BEAULIEU
PARISH COUNCIL

3 Year Plan - 2027/30

DRAFT 1
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Introduction

In accordance with BPC's Financial Policy and statutory requirements, the Council is required to approve an annual budget for the forthcoming financial year, which determines the parish precept, together with financial forecasts for the following two years.

This document presents a draft 2027/28 Budget and Three-Year Financial Plan to 2029/30 for council consideration, alongside the latest Full Year Forecast ("FYF") for the current financial year, 2026/27. It is proposed that the agreed plan is approved at the Council's December meeting.

For 2026/27, the total Band D Council Tax in Beaulieu Parish was £2,326.57, of which £41.24 (1.8%) was attributable to BPC. This represented an increase over the previous year, partly to fund 2 new Radar Speed Indicators as part of the Council's road safety strategy.

By comparison, the average Town/Parish Council precept across NFDC was £134.43 per Band D dwelling.

	BPC Precept	Tax Base Properties	Council Tax per Band D
	£		£
2026/27	23,832	577.90	41.24
2027/28	24,769	577.90	42.86
Variation	**937**	**0.00**	**1.62**
% change	**3.9%**	**0.0%**	**3.9%**

2027/28 Tax Base Properties TBC with NFDC

The draft 2027/28 precept is £24,769, equivalent to £42.86 per Band D dwelling[1], an increase of 4.8% over 2026/27.

The current FYF for 2026/27 indicates a surplus of £841. In accordance with BPC's agreed financial policy, any year-end surplus will be transferred to the Asset Replacement Reserve.

[1] Based on 2026/27 Tax Base Properties

Key assumption

Inflation

- Given the continuing economic uncertainty in the UK, a baseline inflation assumption of 3.5% has been adopted for 2027/28, reducing to 2.5% per annum thereafter.
- These assumptions are broadly consistent with the latest OBR and IMF forecasts for UK inflation, while allowing a modest degree of prudence in the Council's medium-term financial planning.
- The main exceptions to this proposed level of inflation are: NFDC waste collection (5% pa for all years); insurance (10% pa for all years).
- Other material cost increases are separately explained in the plan.

Latest OBR and IMF forecasts

The latest OBR forecast was published on 28 October 2026, alongside the UK budget. It represents a significant upward revision to inflation expectations for 2027, largely reflecting higher energy prices.

IMF published its latest world economic outlook on 13 October 2026.

Calendar year	OBR CPI	IMF CPI*
2027	3.4%	2.4%
2028	2.1%	2.0%
2029	2.1%	2.0%
2030	2.0%	2.0%

*IMF figures are annual-average CPI projections from its July 2026 UK country report

Key assumptions - FYF

Radar Speed Indicators

- The single most significant assumption for the 2026/27 FYF is the proposed purchase of 2 radar speed indicator signs as part of the Council's road safety strategy.
- ElanCity offers the only affordable option identified for two units, at a list price of £2,500 each. Following negotiations over recent months, a discount has been secured on the units themselves, together with no additional charge for the mounting kits, batteries and delivery, bringing the total cost down to **£4,500**.
- A further £450 is payable to HCC for the necessary approvals and site arrangements. Agreement with HCC on the specification and positioning of the mounting posts will be critical, and an additional allowance of £1,000 has been included for their installation.
- The total FYF provision is therefore **£5,950**.

Other key items

It is assumed that:

1. The Go New Forest digital media campaign will proceed at a cost of £1,000;
2. The CCTV service, repair and connectivity to WIFI will not exceed £1,000;
3. Any further repairs for the playground will not exceed £500;
4. additional bark will be needed this year and in subsequent years, at a baseline cost of £924;
5. no paid help is required for maintenance of the the Twinning Garden; and
6. Any other unforeseen cost will be covered by the remaining £500 contingency.

All amounts are quoted excl VAT

Key assumptions – Budget and Forecasts

Publicity, printing & promotion

- It is assumed that the digital media campaign supporting small High Street businesses will continue throughout the three-year plan period. An increased provision of £1,500 has been made in 2027/28, covering a similar campaign and also other printing costs incurred by the Council.
- It is assumed that the parish magazine will continue and that we we will pay for its delivery at a cost of £300pa.

Twinning garden

- It is assumed that there will be modest re-planting across the period (50% shared cost). There is an allowance of £1,500pa in case we need to pay for additional labour.

Playground and recreation area

- It is assumed there is no major maintenance requirement over the planned period. £1,000pa has been assumed to cover general maintenance costs and £265pa for the RoSPA report.

Repairs

- CCTV will require no major maintenance with service and minor repairs of £500pa
- The defibrillator will need change of pads potentially annually (in case they are used) and the batteries changed in 2028/29
- The batteries for the planned solar speed indicator will be changed annually
- Any other asset repairs will be covered by an allowance of £250pa, with no major bus shelter repair assumed.

All amounts are inflation adjusted across the plan period and are quoted excl VAT

Key assumptions – Budget and Forecasts (cont'd)

Website costs

- It is assumed that Ashdown Software will continue to manage the BPC and Beaulieu Village websites. It is recommended we look at alternative supply to ensure we have a costed backup plan. No additional costs are assumed at this stage.

New assets

- £1,000 is provided for to extend the CCTV systemin 2027/28 to cover the bridge and fire station areas
- £1,000 is proposed for other new assets in 2026/27, increasing in subsequent plan years to £1,500pa.

Toilet maintenance

- NFDC has raised the prospect of passing responsibility for public toilet maintenance to parish councils. No allowance has been made across the plan period for this possibility.

All amounts are quoted excl VAT

3-year plan - summary

		2026/27				DRAFT BUDGET		DRAFT FORECASTS			
		APPROVED BUDGET	ACTUAL AT 03-Nov-26	YTD %	FYF AT 03-Nov26	2027/28		2028/29		2029/30	
						£	% chg on FYF	£	% chg on PY	£	% chg on PY
Estimated reserves brought forward	General Reserve	20,065	20,066		20,065	20,065	0.0%	20,065	0.0%	20,065	0.0%
	Asset Replacement Reserve	3,060	4,590		4,590	5,431	18.3%	5,431	0.0%	5,431	0.0%
Actual reserves brought forward		**23,125**	**24,655**		**24,655**	**25,496**	**3.4%**	**25,496**	**0.0%**	**25,496**	**0.0%**
Precept		23,832	23,832	100%	23,832	24,769	3.9%	25,242	1.9%	25,912	2.7%
VAT recoveries		-	1,390		1,700	-					
Grants		700	1,500	214%	1,500	-	-100.0%	-		-	0.0%
Contribution to costs		-	-		-						
Bank interest received		325	203	62%	350	350	0.0%	350	0.0%	350	0.0%
Total Income		**24,857**	**26,925**		**27,382**	**25,119**	**-8.3%**	**25,592**	**1.9%**	**26,262**	**2.6%**
Asset management costs	see separate analysis 1	(10,188)	(747)	7%	(9,767)	(8,007)	-18.0%	(7,827)	-2.3%	(7,813)	-0.2%
Litter & Dog Waste Collection		(5,437)	(5,375)	99%	(5,178)	(5,437)	5.0%	(5,709)	5.0%	(5,994)	5.0%
Staff costs	see separate analysis 2	(4,003)	(2,077)	52%	(4,340)	(4,492)	3.5%	(4,604)	2.5%	(4,719)	2.5%
Administration costs	see separate analysis 3	(2,974)	(2,713)	91%	(4,356)	(4,924)	13.0%	(5,133)	4.2%	(5,356)	4.3%
Councillor training		(1,000)	-	0%	(500)	(1,000)	100.0%	(1,025)	2.5%	(1,051)	2.5%
Contingency		(1,000)	-	0%	(500)	(1,000)	100.0%	(1,025)	2.5%	(1,051)	2.5%
Section 137 costs	see separate analysis 4	(255)	(100)	39%	(250)	(259)	3.5%	(269)	4.0%	(278)	3.3%
Recoverable VAT			(1,110)		(1,650)	-	-100.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Transfer to Asset Replacement Reserve					(841)						
Total Expenses		**(24,857)**	**(12,121)**	49%	**(27,382)**	**(25,119)**	**-8.3%**	**(25,592)**	**1.9%**	**(26,262)**	**2.6%**
Surplus / (Deficit)		**-**	**14,804**		**(0)**	**-**		**-**		**-**	
Estimated reserves carried forward	General Reserve	**20,065**	**34,870**		**20,065**	**20,065**		**20,065**		**20,065**	
	Asset Replacement Reserve	**3,060**	**4,590**		**5,431**	**5,431**		**5,431**		**5,431**	
		23,125	**39,459**		**25,496**	**25,496**		**25,496**		**25,496**	
Closing reserves / Precept cover		**97%**			**107%**	**103%**		**101%**		**98%**	

3-year plan – additional cost details

		2026/27				DRAFT BUDGET		DRAFT FORECASTS			
		APPROVED BUDGET	ACTUAL AT 3-NOV-26	% SPENT YTD	FY FORECAST AT 3-NOV-26	2027/28		2028/29		2029/30	
1. Asset Management costs											
Play area tidying & safety checks		(946)	(500)	53%	(946)	(979)	3.5%	(1,004)	2.5%	(1,029)	2.5%
Allowance for additional labour		(1,500)	-		-	(1,500)	-	(1,538)	2.5%	(1,576)	2.5%
Bark		(924)	-		(924)	(956)	3.5%	(980)	2.5%	(1,005)	2.5%
Twinning Garden maintenance (50% share)		(308)	-	0%	(100)	(104)	3.5%	(106)	2.5%	(109)	2.5%
Playground / Recreation Area maintenance		(1,000)	-	0%	(500)	(1,000)	100.0%	(1,025)	2.5%	(1,051)	2.5%
Bus shelters repair		-	-		-	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	-
Defibrillator maintenance		(100)	-	0%	(100)	(104)	3.5%	(275)	165.7%	(110)	-60.0%
Other asset repairs		(250)	-	0%	-	(250)	-	(256)	2.5%	(263)	2.5%
CCTV maintenance		(750)	-	0%	(1,000)	(500)	-50.0%	(513)	2.5%	(525)	2.5%
Solar speed indicator repairs inc new batteries						(350)	0.0%	(359)	2.5%	(368)	2.5%
RoSPA report		(110)	(247)	225%	(247)	(265)	7.2%	(272)	2.5%	(278)	2.5%
Total maintenance costs		**(5,888)**	**(747)**	13%	**(3,817)**	**(6,007)**		**(6,327)**		**(6,313)**	
New / Replacement Assets:	CCTV	-	-	0%	-	(1,000)	-	-	-	-	-
	Solar speed indicators	(3,300)	-	0%	(5,950)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	(1,000)	-	0%	-	(1,000)		(1,500)	50.0%	(1,500)	0.0%
		(10,188)	**(747)**	7%	**(9,767)**	**(8,007)**	-18.0%	**(7,827)**	-2.3%	**(7,813)**	-0.2%
2. Staff costs						£	FYF	£	on PY	£	on PY
Clerk's salary		(3,644)	(2,077)	57%	(3,560)	(3,685)	3.5%	(3,777)	2.5%	(3,871)	2.5%
Clerk's payment in lieu of holiday		-	-		(430)	(445)	3.5%	(456)	2.5%	(468)	2.5%
NI		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payroll costs		(359)	-	0%	(350)	(362)	3.5%	(371)	2.5%	(381)	2.5%
		(4,003)	**(2,077)**	52%	**(4,340)**	**(4,492)**	3.5%	**(4,604)**	2.5%	**(4,719)**	2.5%

3-year plan – additional cost details (cont'd)

	2026/27				DRAFT BUDGET		DRAFT FORECASTS			
	APPROVED BUDGET	ACTUAL AT 3-NOV-26	% SPENT YTD	FY FORECAST AT 3-NOV-26	2549600.0%		2549600.0%		25496	
3. Administration costs										
Meeting costs	(875)	(405)	46%	(750)	(776)	3.5%	(796)	2.5%	(816)	2.5%
Insurance	(1,119)	(1,043)	93%	(1,043)	(1,147)	10.0%	(1,262)	10.0%	(1,388)	10.0%
Publicity, printing and promotion	-	(158)		(1,200)	(1,500)	25.0%	(1,538)	2.5%	(1,576)	2.5%
Magazine delivery costs	-	(203)		(203)	(300)	47.8%	(308)	2.5%	(315)	2.5%
Website costs	(328)	(291)	89%	(400)	(414)	3.5%	(424)	2.5%	(435)	2.5%
Beaulieu Village website costs	(87)		0%	(85)	(88)	3.5%	(90)	2.5%	(92)	2.5%
HALC fees	(338)	(378)	112%	(378)	(391)	3.5%	(401)	2.5%	(411)	2.5%
ICO fees	(48)	(47)	98%	(47)	(49)	3.5%	(50)	2.5%	(51)	2.5%
Bank charges	(77)	(30)	0%	(50)	(52)	3.5%	(53)	2.5%	(54)	2.5%
Other costs	(102)	(158)	155%	(200)	(207)	3.5%	(212)	2.5%	(217)	2.5%
	(2,974)	**(2,713)**	**91%**	**(4,356)**	**(4,924)**	**13.0%**	**(5,133)**	**4.2%**	**(5,356)**	**4.3%**
4. Section 137 costs										
Remembrance wreath	(105)	(100)	0%	(100)	(104)	3.5%	(110)	6.3%	(115)	4.5%
St John Ambulance	-	-		(150)	(155)	3.5%	(159)	0.0%	(163)	0.0%
Other	(150)	-		-	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
	(255)	**(100)**	**0%**	**(250)**	**(259)**	**3.5%**	**(269)**	**4.0%**	**(278)**	**3.3%**