

BUDGET MONITORING 2026/27 – Month 4

Joint Report of Chief Officer and Treasurer

Recommendations:

That members:

1. Note the projected outturn
2. Note the projected general reserve balance

Budget Monitoring Month 4

In December 2025, the authority agreed to use £67,078 of reserves to balance the 2026/27 budget. The approved budget assumed no additional grant funding would be received during the year.

At Month 4, an overspend of £2,600 is forecast, increasing the projected transfer from the General Reserve to £69,678.

This is primarily due to higher employee costs resulting from the pay award, increased IT hardware costs, and a reduction in income following the loss of the Waddeton licence fee. These pressures have been partially offset by savings in advertising expenditure and lower than anticipated boat costs.

	2026/27 Base Budget £	Projected Outturn £	Variance £
Employees	776,200	777,500	1,300
Premises	39,800	39,800	0
Transport	15,600	15,100	(500)
Supplies and services	79,900	82,200	2,300
Boat costs	35,500	33,500	(2,000)
Environmental Research	12,500	12,700	200
Support Services	47,500	47,600	100
Income Fees & Charges	(43,200)	(42,000)	1,200
	963,800	966,400	2,600
Transfer to/(from) General Reserve	(67,078)	(69,678)	(2,600)
Total Funding from Levies	896,722	896,722	0

Variances (items over £1,000):**Employees**

- Staff costs £ 1,300 – Actual pay award slightly higher than budgeted;

Supplies and Services

- Advertising £ (3,000) – No byelaws advertised this year;
- IT Hardware £ 4,500 – Server replacement more than original quote;

Boat Costs

- Rent £ (1,000) – Mooring fees less than anticipated;
- Insurance £ (2,000) – Reduction in insurance premium;
- Equipment £ 1,000 – Replacement of David Rowe trailer;

Income Fees & Charges

- Waddeton Licence £ 1,200 – No income this year, Duchy of Cornwall no longer allows Pacific Oysters production in the Dart Estuary;

General Reserve

- Transfer from General Reserve £ (69,678);

		2026/27 Projection £
General Reserve Balance 1st April 2026		612,279
Budgeted Transfer from General Reserve	(67,078)	
In year variance on General Reserve Transfer	(2,600)	
Net transfer to/(from) General Reserve		(69,678)
Projected Balance 31st March 2027		542,601

Mat Mander
Chief Officer

Matthew Thorpe
Treasurer

17th September 2026

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985