

Q2 Budget Monitoring Report – Summary 2026/27

Overall position

- **Total income received:** £76,404.94
- **Total expenditure:** £33,918.21
- **Net position:** Income exceeds expenditure by **£42,486.73** at the end of Q2.
- The Council remains in a strong financial position, with income in line with expectations and expenditure tracking appropriately for half of the year.

Income (Receipts)

- **Precept:** Full annual precept received.
- **Allotments:** Full annual income (£676.50) received at the start of the year.
- **Interest:** £1,235.16 received, improved returns due to the CCLA Account.
- **Cemetery income:** £526 received (8.8% 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:** £150 received in error, refunds paid.
- **Christmas income:** £200 received, exceeding the annual budget.

Total income is 95.6% of the annual budget, which is normal for Q2 given the precept instalments and VAT reclaim.

Expenditure (Payments)

- **Staffing:** £14,173.70 spent (48.3% of budget). This is on track for Q2.
- **Rent:** £2,413.02 (48.3%), in line with expected quarterly payments.
- **Phone & broadband:** £342.50 (47.6%), consistent with monthly billing.
- **Office costs:** £370.14 (37%). Includes laptop warranty (£87.60), fan (£64.99) and a Parish Hall refund. The council agreed to Vire £500 to reserves to replace the 2025/26 expenditure.
- **Room hire:** £110 (44%), in line with meeting schedule.

- **Open spaces:** £6,107.39 (50.9%). Key costs include:
 - TDC Sentry bin charges (£2,754)
 - ROSPA inspection (£123)
 - Bench materials (£89.24)
 - Business Open signage (£135.70)
 - Court Street baskets (£390)
 - Sentry Bench repairs (£250)
- **Allotments:** £0 spent. However expenditure expected later in the year.
- **Bank charges:** £25.5 (36.4%), normal activity.
- **Professional fees:** £1,182.79 (73.9%). Includes DALC membership (£636.99), internal audit (£88.60), payroll (79.20) and external audit (378).
- **Insurance:** £958.57 (95.9%). Insurance is paid annually in Q1.
- **Website maintenance:** £99.99 (21.6%), covering Norton Antivirus.
- **Training:** £174.50 (34.9%), including DALC conference (£60) and mileage to SLCC events (£114.50).
- **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.
- **Grants given:** £688.80 (34.4%), reflecting first round of grant awards.
- **Toilets:** £1,389.31 (18.5%), covering footfall counters and due diligence.
- **Highways:** No expenditure to date. New budget heading to cover VAS.
- **Cemetery maintenance:** £5,682 (52.6%). Includes memorial safety work (£1,464), hedge and grass cuts.
- **Interments:** No expenditure to date.
- **Christmas:** No expenditure to date.

Total expenditure is 42.4% of the annual budget, which is appropriate for Q2. 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 remains in a stable financial position at the end of Q2.
- Income is performing as expected, with precept and VAT reclaim driving the majority of receipts.
- Expenditure is on track, with no concerns at this stage.
- Open spaces and cemetery budgets are as expected for this time of year.
- The Chairman's allowance is overspent and requires noting.
- No immediate financial concerns have been identified going into Q3.