

Worplesdon Parish Council

Proposed Budget & Parish Precept 2026/27

Understanding the proposed increase

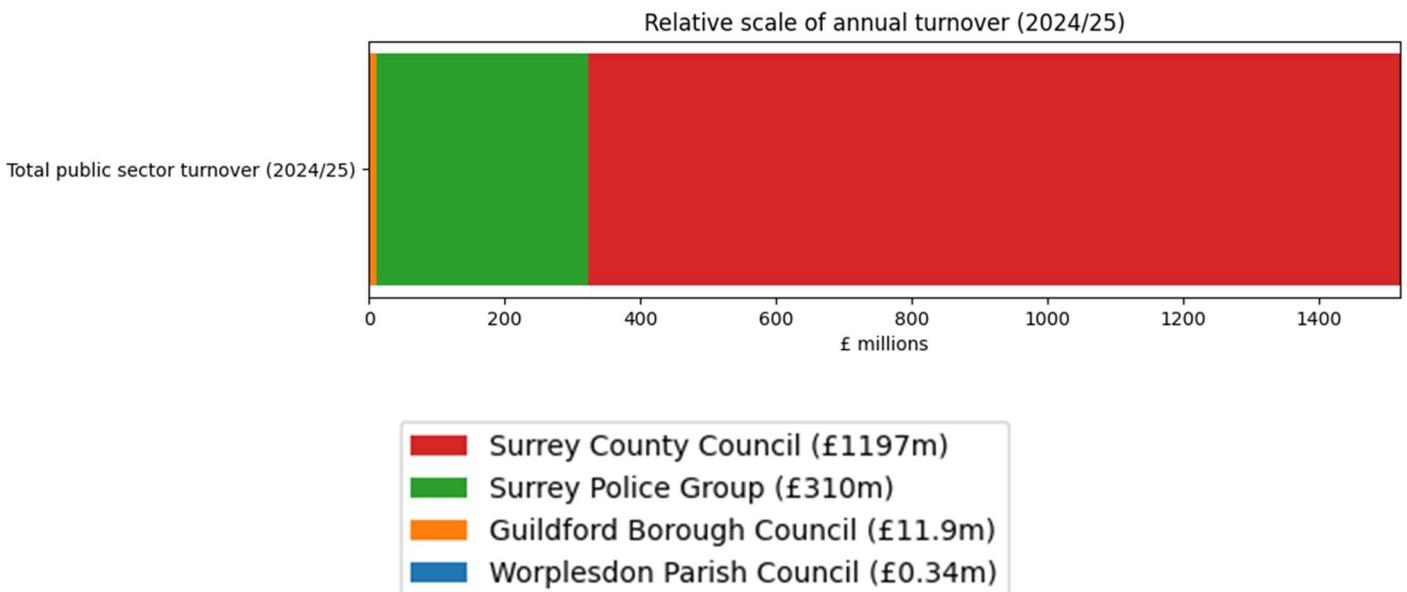
Purpose of this flyer

This flyer explains the proposed parish budget and precept for 2026/27, why an increase is required, and what it means for households within the parish.

What is the precept?

The **parish precept** is the Parish Council's share of Council Tax. It funds the services, staff, contracts, and governance arrangements required to run the Council and deliver local services, such as managing land across the parish, managing and maintaining a number of recreational and community facilities.

Unlike other Town and Parish Councils, Worplesdon Parish Council has no direct source of income other than the parish precept.



Why is the budget increasing?

The proposed increase reflects **statutory duties**, **organisational change**, and the **growing responsibilities placed on parish councils**. It is necessary to ensure the Council can continue to operate **lawfully, securely, and effectively** for residents.

Statutory and governance requirements

Parish councils must comply with an increasing number of statutory and regulatory requirements, including:

- Robust financial management and audit arrangements
- Enhanced IT security and data protection
- Accessibility compliance for public documents
- Stronger governance, transparency, and risk management

From **31 March 2026**, parish councils are required to meet **additional annual governance standards under the national audit framework**.¹ These requirements are mandatory and place further demands on officer time, systems, and internal controls.

Local Government Reorganisation

Surrey is undergoing significant local government reorganisation. This requires parish councils to:

- Engage with consultation and transition processes
- Prepare for changes to governance, potential asset transfers, and service delivery
- Ensure continuity and stability for residents

This work is unavoidable, time-critical and increases demand on officer capacity.

Staffing capacity and resilience

The Council is proposing the appointment of an **additional part-time member of staff** to:

- Manage an increasing workload
- Ensure statutory deadlines are met
- Maintain service standards
- Provide resilience and business continuity

This is a proportionate response to sustained workload growth and higher compliance requirements.

¹ Assertion 10 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

Devolution and local service pressures

As principal authorities face ongoing financial pressures, more responsibilities are being passed to parish councils, including:

- Management of local assets and facilities
- Support for community spaces and amenities
- Local services residents expect to be handled promptly and effectively

Parish councils are well placed to deliver services locally but must be properly resourced to do so.

Sound financial management

The Council must maintain sufficient financial reserves, following professional guidance and best practice, to:

- Protect essential services
- Manage unforeseen events
- Support long-term financial sustainability

What does this mean for residents? (Band D impact)

The figures below show the **parish element only** of the Council Tax bill.

Tax base (number of properties that contribute council tax) confirmed by Guildford Borough Council

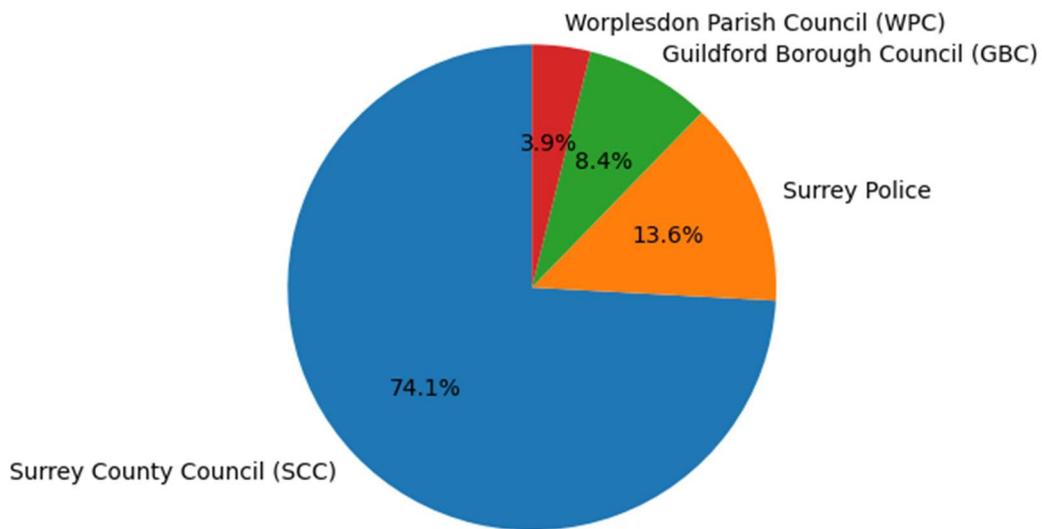
Financial Year	Tax Base	Parish Precept	Annual Band D Charge (per property)	Annual increase (Per Band D property)
2024/25	3,704.40	£339,900	£91.76	£8.09
2025/26	3,746.05	£387,125	£103.34	£11.58
2026/27	3,775.06	£489,750	£129.73	£26.39

Band D change for 2026/27:

- Percentage increase: **25.54%**
- Annual increase: **approximately £26.39**
- Equivalent to approximately **50 pence per week**

Worplesdon Parish Council accounts for approximately 4% of the total council tax bill.

2024/25 Band D Council Tax – Precept Split



Please note, Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council have additional income streams which Worplesdon Parish Council does not.

✓ In summary

- The proposed increase reflects statutory duties and unavoidable external pressures
- It ensures the Council can continue to operate lawfully and effectively
- It supports local service delivery, governance standards, and financial resilience

📄 Further information

Residents are welcome to view the detailed budget papers on the Parish Council website or to contact the Parish Council office with any questions.