



Summary

This is a summarised report of that provided to Finance Committee for its meeting 15th September. Since then, the Council has received the second instalment of the Precept, £70,550 which is the major source of income.

The overall position is as it was at the Finance Committee:

- Income is forecast to be approx. £9,000 below budget.
- Expenditure is forecast to be approx. £8,500 below budget (*).
- With the result that the out-turn is only marginally below budget, £400.

* The determining questions for the final outturn related to the unexpected and discretionary spend items as set out below. The following two sections address variances to income and the other spend items – the standard, operational expenditure.

Income Variances

- VAT reclaim (for 2025/26) - £1,400 below budget
- CIL payments - £2,000 below budget
- Rhymes and Sports Facilities rental - £1,500 below budget

Operational Expenditure Variances

- Staffing Costs - £1,850 below budget
- Admin - £800 below budget
- Sports and Recreation (including the Rhymes Pavilion and Playground) - £750 below budget)
- Riverside - £2,850 over budget

Exceptional and Project Expenditure

Approx £16,000 against a budget of £15,000

- Streetlights – £3,400 on the replacement of lights at the Hollies Lane/Northend junction and on West View Road
- Tree Surgery - £5,770 for the work resulting from the survey in 2025
- Repair to the stonemasonry of the wall in the Secret Garden - £5,050
- Noticeboards - £4,850

Projects – approx. £5,000 of budget of £20,000 spent:

- Riverside Party - £900 (even though this was cancelled, money was spent on items such as mugs and bunting, which can be reused in future years)
- Batheaston Times - £3,900 (for 3 of 4 editions; with income of £600 from sponsorship, and more expected)

Community Grants: £3,000 have been disbursed in the first half-year; and the forecast assumes that the budgeted figure of £10,000 will be met.

Expenditure included on this agenda

The agenda for this meeting includes some substantial items which are not budgeted; if approved they would be treated as Exceptional Items:

- Streetlights –Muddy Lane – up to £5,000
- Speed Indicator Device - up to £5,000
- Tree Surgery – for approval at a future meeting, and a figure is not given but is expected to be up to £3,000

There are also the following items which are budgeted on operational lines:

- £1,100 for the Christmas Lights and celebration.
- £300 for the Winter Hanging Baskets
- £10,000 donation to BSF, which is part of the budgeted £30,000.

Forecast Year-End Summary

- Operational Income and Expenditure are both forecast to be below budget by approx. £9,000.
- Exceptional and Project Expenditure, taken together, and assuming the three items referred to above are approved, are forecast to be as budgeted: a total of £35,000.
- **This would result in a small surplus on the year, as budgeted, of approximately £1,700.**

Note however:

- more exceptional or un-budgeted expenditure may arise in the remaining 6 months of the financial year.
- Council may also wish to proceed with projects such as the Refurbishment of the Public Conveniences on the Riverside, for which no allowance now exists in the budget.

Recommendations

Council is asked **to note the report**, and to request further actions and information of the Clerk.

Richard Maccabee,
Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer
8th October 2026