

2025/26 Budget vs Actual Review
Prepared: 01/04/2026 – MUCH HOOLE PARISH COUNCIL



Budget for the Year: Overview of the Budget for 2025/26

- Original Budget: £21,980

Purpose of Report

To present the year-end financial position of the Council for the financial year 2025/26, comparing actual income and expenditure against the approved budget, and to highlight any significant variances.

Budgeted vs Actual Income

INCOME CATEGORY	BUDGET (£)	ACTUAL (£)	VARIANCE (£)	SIGNIFICANT?	EXPLANATION
PRECEPT	18,770	18,770	0	No	As budgeted
CIL INCOME	0	6,266.36	+6,266.36	Yes	Unpredictable CIL receipts not included in budget
GRANTS RECEIVED	0	0	0	No	No applications made
CREDIT INTEREST (2 X SAVINGS)	0	610.54	+610.54	Yes	Not included in budget; interest received on savings
VAT RECLAIM (2024/25)	0	1,306.96	+1,306.96	Yes	Timing of VAT reclaim not factored into original budget
JOINT PROJECT CONTRIBUTION	0	123.12	+123.12	No	Project approved during the year; not preplanned in budget
SPONSORS	0	600.00	+600.00	No	Sponsorship approved mid-year; not included in budget
TOTAL INCOME	18,770	27,676.98	+8,906.98		Overall surplus vs budget mainly due to unbudgeted CIL, VAT reclaim, interest, and mid-year approved projects

Summary for Income 2025/26

- Overall variance: +£8,906.98
- Reason for surplus: Other than the Precept, no other income was included in the original 2025/26 budget:
- Impact: No use of reserves required; additional income improved the overall year-end position.

- Note for 2026/27: VAT reclaim income (£2,000) and credit interest (£600) have been included in the budget.

Budgeted vs Actual Expenditure

CATEGORY	ITEM	BUDGET (£)	ACTUAL (£)	VARIANCE (£)	SIGNIFICANT?	EXPLANATION
STAFF COSTS	Salary Costs	7,000.00	5,705.85	-1,294.15	Yes	Fewer hours than budgeted
	Contract Lengthsman	3,500.00	2,016.00	-1,484.00	Yes	Reduced hours delivered
	Mileage reimbursement	500.00	311.96	-188.04	No	Clerk without vehicle for one month
	Office costs	430.00	200.27	-229.73	No	Fewer supplies purchased
ESSENTIAL	Training (CILCA)	600.00	71.00	-529.00	Yes	Training delayed to next year
	Audit	500.00	150.00	-350.00	Yes	Lower audit fees; exemption from external audit
	Bank charges	100.00	73.00	-27.00	No	Minor difference
	Insurance	550.00	317.99	-232.01	No	Returning to same insurer saved cost
	ICT & Software	230.00	84.99	-145.01	No	No additional software required
	Room Hire	150.00	140.00	-10.00	No	Minor difference
	Easy Websites	500.00	712.80	+212.80	Yes	Additional website costs due to .gov email transition
	Subscriptions (LALC)	450.00	390.66	-59.34	No	Slight underspend
COMMUNITY PROJECTS	Newsletter	400.00	225.00	-175.00	No	Discounted printing; volunteer support
	Community Projects	2,500.00	3,582.50	+1,082.50	Yes	Larger spend than budgeted

						due to price increases
	Poppy Wreaths	100.00	20.00	-80.00	No	Minimal spend
	Christmas Tree	180.00	350.00	+170.00	Yes	Live tree failed; additional tree purchased
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	Cycle Track	700.00	467.00	-233.00	No	Minor savings using CIL reserves
	Cycle Track Lease	90.00	90.00	0.00	No	On budget
GRANTS & S137	Grants	3,000.00	3,015.80	+15.80	No	Close to budget
	Burial Ground Maintenance	500.00	500.00	0.00	No	On budget
OTHER / UNBUDGETED	LALC Conference	0.00	50.00	+50.00	Yes	Small unexpected cost
	Defib Batteries	0.00	95.94	+95.94	Yes	One-off essential purchase
	Excel rounding	0.00	0.50	+0.50	No	Minor spreadsheet rounding
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		21,980.00	18,571.26	-3,408.74	–	Overall underspend; some overspends offset by savings elsewhere

Summary for Expenditure – 2025/26

Overall variance: £3,408.74 underspend against the total budget of £21,980.

Impact on overall budget position:

- The underspend has offset minor overspends in specific areas, leaving a balanced year-end position.
- No additional use of reserves was required; expenditure remained within available funds.

Use of reserves:

- Earmarked and general reserves were maintained as planned. CIL-funded projects were appropriately accounted for.

Confirmation for 2026/27:

- Adjustments to the 2026/27 budget already reflect community project totals (now increased), grant total (now increased), and contingencies for essential one-off items.

CIL Account Summary – 2025/26

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT (£)	NOTES
OPENING BALANCE (01/04/2025)	810.46	Existing CIL reserves as this was a savings account originally
CIL INCOME RECEIVED	6,266.36	One payment
INTERNAL TRANSFERS FROM OTHER ACCOUNTS	14,075.99	To create dedicated CIL pot; includes CIL income initially received in current account
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	20,342.35	Sum of income and transfers
CIL PROJECT EXPENDITURE	5,479.60	Approved projects/spends
CREDIT INTEREST	288.07	Transferred to savings account to earn interest
CLOSING BALANCE (31/03/2026)	15,689.10	Earmarked for future projects

Confirmation of Reserves at 01/04/2026

ACCOUNT	OPENING BALANCE (£)	BUDGET (£)	ACTUAL SPEND	ACTUAL INCOME	CLOSING BALANCE (£)	EMR (£)	UEMR (£)
SAVINGS (20415992)	26,545.75	–	–	610.54	13,064.41	12,000	1,064.41
CURRENT ACCOUNT (20415976)	4,104.32	21,980	18,571.26	20,800.08	6,333.14	0	6,333.14
CIL ACCOUNT (20415989)	810.46	–	5,479.60	6266.36	15,689.10	15,689.10	0
TOTAL	31,460.53	21,980	24,050.86	27,676.98	35,086.65	27,689.10	7,397.55

Conclusion

The council ended the year with a total bank balance of £35,086.65, including £27,689.10 in earmarked reserves and £7,397.55 of general funds. Expenditure of £18,571.26 (84% of budget) was within approved limits. Income was broadly in line with the precept, with additional unbudgeted receipts such as CIL and VAT reclaim improving the overall position. The council remains in a healthy financial position, with sufficient reserves for planned and unforeseen expenditure, and £15,689.10 of CIL funds available for future projects.

Prepared by the Clerk/RFO and presented to Council on 13th April 2026

Signed:



Printed: Amy Evans (Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)