



Ferryhill Town Council

Town Hall, Ferryhill, County Durham, DL17 8JL

Telephone: (01740) 652157

Website: <http://www.ferryhill.gov.uk>

Email: enquiries@ferryhill.gov.uk

Dear Councillor,

I Hereby Summon You to attend a **Meeting** of the **Resources Committee at 6.00PM** on **Wednesday, 15th October 2025**. The meeting will be held at **Ferryhill Town Hall, Chapel Terrace, Ferryhill, Co Durham, DL17 8JL**

Dated 8th October 2025

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leanne".

Leeanne Owens
Town Clerk

Membership: Councillor C Bihari (Chairman)
Councillor C Atkinson (Vice Chairman) and A Ferguson, C Johnson,
J Lathan, J Quinn,

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
To invite members to declare any interest they may have.
- 3. Members Dispensation**
To consider written requests for dispensations from members who have declared interests under Disclosable or Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – Section 33 of the 2011 Localism Act.
- 4. Public Participation (Subject to Public Participation Policy)**
Members of the public are permitted to make representations, ask questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. Questions will not be received by the Council which are in furtherance of a

person's individual circumstances, or which are about a matter where there is a right of appeal to the courts, a tribunal or government minister. A question will not be received by the Council where the issue it concerns has been the subject of a decision of the Council in the last six months.

5. Statement of Accounts and Income

To approve the statement of accounts and income

6. Budgetary Control to 30 September 2025 and Budget Update

To consider the report from the Town Clerk and Finance and Administration Manager

SUBJECT: BUDGETARY CONTROL TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

AUTHORS: LEEANNE OWENS, TOWN CLERK & ELIZABETH GILDERSLEEVES, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

MEETING: RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: 15 OCTOBER 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 It is recommended practice to report on the Council's finances to Members on a regular basis. External auditors suggest that this report should be submitted at least quarterly. A commitment was given to report on the Council's finances at least quarterly, and more frequently if circumstances require it.
- 1.2 This is the second budgetary control report for the financial year 2025/2026 and covers the six month period to the end of September 2025. It is still early in the financial year and a large number of projected figures at 31 March 2026 are the same as the budgeted figure because there is no other information at this stage. However, actual expenditure and income to date, and decisions made by the Council regarding project financing, suggest that some projections should be varied from the budget. Attached as Appendix 1 is a document that shows actual income and expenditure for the year to date for each cost centre.

2. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

Current Position

- 2.1 The report summarises expenditure and income to 30 September 2025. In simple terms this would suggest that around 50% of the budget should be spent at this stage. In reality not all expenditure is incurred or income received evenly throughout the year. For example, the insurance premium for the full year amounting to £12,854 has already been paid. The situation is therefore slightly distorted and some of the actual figures are significantly more or less than 50% as a result.
- 2.2 The summary on page 1 shows that, as at 30 September 2025, net expenditure of £376,080 has been incurred and income from LCTRS grant of £61,234 and DCC Precept of £292,422 has been received.
- 2.3 The net expenditure projection for the year ended 31 March 2026 is shown as £779,606, which, taking into account projects funded from earmarked reserves, represents an **underspending of £536.00** at that date. The more significant issues influencing the projection at this stage are referred to below:
- a) **Staffing** (page 1) – a projected overspending of £2,200 is showing here at this stage, due to expected professional HR advice fees from DCC and professional fees, however it is anticipated that fees could exceed this amount. A pay rise of

3.2%, backdated to 1 April 2025, was accepted on the 23 July 2025. This has now been paid to all staff and is incorporated in the figures for salaries.

- b) Democracy** (page 1) – an overspending of £280 is shown here, which is as a result of the purchase of a new Roll of Honour board and plaques for the Council Chamber, as the current roll of honour board is full.
- c) Overheads** (page 3) - an overspending of £420 is expected in this cost centre due to increased external audit fees.
- d) Capital Finance** (page 3) – The projected overspend of £64,546 is in relation to costs to be incurred for capital projects - Dean Bank Park play equipment, Cemetery toilet block and the Miners Lamp at Surtees Corner. These are, however, to be financed from reserves, as agreed by council, and were earmarked in last year's accounts. (see table below).
- e) Allotments** (page 4) – a projected increase of £600 is showing in this cost centre due to an increase in rents received.
- f) Open Spaces** (page 5) – this cost centre is showing a projected overspend of £100, which is due to repair costs of £510 to the Beacon Of Europe, following vandalism. No budget had been allocated to this cost centre to cover any repairs, however, we have been able to recover the majority of these costs via our insurance to the value of £410.
- g) Town Centre Toilets & Kiosks** (page 6) – this cost centre is showing a projected overspend of £1,117 due to a reduction in the expected rent from the kiosks. Neither of the kiosks are currently being rented out, however following another marketing campaign to advertise them, there has been a lot of interest from potential businesses. Members will be updated further should anything arise from this interest.
- h) Car Park, Market Place** (page 6) – increased water drainage fees are the reason for a projected overspend of £170 here.
- i) Cemetery** (page 7) – this cost centre is showing a projected overspend of £5,850, which is mainly due to £5,820 costs incurred on repairs to the stone wall, however, council previously agreed to fund these repairs from Capital Receipts. £200 received for the sale of the portaloos at this site has been added to Capital Receipts (see table below).
- j) Sports Facility** (page 8) – An increase in football fees accounts for the underspend of £530 here.
- k) Mainsforth Complex** (page 9) – Additional income from football fees (£472) and an unexpected compensation payment received for an interruption to the electricity supply to the site (£95) accounts for the underspend of £567 showing here. The previously earmarked reserve of £2,666 for pitch maintenance is no longer required, so this amount has been transferred back into General Reserves.
- l) King George V Playing Field** (page 9) – Additional income from football fees (£441) accounts for the underspend showing here.

3. RESERVES AT 31 MARCH 2026

3.1 The projected underspending – (£536) and the previously earmarked reserve of (£2,666) for pitch maintenance at Mainsforth which is no longer required, will increase general reserves to £177,954.

It is expected that the completion of several capital projects by 31 March 2026, where funds have been earmarked, will reduce earmarked reserves/capital receipts to £84,152. The revised position is shown in the table below.

	Opening Balance	Movement In	Movement Out	Closing Balance
Reserves Breakdown:				
General Reserves	£174,752	£3,202		£177,954
EMR - Mainsforth Pitch Maintenance	£2,666		£2,666	£0
EMR - Miners Lamp Project	£22,000		£22,000	£0
EMR – Cemetery Toilet Block	£17,546		£17,546	£0
EMR – DBRP Play Equipment	£25,000		£25,000	£0
EMR – PWLB Loan	£42,802			£42,802
Useable Capital Receipts	£46,970	£200	£5,820	£41,350
Total Reserves as at 31/03/26	£331,736	£3,402	£73,032	£262,106

3.2 It should be borne in mind that the level of unallocated reserves is now low and, while there are unused Capital Receipts of £41,350 still available, the financial consequences of any commitment to future projects must be taken into account. The recommended minimum of General Reserves is £150,000.

3.3 In addition to the above, across all of the Town Council's buildings with the exception of the Town Hall, Swann House and The Heritage Centre there are works to the value of £5,255.00 that are still outstanding and which relate to highlighted works that were evidenced when the Condition Surveys were completed across all sites in June 2022. These outstanding works are due in 2026 and will impact on the level of Useable Capital Receipts/General Reserves that the Town Council has available. Additionally at a Council meeting on the 2nd April 2025, Members agreed to the option of stripping out the toilets at Ferryhill Station and block up the toilets using a brick finish. This option was at a cost of £5,460.00. This work has not yet commenced, therefore Members need to be mindful that once complete, this cost will also reduce the level of Useable Capital Receipts available.

4. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The projected outturn for the year is showing a very small underspending. But it is still relatively early in the year and there are too many variables at this stage. Close attention will be paid to net costs incurred during the rest of the year, in an attempt to avoid an overspend.

4.2 It is RECOMMENDED that Members:-

- Note the financial position of the Council at 30 September 2025 and the financial projection for the year to 31 March 2026.

BUDGETARY CONTROL TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2025
APPENDIX 1

	Budget 2025- 26 £	Actual 30-Sep £	Projected 2025-26 £
<u>SUMMARY</u>			
Total Net Expenditure	707,310	376,080	779,606
Less:			
Precept on Durham County Council	584,843	292,422	584,843
LCTRS Grant	122,467	61,234	122,467
	707,310	353,656	707,310
Under/Overspending	0	22,424	72,296
From Reserves		-39,187	-67,212
From Capital Receipts		-5,620	-5,620
		-22,383	-536
<u>Staffing</u>			
Direct Salaries	513,900	244,489	513,900
Staff Training	2,000	530	2,000
Overtime - Staff (Office)	250	202	250
Overtime - Staff (Outside)	9,950	5,342	9,950
Mileage	200	0	200
Travel	0	0	0
Advertising Staff Vacancies	0	0	0
Professional Fees	600	750	2800
	526,900	251,313	529,100
<u>Democracy-General</u>			
Civic Regalia	200	477	480
Members Nameplates	200	44	200
Members Allowances & Expenses	100	0	100
Members Training	500	35	500
	1,000	556	1,280
<u>Mayor's Expenses</u>			
Civic Carol Service	350	0	350
Civic Social Evening	1,400	150	1,400
Mayor's Allowance	500	140	500

Deputy Mayor's Expenses	200	0	200
Mayor's Travel Allowance	200	0	200
	2,650	290	2,650
<u>Town Hall</u>			
Repairs & Maintenance	2,000	935	2,000
Repairs & Maint - Clock	280	0	280
Repairs & Maint - Stairlift	0	0	0
Energy - Electricity	3,160	756	2,940
Energy - Management SLA	0	219	220
Energy - Gas	3,150	537	3,150
Water	450	128	450
Rates	1,460	1,037	1,460
Cleaning Materials	350	94	350
Contingencies	400	237	400
Equipment - purchase	400	158	400
Equipment - hire	160	81	160
Equipment - inspection	600	99	600
Telephones	3,420	1,610	3,420
Printing & Stationery	1,000	287	1,000
Post	2,000	1,057	2,000
Photocopying	2,500	969	2,500
Publications	100	80	100
Subscriptions	2,300	2,290	2,300
Publicity	630	266	630
Computer Software	1,940	1,947	1,950
Computer Rental	5,750	4,742	5,750
Computer Maintenance	500	169	500
Computer Hardware	0	0	0
Website hosting/Maintenance	230	0	230
	32,780	17,698	32,790
Rents	1,200	158	1,200
Fees and Charges - Photocopy	0	8	7
Fees and Charges	20	0	20
Energy - Electricity - Solar Panels	1,500	1,157	1,500
	2,720	1,323	2,727
	30,060	16,375	30,063
<u>Overheads</u>			
External Audit Fees	1,680	-2,100	2,100
Internal Audit Fees	2,240	0	2,240
Bank Charges	1,320	564	1,320
Insurances	13,870	12,854	13,870
Accountancy Charges	0	0	0
Professional Fees	2,000	1,500	2,000
	21,110	12,818	21,530
<u>Capital Finance</u>			

Capital Charges - Principal	0	0	0
Capital Charges - Interest	0	0	0
Capital Schemes:	0	0	0
Cemetery Toilet	0	16,650	17,546
DBRP Regeneration	0	0	0
Dean Bank Play Equip	0	14,967	25,000
Surtees Miners Lamp	0	7,570	22,000
Renewables DBRP	0	0	0
Renewables/Remedials T/H	0	0	0
Play Equipment Carlton Street	0	0	0
Dog Walking Area	0	0	0
Allotment Paths	0	0	0
	0	39,187	64,546
Interest Received	12,500	6,876	12,500
Capital Grants			
Town Hall Renewables	0	0	0
Grants Cemetery		0	
		0	
	12,500	6,876	12,500
	-12,500	32,311	52,046
<u>Other Financial Services</u>			
Precept	-	-	-584,843
	584,843	292,422	
LCTRS Grant	-	-61,234	-122,467
	122,467		
	-	-	-707,310
	707,310	353,656	
<u>Community Support</u>			
Warm Spaces Support Fund Grant	0	0	0
Members Initiative Fund	7,650	2,400	7,650
Donations - Advice Service	3,500	0	3,500
Insurance - Banner Parades	100	99	100
Gifts	300	35	300
Legion Wreaths	100	0	100
Santa Claus	500	0	500
Christmas Decorations	8,500	5,772	8,500
	20,650	8,306	20,650
Sales	20	22	22
	20	22	22
	20,630	8,284	20,628
<u>Community Events</u>			
All Events	25,000	7,562	25,000
	25,000	7,562	25,000

All Income	5,000	3,426	5,000
	5,000	3,426	5,000
	20,000	4,136	20,000
<u>Allotments</u>			
Repairs & Maint	4,250	3,440	4,250
Water	2,200	2,005	2,200
Subscriptions	60	0	60
Pest Control	1,000	0	1,000
	7,510	5,445	7,510
Rents	12,500	13,100	13,100
Sales	20	16	20
	12,520	13,116	13,120
	-5,010	-7,671	-5,610
<u>Open Spaces</u>			
Repairs & Maint - Bus Shelters	2,570	0	2,570
Repair & Maint - Beacon	0	0	510
Energy - Electricity	300	56	300
Energy - Lighting A167	2,700	0	2,700
Equipment - Purchase	1,400	1,358	1,400
Tree Surgery	5,800	2,105	5,800
Tree Survey	0	0	0
Seats & Bollards	500	0	500
Information Signs	500	50	500
	13,770	3,569	14,280
Fees and Charges	0	0	0
Grants Received	3,940	0	3,940
Sales - Dog Bags	1,750	909	1,750
Insurance Costs Recovered		410	410
	5,690	1,319	6,100
	8,080	2,250	8,180
<u>Public Toilets-Station</u>			
Repairs & Maintenance	500	0	500
Energy - Electricity	220	30	220
Water	200	69	200
Cleaning Materials	0	0	0
	920	99	920
<u>Market</u>			

Rates	460	318	460
Equipment - purchase	150	126	150
	610	444	610
Rents	7,500	4,387	7,500
	7,500	4,387	7,500
	-6,890	-3,943	-6,890
<u>Ferryhill In Bloom</u>			
Contingencies	700	179	700
Equipment - purchase	1,000	446	1,000
Equipment - hire	300	205	300
Plant Watering	0	0	0
Plants & Seeds	16,200	11,244	16,200
Top soil	700	7	700
New Flower Beds	0	0	0
	18,900	12,081	18,900
Sponsorship	0	250	250
Grants	0	0	0
Sales - Plants etc	670	379	670
	670	629	920
	18,230	11,452	17,980
<u>Public Toilets-Town Centre</u>			
Repairs & Maintenance	700	565	700
Energy - Electricity	2,100	329	2,100
Water	1,050	367	1,050
Cleaning Materials	500	357	500
Equipment - purchase	100	0	100
Equipment - Hire	50	0	50
Contingencies	0	0	0
	4,500	1,618	4,500
Sale of Keys	10	13	13
Kiosk Rent	3,120	0	2,000
	3,130	13	2,013
	1,370	1,605	2,487
<u>Market Place Car Park</u>			
Repair and Maintenance	200	0	200
Water	900	1,066	1,070
Equipment - Purchase	100	0	100
	1,200	1,066	1,370

Sales-Parking Discs	100	55	100
	100	55	100
	1,100	1,011	1,270
<u>30 Market Street</u>			
Repairs & Maintenance	0	0	0
Professional Fees	0	0	0
	0	0	0
Rents	0	0	0
Sales	0	0	0
	0	0	0
<u>Cemetery</u>			
Repairs & Maintenance	1,250	279	1,250
Wall Repairs (from Capital Receipts)	0	5,820	5,820
Repairs & Maintenance-Chapel	0	195	0
Repairs & Maintenance-Swann House	0	265	0
Grounds - Grasscutting	1,020	0	1,020
Energy - Electricity	1,050	337	1,050
Energy - Gas	170	64	170
Water	210	116	210
Water - Empty Septic tank	200	230	230
Council Tax	4,790	2,867	4,790
Rates	1,100	791	1,100
Contingencies	100	0	100
Equipment - purchase	300	239	300
Equipment - seats	0	0	0
Equipment - hire	100	0	100
Equipment - inspection	60	0	60
Memorial Plaques	420	175	420
	10,770	11,378	16,620
Fees and charges - Burials	11,000	3,032	11,000
Memorial Plaques	1,200	440	1,200
Grants	0	0	0
	12,200	3,472	12,200
	-1,430	7,906	4,420
<u>Dean Bank Sports Facility</u>			
Repairs & Maintenance	2,000	1,497	2,000
Repairs & Maintenance - Pitch Renovation	12,230	11,775	12,230
Grounds - Grasscutting	3,680	0	3,680
Energy - Electricity	3,680	838	3,680
Energy - Gas	4,200	599	4,200
Water	530	333	530

Rates	2,630	1,495	2,630
Cleaning Materials	200	0	200
Contingencies	0	0	0
Equipment - purchase	300	0	300
Equipment - hire	80	0	80
Equipment - inspection	1,850	1,240	1,850
	31,380	17,777	31,380
Rents	2,000	2,000	2,000
Fees and Charges - Football	2,750	3,279	3,280
Fees and Charges - Electricity	1,600	234	1,600
Fees and Charges - Gas	1,100	154	1,100
Grants	7,820	0	7,820
	15,270	5,667	15,800
	16,110	12,110	15,580
<u>Dean Bank Recreation Park</u>			
Repairs & Maintenance	2,500	980	2,500
Repairs & Maintenance-Fencing	0	0	0
Repairs & Maintenance-Bowls Pavilion	0	0	0
Repairs & Maintenance-Play	0	0	0
Grounds - Grasscutting	0	0	0
Repairs & Maintenance - Workshop	0	1,050	0
Electricity	0	0	0
Water	180	42	180
Contingencies	200	0	200
Equipment - Purchase	250	0	250
Equipment - Inspection	350	188	350
	3,480	2,260	3,480
Rent	0	0	0
Fees & Charges (Wayleave)	190	0	190
	190	0	190
	3,290	2,260	3,290
<u>Mainsforth Sports Complex</u>			
Repairs & Maintenance	8,070	318	8,070
Repairs & Maintenance-Football		1,904	
Repairs & Maintenance-Fencing		0	
Repairs & Maintenance-Bowls		891	
Repairs & Maintenance-Bowls Pavilion		525	
Repairs & Maintenance-Play		0	
Repairs & Maintenance-Cricket		1,247	
Repairs & Maintenance-Cricket Pavilion		60	
Repairs & Maintenance-Rough Furze		265	
Grounds - Grasscutting	1,170	0	1,170
Energy - Electricity	6,300	490	6,300
Water	2,050	1,032	2,050
Council Tax	900	713	900

Contingencies	0	0	0
Rates	880	500	880
Equipment - purchase	440	0	440
Equipment-hire	90	0	90
Equipment - inspection	2,330	1,412	2,330
	22,230	9,357	22,230
Rents - Cricket Pavilion	2,300	0	2,300
Rents - Bowls Pavilion	500	500	500
Rents - Rough Furze	2,220	1,110	2,220
Fees and charges	0	95	95
Fees and charges - Football	310	782	782
Fees and charges - Bowls	0	0	0
Grants	1,780	0	1,780
	7,110	2,487	7,677
	15,120	6,870	14,553
<u>King George V Playing Field</u>			
Repair and Maintenance	1,800	350	1,800
Repair and Maintenance-Fencing	0	0	0
Repairs and Maintenance - Play	0	0	0
Grounds - Grasscutting	1,200	0	1,200
Energy - Electricity	950	159	950
Water	220	120	220
Equipment - purchase	100	0	100
Equipment - inspection	480	422	480
Lighting - electricity	440	178	440
	5,190	1,229	5,190
Fees and charges - Football	0	441	441
	0	441	441
	5,190	788	4,749
<u>Surtees Doorstep Green</u>			
Repairs & Maintenance	900	60	900
Repairs & Maintenance-Play	0	0	0
Equipment - inspection	180	170	180
	1,080	230	1,080
<u>General Expenses</u>			
Repairs & Maint - Football	1,800	1,657	1,800
Cleaning Materials	500	352	500
Equipment - purchase	100	81	100
Equipment - inspection	90	85	90
Tools - Purchase	1,000	114	1,000
Protective Clothing	1,350	1,071	1,350
Weedkiller	700	210	700

Waste Disposal	4,500	2,040	4,500
	10,040	5,610	10,040
<u>Vehicles & Machinery</u>			
Repair & Maint - Vehicles	2,500	1,543	2,500
Repair & Maint - Tractors	800	10	800
Repair & Maint - Machinery	5,600	1,213	5,600
Fuel - Vehicles	5,250	1,275	5,250
Fuel - Machinery	2,890	1,196	2,890
Machinery - purchase	2,500	263	2,500
Machinery - rental	6,220	3,267	6,220
Van - hire	3,000	250	3,000
Vehicle Purchase	0	0	0
Road Fund Licence	1,280	345	1,280
MOT	220	58	220
	30,260	9,420	30,260
Fees and Charges	0	0	0
Sales	0	0	0
Insurance costs recovered	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	30,260	9,420	30,260
NET BUDGET	707,310	376,080	779,606