

# **Sampford Courtenay Parish Council**

## **Report for meeting on 21st January 2026**

### **Subject: Report regarding Forecast Budget Calculations and draft Precept proposals for 2026/27**

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Prepared by: Cllr Michele Wilson

#### **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 In line with the Financial Regulations for the Parish Council a review of the budget is required to consider the current and forecast expenditure of the Parish Council to set the Precept and budget for year commencing 1 April 2026.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Council Precept for 2025/26 was £12631 which was a 1.05% reduction on previous year.
- 3.2 The draft budget is calculated on forecast expenditure considering likely increases for the effective running of the Council.
- 3.3 This budget review will also consider the current Earmarked Reserves held in the Reserve Account
- 3.4 When considering the setting of the precept the current financial challenges and cost of living increases effecting parishioners needs to be balanced against the long term financial stability for the Council.
- 3.5 There remains a potential future risk to the Council if there is a reversal in the current rate relief on the Public Toilets. Should the Council not receive the rates relief on this building then an annual cost of £1190.40 would be required. However the risk of this in the next financial year remains low and is therefore not considered in this report.
- 3.6 In the forecast budget no funding for the current Parish Priorities has been included in the Precept calculations and activity against the priorities (other than the Footpath to the Village Green) will require continued external funding bids to support their progression and completion as has been the case previously.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS & PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 Following discussion at the meeting there is need for a proposal for the sum agreed for the budget for 2026/27 which will form the basis for the Precept request that has to be submitted at the end of January.