

Public Document Pack



Chairman and Members of the
Council

Your contact: Stephanie
Tarrant
Tel: 01992 531441
Date: 4 March 2026

cc. All other recipients of the Council
agenda

Dear Councillor,

COUNCIL - 4 MARCH 2026

Please find attached Conservative Budget Amendments for the above
meeting:

- (A) Conservative Alternative District Council Budget Proposals (Pages 2 -
11)

MEETING : COUNCIL
VENUE : COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD
DATE : WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 2026
TIME : 7.00 PM

Agenda Item 10a

Conservative Alternative District Council Budget Proposals 4 March 2026

The Conservative Group proposes two amendments to the Executive Budget for 2026/27:

Amendment 1 - Proposer: Tom Deffley, Seconder: Bob Deering

In the capital budget, £170k has been allocated for works at the URC Hall. However, this would represent a poor use of taxpayers' resources. Instead, the funding should be used to reduce existing borrowing, thereby lowering the Minimum Revenue Provision. This approach would reduce the revenue budget by approximately £15k per year and help moderate future Council Tax increase.

That the Budget be amended as follows:

- a) Appendix A MTFP be deleted and replaced with an amended Appendix A as Annex 1 to this amendment.**
- b) Appendix E Capital Programme be deleted and replaced with an amended Appendix E as Annex 2 to this amendment.**

This would result in the 2026/27 showing a £15,000 surplus for the year, against the original proposed breakeven budget.

Amendment 2 - Proposer: Tom Deffley, Seconder: Bob Deering

£250k is proposed to be placed into an Earmarked Reserve in both 2026/27 and 2027/28. However, no specific purpose has been identified for this reserve. The Administration suggests that the Executive should subsequently determine how these funds will be used. This is unacceptable. Decisions on how taxpayers' money is allocated should be made by the full Council, not delegated to the Executive.

We therefore propose that either:

- The proposed reserve should not be created, and the funds should instead be used to help moderate future Council Tax increases; or
- Any Member should be able to put forward a scheme for consideration, with approval resting with the full Council rather than the Executive; or
- The proposed reserve should be divided equally among all Members, effectively creating a 'Locality Budget' for each Member to spend on local good causes as they see fit.

If Option 1 were agreed, the proposed £250k transfer would not be placed into an Earmarked Reserve. Instead, the £250k would remain as a surplus within the 2026/27 budget, and would then be transferred into General Fund Balances, making it available to support any future decision to moderate Council Tax increases.

That the Budget be amended as follows:

- a) Appendix A (MTFP) be deleted and replaced with an amended Appendix A as Annex 3 to this amendment.**

If Option 2 or Option 3 were agreed, no changes to the budget papers would be required. The £250k would still be transferred to an earmarked reserve as set out in the current budget; the only change would be to rename the reserve to reflect the Member-approved purpose (either a scheme open to all Members, or a locality-style allocation).

If both the first budget amendment and Option 1 of the second amendment were agreed, then the budget be amended as follows:

- a) Appendix A (MTFP) would be deleted and replaced with an amended Appendix A as Annex 4 to this amendment.**
- b) Appendix E Capital Programme be deleted and replaced with an amended Appendix E as Annex 2 to this amendment.**



General Fund Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/27 to 2030/31

2025/26 £000	Cost of Services	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	2030/31 £000
305	Chief Executive's Office	313	323	333	343	353
1,855	Communications, Strategy & Policy	1,850	1,907	1,965	2,025	2,087
2,073	Housing and Health	3,590	3,715	3,810	3,903	4,001
700	Operations	1,203	1,622	1,887	2,155	2,420
(200)	Hertford Theatre	(200)	(375)	(350)	(324)	(304)
2,285	Planning & Building Control	2,373	2,471	2,572	2,677	2,784
844	Shared Revenues & Benefits Service	618	692	769	849	978
2,971	IT Shared Service	2,959	3,061	3,167	3,277	3,392
1,436	Legal & Democratic Services	1,527	1,579	1,632	1,687	1,728
519	Human Resources & Org Development	656	671	688	704	721
2,528	Strategic Finance & Property	2,319	2,647	2,876	3,101	3,393
705	Centrally Managed Costs	937	939	941	943	943
(150)	Revenue Costs Capitalised	(70)	(50)	(20)	(20)	(20)
50	Capital Expenditure Charged to a Revenue Account	50	50	50	50	50
15,921	Net Cost of Services	18,125	19,252	20,321	21,370	22,525
2025/26 £000	Corporate Budgets	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	2030/31 £000
(100)	Fees and Charges Annual Review	(50)	(100)	(150)	(200)	(250)
1,634	Minimum Revenue Provision	1,438	1,438	1,464	1,464	1,464
3,269	Interest Payable on Loans	2,508	2,310	2,190	1,986	1,986
(1,000)	Investment Income	(600)	(600)	(600)	(600)	(600)
637	Pension Fund Deficit Contribution					
4,440	Total Corporate Budgets	3,296	3,048	2,904	2,650	2,600
(63)	Savings identified 2026/27	(436)	(436)	(436)	(436)	(436)
	Savings identified 2027/28		(648)	(648)	(648)	(648)
	Savings identified 2028/29			(210)	(210)	(210)
	Savings proposed 2026/27 Pressures	(454)	(454)	(454)	(454)	(454)
	Pressures	771	549	0	0	0
	Savings to be found					
	Total Savings & Pressures	(119)	(989)	(1,748)	(1,748)	(1,748)
20,298	Total Costs	21,302	21,311	21,477	22,272	23,377

2025/26 £000	Government Funding & Council Tax	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	2030/31 £000
(5,092)	Retained Business Rates - Business Rates	(2,657)	(2,718)	(2,773)	(2,773)	(2,773)
(1,193)	New Homes Bonus Grant	0	0	0	0	0
(141)	Revenue Support Grant	(4,274)	(3,672)	(3,041)	(3,041)	(3,041)
(403)	General Government Grants	0	0	0	0	0
(179)	NI grant					
	Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse	(1,009)	(1,047)	(1,053)	(1,053)	(1,053)
(13,131)	Council Tax Demand on the Collection Fund	(13,627)	(14,139)	(14,670)	(15,220)	(15,790)
	Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit					
(20,139)	Total Government Funding & Council Tax	(21,567)	(21,576)	(21,537)	(22,087)	(22,657)

159 Net Budget before Reserves movements	(265)	(265)	(60)	185	720
---	--------------	--------------	-------------	------------	------------

2025/26 £000	Contributions to/(from) Reserves	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	2030/31 £000
0	Contributions to Earmarked Reserves	250	250	0	0	0
(164)	Contributions (from) Earmarked Reserves	0	0	0	0	0
	Contributions to General Fund					
	Contributions (from) General Fund					
(164)	Total Contributions to/(from) Reserves	250	250	0	0	0

(5) Net Budget Position	(15)	(15)	(60)	185	720
--------------------------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	------------	------------

EAST HERTS DISTRICT COUNCIL CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026/27 TO 2028/29

APPROVED SCHEMES	2025/26 Revised Estimate £'000	Projected Carry Forward into 2026/27 £'000	2026/27 Estimate £000	2027/28 Estimate £000	2028/29 Estimate £000	Scheme Total from 2026/27 £000
Land and Buildings						
Investment in operational assets		392				392
Depot Upgrades	327					-
Hertford Theatre	19	81				81
Old River Lane	59	59				59
Town Centre Regeneration - Public Square				1,500		1,500
URC Church Hall						-
Buntingford Public WC - UKSPF						-
Pinehurst Community Hall	8					-
Total Land and Buildings	413	532	-	1,500	-	2,032
Infrastructure						
Bridge	33					-
Total Infrastructure	33	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicles and Equipment						
ICT Rolling programme	124		300	300		600
BEAM Website	51					-
Sports Equipment - Pool Cover - UKSPF						-
Air Quality Website - UKSPF						-
Refuse & Recycling - Cleansing vehicles	6,130					-
Refuse & Recycling - containers	1,680					-
Transformation Programme	195	18				18
Total Vehicles and Equipment	8,180	18	300	300	-	618
Community Assets						
Replacement play equipment across the district						-
Bishops Stortford Castle Park - HLF & UKSPF						-

APPROVED SCHEMES	2025/26 Revised Estimate £'000	Projected Carry Forward into 2026/27 £'000	2026/27 Estimate £000	2027/28 Estimate £000	2028/29 Estimate £000	Scheme Total from 2026/27 £000
BEAM Solar Panel (UKSPF)		60				60
Hartham Decarbonisation (UKSPF)		50				50
Hertford Castle Grounds - Development Phase - HLF	270					-
Parks & Open Spaces		79				79
Warmer Homes	319					-
Tree Planting (UKSPF)						-
UKSPF - various	165	125				125
Total Community Assets	754	314	-	-	-	314
Capitalisation of Interest						-
Year End Adjustment						-
Contingency	-	250	200	100		550
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	9,380	1,114	500	1,900	-	3,514
FUNDED BY:						
Borrowing (Internal)	(7,810)					-
Borrowing (External)	(59)	(59)	-			-59
Capital Receipts	(749)	(741)	(500)	(1,900)		-3,141
Capital Grants Applied	(754)	(235)	-			-235
S106	(8)	(79)	-			-79
Reserve funded						-
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDING	(9,380)	(1,114)	(500)	(1,900)	-	(3,514)



General Fund Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/27 to 2030/31

2025/26 £000	Cost of Services	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	2030/31 £000
305	Chief Executive's Office	313	323	333	343	353
1,855	Communications, Strategy & Policy	1,850	1,907	1,965	2,025	2,087
2,073	Housing and Health	3,590	3,715	3,810	3,903	4,001
700	Operations	1,203	1,622	1,887	2,155	2,420
(200)	Hertford Theatre	(200)	(375)	(350)	(324)	(304)
2,285	Planning & Building Control	2,373	2,471	2,572	2,677	2,784
844	Shared Revenues & Benefits Service	618	692	769	849	978
2,971	IT Shared Service	2,959	3,061	3,167	3,277	3,392
1,436	Legal & Democratic Services	1,527	1,579	1,632	1,687	1,728
519	Human Resources & Org Development	656	671	688	704	721
2,528	Strategic Finance & Property	2,319	2,647	2,876	3,101	3,393
705	Centrally Managed Costs	937	939	941	943	943
(150)	Revenue Costs Capitalised	(70)	(50)	(20)	(20)	(20)
50	Capital Expenditure Charged to a Revenue Account	50	50	50	50	50
15,921	Net Cost of Services	18,125	19,252	20,321	21,370	22,525
2025/26 £000	Corporate Budgets	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	2030/31 £000
(100)	Fees and Charges Annual Review	(50)	(100)	(150)	(200)	(250)
1,634	Minimum Revenue Provision	1,453	1,453	1,479	1,479	1,479
3,269	Interest Payable on Loans	2,508	2,310	2,190	1,986	1,986
(1,000)	Investment Income	(600)	(600)	(600)	(600)	(600)
637	Pension Fund Deficit Contribution					
4,440	Total Corporate Budgets	3,311	3,063	2,919	2,665	2,615
(63)	Savings identified 2026/27	(436)	(436)	(436)	(436)	(436)
	Savings identified 2027/28		(648)	(648)	(648)	(648)
	Savings identified 2028/29			(210)	(210)	(210)
	Savings proposed 2026/27 Pressures	(454)	(454)	(454)	(454)	(454)
	Pressures	771	549	0	0	0
	Savings to be found					
	Total Savings & Pressures	(119)	(989)	(1,748)	(1,748)	(1,748)
20,298	Total Costs	21,317	21,326	21,492	22,287	23,392

2025/26 £000	Government Funding & Council Tax	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	2030/31 £000
(5,092)	Retained Business Rates - Business Rates	(2,657)	(2,718)	(2,773)	(2,773)	(2,773)
(1,193)	New Homes Bonus Grant	0	0	0	0	0
(141)	Revenue Support Grant	(4,274)	(3,672)	(3,041)	(3,041)	(3,041)
(403)	General Government Grants	0	0	0	0	0
(179)	NI grant					
	Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse	(1,009)	(1,047)	(1,053)	(1,053)	(1,053)
(13,131)	Council Tax Demand on the Collection Fund	(13,627)	(14,139)	(14,670)	(15,220)	(15,790)
	Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit					
(20,139)	Total Government Funding & Council Tax	(21,567)	(21,576)	(21,537)	(22,087)	(22,657)

159 Net Budget before Reserves movements	(250)	(250)	(45)	200	735
---	--------------	--------------	-------------	------------	------------

2025/26 £000	Contributions to/(from) Reserves	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	2030/31 £000
0	Contributions to Earmarked Reserves	0	0	0	0	0
(164)	Contributions (from) Earmarked Reserves	0	0	0	0	0
	Contributions to General Fund					
	Contributions (from) General Fund					
(164)	Total Contributions to/(from) Reserves	0	0	0	0	0

(5) Net Budget Position	(250)	(250)	(45)	200	735
--------------------------------	--------------	--------------	-------------	------------	------------



General Fund Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/27 to 2030/31

2025/26 £000	Cost of Services	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	2030/31 £000
305	Chief Executive's Office	313	323	333	343	353
1,855	Communications, Strategy & Policy	1,850	1,907	1,965	2,025	2,087
2,073	Housing and Health	3,590	3,715	3,810	3,903	4,001
700	Operations	1,203	1,622	1,887	2,155	2,420
(200)	Hertford Theatre	(200)	(375)	(350)	(324)	(304)
2,285	Planning & Building Control	2,373	2,471	2,572	2,677	2,784
844	Shared Revenues & Benefits Service	618	692	769	849	978
2,971	IT Shared Service	2,959	3,061	3,167	3,277	3,392
1,436	Legal & Democratic Services	1,527	1,579	1,632	1,687	1,728
519	Human Resources & Org Development	656	671	688	704	721
2,528	Strategic Finance & Property	2,319	2,647	2,876	3,101	3,393
705	Centrally Managed Costs	937	939	941	943	943
(150)	Revenue Costs Capitalised	(70)	(50)	(20)	(20)	(20)
50	Capital Expenditure Charged to a Revenue Account	50	50	50	50	50
15,921	Net Cost of Services	18,125	19,252	20,321	21,370	22,525
2025/26 £000	Corporate Budgets	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	2030/31 £000
(100)	Fees and Charges Annual Review	(50)	(100)	(150)	(200)	(250)
1,634	Minimum Revenue Provision	1,438	1,438	1,464	1,464	1,464
3,269	Interest Payable on Loans	2,508	2,310	2,190	1,986	1,986
(1,000)	Investment Income	(600)	(600)	(600)	(600)	(600)
637	Pension Fund Deficit Contribution					
4,440	Total Corporate Budgets	3,296	3,048	2,904	2,650	2,600
(63)	Savings identified 2026/27	(436)	(436)	(436)	(436)	(436)
	Savings identified 2027/28		(648)	(648)	(648)	(648)
	Savings identified 2028/29			(210)	(210)	(210)
	Savings proposed 2026/27 Pressures	(454)	(454)	(454)	(454)	(454)
	Pressures	771	549	0	0	0
	Savings to be found					
	Total Savings & Pressures	(119)	(989)	(1,748)	(1,748)	(1,748)
20,298	Total Costs	21,302	21,311	21,477	22,272	23,377

2025/26 £000	Government Funding & Council Tax	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	2030/31 £000
(5,092)	Retained Business Rates - Business Rates	(2,657)	(2,718)	(2,773)	(2,773)	(2,773)
(1,193)	New Homes Bonus Grant	0	0	0	0	0
(141)	Revenue Support Grant	(4,274)	(3,672)	(3,041)	(3,041)	(3,041)
(403)	General Government Grants	0	0	0	0	0
(179)	NI grant					
	Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse	(1,009)	(1,047)	(1,053)	(1,053)	(1,053)
(13,131)	Council Tax Demand on the Collection Fund	(13,627)	(14,139)	(14,670)	(15,220)	(15,790)
	Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit					
(20,139)	Total Government Funding & Council Tax	(21,567)	(21,576)	(21,537)	(22,087)	(22,657)

159 Net Budget before Reserves movements	(265)	(265)	(60)	185	720
---	--------------	--------------	-------------	------------	------------

2025/26 £000	Contributions to/(from) Reserves	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	2030/31 £000
0	Contributions to Earmarked Reserves	0	0	0	0	0
(164)	Contributions (from) Earmarked Reserves	0	0	0	0	0
	Contributions to General Fund					
	Contributions (from) General Fund					
(164)	Total Contributions to/(from) Reserves	0	0	0	0	0

(5) Net Budget Position	(265)	(265)	(60)	185	720
--------------------------------	--------------	--------------	-------------	------------	------------