

Q1 Budget Monitoring Report – Summary 2026/27

Overall position

- **Total income received:** £40,104.34
- **Total expenditure:** £21,815.53
- **Net position:** Income exceeds expenditure by **£18,288.81** at the end of Q1.
- The Council is broadly on track for the year, with most income and expenditure headings performing as expected for the first quarter.
- Variances largely reflect timing differences (e.g., precept instalment, VAT reclaim) and one-off early year costs.

Income (Receipts)

- **Precept:** 50% received (£35,051), exactly on profile for Q1.
- **Allotments:** Full annual income (£676.50) received at the start of the year.
- **Interest:** £539.56 received, continuing the trend of higher-than-budgeted returns due to improved interest rates with the new CCLA account.
- **Cemetery income:** £212 received (3.5% of budget). Cemetery income typically fluctuates throughout the year.
- **VAT reclaim:** £3,515.28 received, exceeding the annual budget. This reflects VAT incurred on 2025/26 purchases.
- **Other income:** £100 received in error, refunds paid.
- **Christmas income:** £10 received from an outstanding 2026 booking.

Total income is 50.2% of the annual budget, which is normal for Q1 given the precept instalment and VAT reclaim.

Expenditure (Payments)

- **Staffing:** £6,854.46 spent (23.4% of budget). This is on track for Q1.
- **Rent:** £1,206.51 (24.1%), in line with expected quarterly payments.
- **Phone & broadband:** £161.97 (22.5%), consistent with monthly billing.
- **Office costs:** £247.99 (24.8%). Includes laptop warranty (£87.60), fan (£64.99), and a prior-year refund adjustment.

- **Room hire:** £60 (24%), in line with meeting schedule.
- **Open spaces:** £4,680.90 (39%). Higher early-year spend due to:
 - TDC Sentry bin charges (£2,754)
 - ROSPA inspection (£123)
 - Bench materials (£89.24)
 - Business Open signage (£135.70)
- **Allotments:** £0 spent. However expenditure expected later in the year.
- **Bank charges:** £12.75 (18.2%), normal quarterly activity.
- **Professional fees:** £725.59 (45.3%). Includes DALC membership (£636.99) and internal audit (£88.60). These are annual costs paid early in the year.
- **Insurance:** £958.57 (95.9%). Insurance is paid annually in Q1.
- **Website maintenance:** £99.99 (21.6%), covering Norton Antivirus.
- **Training:** No expenditure to date.
- **Election costs:** No expenditure to date, £400 will be moved to reserves to cover next year's election costs.
- **Chairman's allowance:** £200 spent (200%), due to purchase of commemorative plate. This exceeds the annual budget and will need noting.
- **Grants given:** £688.80 (34.4%), reflecting first round of grant awards.
- **Toilets:** £786 (10.5%), covering footfall counters.
- **Highways:** No expenditure to date. New budget heading to cover VAS.
- **Cemetery maintenance:** £5,132 (47.5%). Includes memorial safety work (£1,464), hedge and grass cuts.
- **Interments:** No expenditure to date.
- **Christmas:** No expenditure to date.

Total expenditure is 27.3% of the annual budget, which is appropriate for Q1. Higher early-year costs (insurance, DALC membership, bin emptying, cemetery works) are expected and do not indicate overspend pressures.

Key points for councillors

- The Council is in a stable financial position at the end of Q1.

- Income is performing as expected, with precept and VAT reclaim driving the majority of receipts.
- Expenditure is broadly on track, with higher early-year costs reflecting annual payments (insurance, DALC) and scheduled works (ROSPA, memorial safety).
- Open spaces and cemetery maintenance budgets show higher Q1 activity but remain within acceptable levels for this stage of the year.
- The Chairman's allowance is overspent and requires noting.
- No immediate financial concerns have been identified going into Q2.