

PRECEPT REPORT for 2025-26

Present Precept is £16621.44 Proposed Budget is £17121.35

Tax Base for 2024-25 was 366 Band D equivalent properties this year Dorset Council has adjusted the second homes Council tax discount and as a consequence the Council Tax base for 2025-26 has risen to 377.6 and increase of 3.2%. This means that the Council Tax receipt for 2025-26 if we do nothing i.e. a zero increase will be £17,148.65 an increase of £526.81 on this current year. This would mean £327.30 income in excess of proposed budget.

However, our reserves are not large and we had areas where expenditure is likely to be required in the near future and so we should build up ear marked reserves for those eventualities;

- A. Defibrillators are no longer in guarantee and will at some stage need to be replaced, we are committed to providing the facility and so need to cover this. Approx £900 + VAT each
- B. Play Area – some equipment will soon need to be replaced or repaired, this is a large capital outlay. (Several hundred depending on what is required)

We can;

1. Do nothing, new precept covers proposed budget but little towards additional reserves.
2. Increase by 1% – this will raise £17,318.57
3. Increase by 2% - will raise £17,492.27
4. Increase by 2.6% will raise £17,594.22.

2% is slightly below the rate of inflation which at the moment is running at 2.6%.

Bearing in mind my statement above about setting aside earmarked reserves would like to recommend option 2 above.

INCOME

VAT refund at approximately £400

Precept

No CIL/Section 106 is expected this year.

RESERVES

Deposit Account is £26,623.97 at present time with some payments to be paid.

General Account is standing at £4,411.09 once present creditors paid with more to come before the end of the year (approx. £4k) plus £1250 towards the elections last year (I think, as yet unbilled)

Good practice suggests that a year of precept should be held unallocated i.e. approximately £16,500.

That leaves approximately £9k carry forward towards the items listed in A and B above and this does not allow for any other items such as the Wriggle Valley Bus, Blackberry Solar Farm, Yeo Trail that may need some financing.

*NB Neighbourhood Plan funding has been removed from these calculations except for a sum that might be incurred outside the Grant period