

Agenda Item: 7a and 7b

APPENDIX C

Report to: Full Council

Date: 17th December 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.

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 1st October 2025, the Engagement and Communications committee meeting 5th November 2025, Finance and Audit Committee 12th November 2025 and Full Council 26th 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.

. CCTV – decreased from £30,000 to £15,000 for the continued Electricity costs for the 9 camera Bexhill cameras.

Amenities Committee – 1st 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 – 5th 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 – 12th 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.

Full Council Meeting – 26th November 2025

. Devolution – As per costings from RDC for the devolution of assets, the budget income of £225,710 and budget expenditure of £1,040,871. This is for the devolution of 31 major assets in the Bexhill area.

4. Ear Marked Reserves

4.1 To note the Reserves

Reserves		2025-26	2026-27	
Account	Opening Balance	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	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 - Devonshire Sq Toilets	152,459.01	59,183.01	£ 59,183.01	Retain for maintenance?
EMR - Legal Compensation	5,000.00	5,000.00	£ 5,000.00	No change
EMR - CCTV	59,000.00	49,000.00	£ 49,000.00	Additional CCTV to be allocated 2025-2026
EMR - Bus Shelters	2,380.43	1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	Retain for maintenance/Wave Arts
EMR - Bexhill Carnival (24-26)	10,000.00	5,000.00	£ 5,000.00	Year 2 2025 Year 3 2026 £5k per year
EMR - Election Expenses	32,500.00	32,500.00	£ 48,750.00	Saving for next election 2026
EMR - CIL 2022/23 PB Playpark	54,715.14	54,715.14	£ 54,715.14	
EMR - CIL 2023/24 Allotments	9,423.14	9,423.14	£ 9,423.14	Retain for future maintenance/projects
EMR - CIL 2024/25	31,032.99	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	10,000.00	£ 10,000.00	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 pending
EMR - Bexhill Festival of Music	-	7,500.00	£ 7,500.00	
EMR - Feasibility Study	-	4,000.00	£ 4,000.00	
Total	584,921.28	546,631.61	£ 578,881.61	
General Reserve	£ 282,825.00	£ 285,825.00	£ 310,825.00	
			£ 889,706.61	

With all the amendments and resolutions above the total budget for 2026-2027 £2,259,437, with a precept request to Rother District Council of £2,018,168.

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.

5.2 To recommend the budget of £2,259,437 and submit a precept request of £2,018,168 from Rother District Council.

