

Agenda Item 179

## **SOUTHWELL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2026**

### **2026/27B BUDGET AND PRECEPT REPORT, WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BUDGET WORKING GROUP AND GOVERNANCE & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Budget Working Group comprised four Members of the Governance & Finance Committee. It met on 30<sup>th</sup> October and 12<sup>th</sup> November before submitting a Draft Budget to its parent committee on 10<sup>th</sup> December. Following receipt of the tax base information for 2026/27, the group met a final time on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January where the recommendations now before Council were agreed unanimously by the members present.

The staff are thanked for their input to the process, in particular the Deputy Clerk whose assistance has been invaluable, especially given the limited experience of our budgetary systems by the former locum clerk.

#### **1. PROPOSED BUDGET STRATEGY**

1.1 The intention, for the final year of this Council, is to maintain a responsible approach to our budgeting.

1.2 The Budget will continue to provide the modest excess of income over expenditure necessary to maintain the general Reserve at the agreed minimum of 3 months operating costs whilst starting to increase the Car Parks reserve in preparation for resurfacing work in the medium term, as agreed by the Governance and Finance Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

1.3 An inflationary increase of 2.5% will be applied to all general costs with a 3.5% increase for staff costs in anticipation of the likely national settlement. Also factored in are the estimated costs of a full time Clerk, as previously agreed and for the impact of the known elements of the business rate revaluation.

1.4 There are no changes to fees or charges and there is a projected reduction in interest income given the recent and projected changes in interest rates.

1.5 To continue to allocate £5k per annum from the Humberstone Road Reserve to ground staff wage costs.

1.5 The council tax base for 2026/27 is £3076.65, a modest increase of 0.77% from £3053.16 in 2025/26.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 A budget as proposed with an overall income of £449,886 and expenditure of £430,200, producing a modest excess of income over expenditure of £19, 686.

2.2 A precept for 2026/27 of £305,786, being a below inflationary increase of 2.95%

2.3 A Band D charge of £99.38.

2.4 A Budget inspired Newsletter in the March Bramley newspaper to inform residents of the Precept, Budget and key contributing issues/influences. To be drafted by the Deputy Clerk, Chair and Vice-Chair of Governance & Finance and approved by the Communications Working Party.

