

Explanatory notes for Draft Budget 2026/2027 and forthcoming Precept requirements

### Income

Sedbergh Parish Council general income remains relatively on track, with another increase anticipated in 26/27 for ticket sales at Joss Lane and Loftus Hill car park following the planned increase in fees (and parking permits). EV chargers, of course, are still relatively new, but income is exceeding expenditure – with any surplus going to create a new reserve for future proofing and extending EV (as might be required). In addition, it is not yet known what progress is hoped on a) the playground replacement and, therefore, b) the car parking area at Howgill Lane and, ultimately, c) improvements to Joss Lane car park. Each project could see a large swing from reserves, as well as additional funding from elsewhere. I imagine, for example, that it is hoped that the playground project will move forward in the next financial year 26/27.

Considering all income and the increase in expenditure forecast (below and attached) the Precept for 2026/2027 is drafted with an increase of 7% as provisionally resolved last year. The tax base is now confirmed at 1233.6 (previously 1217.00). Band D equivalent in 25/26 was £46.97 and the new draft figure will see £50.26. An increase of £0.06 per week on a Band D property.

### **Reserves projected at the end of 2026/2027 are incorporated into this draft budget**

These figures now include an amendment to reserves, to create a new ‘bowling club’ reserve, with £5000 each taken from Tennis Club and Queen’s Garden reserves, along with £5,000 from Free Reserve.

Joss Lane car park – resurfacing/lining – currently **£120,000.00** (£5,000 annually)

Playpark reserves (legacy monies £9114.54 and £35545.95 and awaiting further £10,000) – current total **£96,000**. (£3000 annually)

Tennis court sinking fund - **£21,500** for contribution to future pavilion work. maintenance of the courts and consideration of informal car park area (£3000 annually)

Queen’s Garden - **£22,250** for ongoing maintenance, urgent and rolling tree/maintenance work, works to improve safety of steps and funds for wall repairs (£3000 annually)

Bowling Club - **£18,000** for ongoing maintenance, urgent works to retaining wall and contribution to pavilion project (£3000 annually)

EV Chargers - **£5,000** for urgent works/maintenance/future proofing (circa £2000 annually, surplus funds from EV income/expenditure)

Projects - **£13,000** to include future urgent repairs/works, including bench replacement and improvement and contribution to costs for works at Main Street toilets (£1000/as might be required)

Main Street toilet donations **£3,600** donations reserved for enhancement works to toilets (circa £1500 annually from donations at Main St)

Future Tech - **£1,000** to include any upgrade of Parish Council technology/laptop etc (£250.00 annually)

### General Expenditure

With rising expenditure, including utilities, general expenditure has been increased by circa 10% (for example, car parks and toilets). Handyperson and Main Street toilet budgets have been elevated to anticipate increased costs. Maintenance for the playing field has also been uplifted, to include additional labour costs anticipated for sanding/fertiliser etc (previously completed ex gratia). The car park budget has also been uplifted to reflect new maintenance/ongoing costs for EV chargers (as well as the contract for the ticket machines). Parish Lighting has been removed, as this is anticipated to asset transfer to WFC prior to 2026/2027. In addition, the Clerk's budget has increased (in line with pension/spinal column agreed). 'General' sees an increase to cover website/gov.uk management and cloud storage, as well as a review of current insurance.

The free reserve, as a contingency, is currently circa £75552.67. Equivalent <6 months of anticipated income

Finally, the budget figures are all exclusive of VAT.