

Appendix B Budget Monitoring Report 31 March 2026 (final outturn)

Summary

The Council approved a break-even budget expected to leave reserves at £38,000. The actual position at 2024/25 year-end was 3% more favourable than budgeted leaving reserves at £39,161 due to three expected payments for which payment was deferred until 2025/2026.

At 2025/26 year-end reserves are 2% (£902) more favourable than budgeted mainly due to the 50% balance outstanding on playground repairs scheduled for May 2026 (£674).

The 2026/27 Budget assumed a £500 underspend in 2025/26 increasing reserves to the required level of £38,500. The actual reserves are £38,902. The difference is primarily due to £674 of playground expenditure deferred to 2026/27 (as above) less £340 of GDPR expenditure brought forward from 2026/27 to fully comply with GDPR by 31/3/26.

Accordingly, the underlying position once the payment timing differences for orders placed in March 2026 is adjusted for is just £68 (0.2%) better than forecast when the 2026/27 Budget was approved.

Budget Line	Approved 2025/26 Budget (£)	Profiled Budget to 31/3/26 (£)	Actual to 31/3/26 (£)	Variance (£)	Variance (%)	Variance if c	
Receipts							
Allotments	225.00	225.00	260.00	35.00	0%		
Bank Interest	1400.00	1400.00	1,266.52	-133.48	-10%		
Cemetery	875.00	875.00	1,455.50	580.50	66%	1	
General Income	0.00	0.00	143.86	143.86			
Grants	750.00	750.00	2,027.30	1277.30	170%	2	
Precept D.C.C.	6500.00	6500.00	6,500.00	0.00	0%		
Vat Refund	580.00	580.00	499.91	-80.09	-14%		
West Clint Field	220.00	220.00	220.00	0.00	0%		
	10,550.00	10,550.00	12,373.09	1823.09	17%		
Payments							
Allotments	350.00	350.00	880.00	530.00	151%	3	
Cemetery & Village	2025.00	2025.00	1,570.00	-455.00	-22%	4	
Footpaths	750.00	750.00	2,027.30	1277.30	170%	2	
General Expenses	850.00	850.00	1,478.65	628.65	74%	5	
Grass Cutting	1215.00	1215.00	1,350.00	135.00	11%		
Insurance	610.00	610.00	448.00	-162.00	-27%		
Clerks salary	2400.00	2400.00	2,367.72	-32.28	-1%		
PAYE	600.00	600.00	592.40	-7.60	-1%		
Playground	925.00	925.00	857.03	-67.97	-7%		
VAT	825.00	825.00	1,061.13	236.13	29%		
	10,550.00	10,550.00	12,632.23	2082.23	20%		
Opening Reserves at 1/4/25	38000.00	38000.00	39160.80	1160.80	3%		
Receipts	10,550.00	10,550.00	12373.09	1823.09	17%		
Payments	-	10,550.00	-	-12,632.23	-2082.23	20%	
Closing Reserves	38,000.00	38,000.00	38,901.66	901.66	2.4%		

Note: Payments exclude a £32,000 deposit in a long-term investment as this is an internal transaction, although it removes this money from cash balances in the accounts.

Commentary on significant variances

Explanations for the significant variances (above 15% and £250) on individual budget lines are as follows (excluding VAT as separate budget line):

1/ Unreserved burial December 2025 generated a receipt of £725.

2/ Footpath repairs using hardwood for longer life so cost and grant both higher than budget

3/ Deferred expenditure from 24/25 regarding allotment site rent **£350** and wall repair **£180**.

4/ Cemetery & village budget included a £1,000 contingency for unforeseen works only partly needed.

5/ Lockable cabinets brought forward from 26/27 budget (**£283**), **£144** website direct debit error (refund in general income)

Conclusion

The financial position at 31 March 2026 is in line with expectations. The 2026/27 Budget assumed opening reserves of £38,500 and the actual opening reserves are £38,902 (or £38,568 once deferred or brought forward expenditure is adjusted for).