£7,980.00 – budget reduced to £11,000 from £18,000.

### **Finance and Audit Committee – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

The Committee recommended the following:

. Bexhill Street Market - £600.00 – further detail – the budget is to cover the cost of application for road closure x 2 due the requirements regarding public liability insurance, Parking Bay suspensions, however, does not cover the costs of TGTM as per Engagement and Communications committee resolution.

. Additional Verge Cutting – this has been updated 13.11.2025 with new amount of £41,700 as ESCC has quoted £41,691.92 for 6 cuts in 2026-2027, during the 26-27 financial look to review what options are available for the setting of 27-28 budget.

. Members training – reduced from £4,000 to £2,000 as in 2025-2026 no training has been incurred to date.

. General Maintenance – reduced from £5,000 to £2,500 as this was the original repairs and renewals budget that has been realigned to more detailed budget lines. – Subsistence, Stationary etc.

#### 4. Ear Marked Reserves

##### 4.1 To note the Reserves

Reserves		transfer in			2025-26	2026-27	
Account			Opening Balance	Net Transfers	Closing Balance	Prediction	
EMR - Future Asset Fund			5,000.00		5,000.00	£ 30,000.00	Transfer £25k from 2025-26 budget
EMR - Pebsham Playpark			62,608.00	- 10,000.00	62,608.00	£ 62,608.00	No change
EMR - Bexhill Museum			2,000.00		2,000.00	£ 2,000.00	No change
EMR - Repairs and Renewals			2,210.60		-	£ -	All spent by 2025/26
EMR - Five year strategy			17,991.97		17,991.97	£ 17,991.97	No change
EMR - Streaming costs			-	630.00	-	£ -	No longer needed as built into the budget
EMR - Fireproof safe			-	1,037.50	-	£ -	Work completed 2024/25
EMR - Devonshire Sq Toilets			152,459.01	146,000.99	59,183.01	£ 59,183.01	Retain for maintenance?
EMR - Legal Compensation			5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	£ 5,000.00	No change
EMR - CCTV			59,000.00	55,000.00	40,000.00	£ 40,000.00	Additional CCTV to be allocated 2025-2026
EMR - Bus Shelters			2,380.43	9,000.00	2,380.43	£ 2,380.43	Retain for maintenance/Wave Arts
EMR - Bexhill Signage			-	0.84	-	£ -	Work completed 2024/25
EMR - Bexhill Carnival (24-26)			10,000.00	10,000.00	5,000.00	£ 5,000.00	Year 2 2025 Year 3 2026 £5k per year
EMR - Event Road Closures			-	15,000.00	-	£ -	No longer needed as built into the budget
EMR - Election Expenses			32,500.00	5,000.00	32,500.00	£ 48,750.00	Saving for next election 2026
EMR - CIL 2022/23 PB Playpark			54,715.14	- 31,000.00	54,715.14	£ 54,715.14	
EMR - CIL 2023/24 Allotments			9,423.14	- 17,150.00	9,423.14	£ 9,423.14	Retain for future maintenance/projects
EMR - CIL 2024/25			31,032.99	1,603.99	16,032.99	£ 16,032.99	
EMR - Accessibility Projects			5,000.00		5,000.00	£ 5,000.00	No Change
EMR - Welcome Signs			10,000.00		7,668.09	£ 7,668.09	Last of expenditure 2025/2026 - To reallocate balance/Tfr to G Reserve
EMR - VE Day Event			3,600.00		1,960.00	£ 1,960.00	Transfer to Christmas Events
EMR - Town Rangers			11,000.00		-	£ -	To be built into the budget for 2026/2027
EMR - Marina Gardens			9,000.00		9,000.00	£ -	Expected to be spent as work completed
EMR - Public toilets			100,000.00		30,000.00	£ 30,000.00	Retain for maintenance and pending Devolution of Assets
EMR - CIL 25-26			-		182,049.27	£ 182,049.27	
EMR - CIL 24-25 Polegrove			-		-	£ -	EMR was allocated to resolve issues at the polegrove short term Devo pendi
EMR - Bexhill Festival of Music			-		7,500.00	£ 7,500.00	
<b>Total</b>			584,921.28	186,788.32	555,012.04	£ 587,262.04	
General Reserve			£ 282,825.00		£ 285,825.00	£ 310,825.00	
						£ 898,087.04	

With all the amendments and resolutions above the total budget for 2026-2027 £1,233,566, with a precept request to Rother District Council of £1,218,007.

Please note that due to LGR agenda item on this agenda, which could affect the budget setting for 2026-2027, this is not the final budget to be presented.

#### 5. Recommendation

5.1 To note the budget details amendments and resolutions by the Amenities, Engagement and Communications Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee.