

ANNUAL ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR

To commence and consider all matters pertaining to determination of the Council's income, expenditure, balances and precept requirements for the financial year 2026/27.

1. Annual Investment Strategy 2026/27:

Further to Minute 28ii) June 2011, to review and confirm the Acton Community Council Investments Policy for the next financial year as part of the budget setting process. The Council's **Banking Strategy** seeks to enable two factor authorisation for electronic payments and the mandate for the two Unity Bank Accounts recently opened include a total of six signatories; two of whom will be required to authorise online payments promptly once the Clerk has created the electronic payment. The Council's Annual Investment Strategy and Financial Regulations will be reviewed once the 6 named signatories have registered for online banking with Unity Trust Bank.

2. Service Level Agreements 2026/27:

To review and confirm the Service Level Agreements for the next financial year as part of the budget setting process:-

1. Payroll Service – (Year 3 of 3)
2. Young Persons Projects: 8-13/14-18 year olds – (Year 2 of 3)
3. Ranger Acton Park – This three year agreement ends on 31 March 2025. However, the post is currently vacant.
The Council's **INSTRUCTIONS** are **REQUESTED** upon whether it wishes to enter into another agreement with Wrexham County Borough Council to fund a Park Ranger post in Acton Park and to **DETERMINE** the length of any Agreement it wishes to enter into;
4. CAB Acton Outreach Worker for Acton Community Advice Service (Year 3 of 3)
5. Acton Playground Provision – (Annual ongoing)
6. School Crossing Patrols – (Annual ongoing)
7. Staffed play provision at Little Acton (Year 2 of 3) – also to **consider the RECOMMENDATION from the Youth Committee meeting on 12 November 2025** to the Council that it extends the existing 3 year Play Sufficiency Project Service Level Agreement with Wrexham CBC Play Development Team to enable them to continue to provide holiday play sessions on the Fairways Estate at cost of £2,093.90 for 1 session per week throughout the Easter, Whit, Summer & October school holidays (total of 10 sessions excluding bank holidays & national Playday), and quarterly reports be provided to enable the Youth Committee to monitor progress and adjust accordingly.

THE COUNCIL IS RECOMMENDED TO DETERMINE

- a) its wishes in respect of the Acton Park Ranger Agreement;
- b) to confirm the continuation of the existing Service Level Agreements for the next financial year as part of the budget setting process; and
- c) to implement the recommendations of the Youth Committee Meeting held on 12 November 2025

3. Precept Requirements for 2026/27:

The Chief Finance and Performance Officer, Wrexham County Borough Council has yet to indicate when the Community Council's precept is required by (but its usually mid-January each year). The Acton Community Tax base for 2026/27 is also yet to be confirmed;

Budget Assumptions. Members are requested to give initial consideration to the Council's Draft budget and precept requirements to enable detailed costings to be worked up for consideration at the December 2025 Council meeting.

IT is PROPOSED that the Clerk should work up detailed budget costings for consideration at the December 2025 Council meeting taking into account current commitments and any new provisions that the Community Council decides to support and earmarked and other reserve requirements. The costings should be based on an assumption of 3.8% inflation and include any cost implications within the budget lines that may be affected by any announcements by the Chancellor in the budget on 26 November 2025.

End of Report