



Precept 2024-25

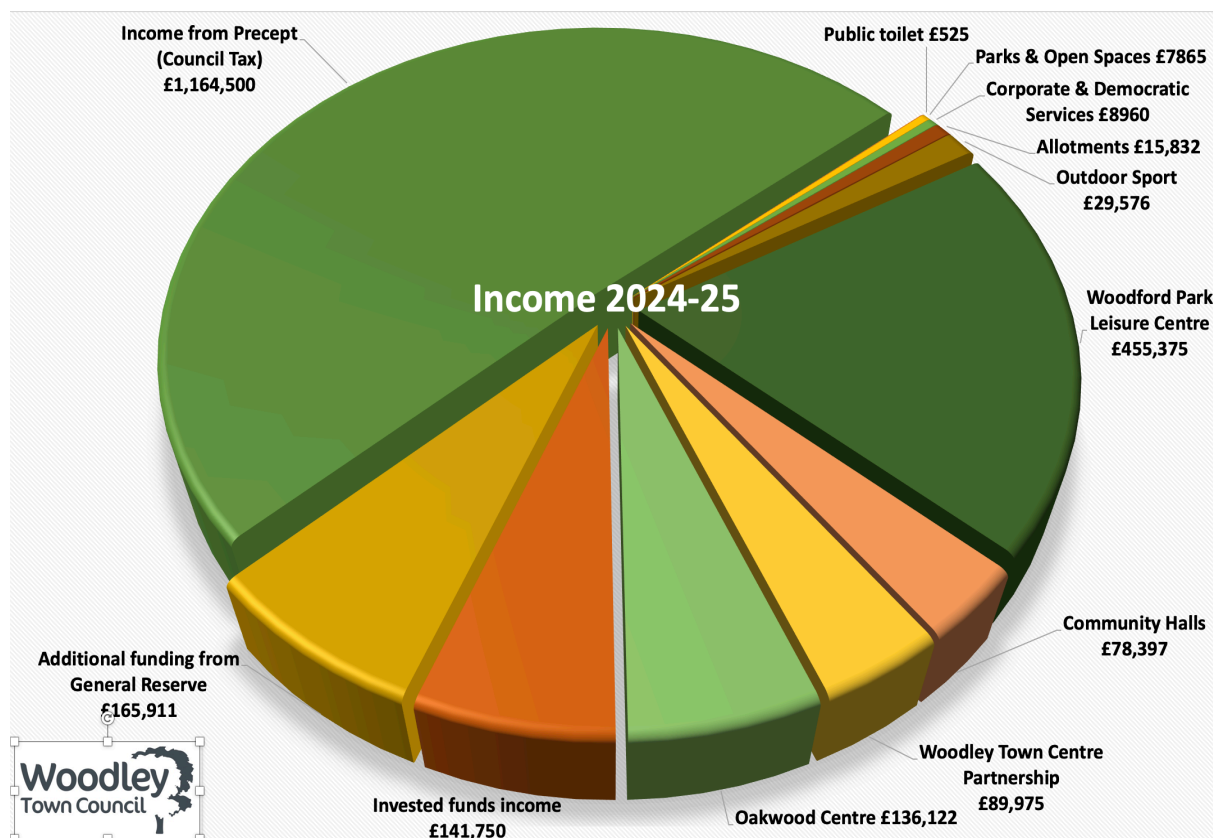
Each year, the Town Council considers its proposed budget for the coming year and assesses the funding that will be required to deliver its services. It is estimated that the Council’s total expenditure in 2024/25 will be in the region of £2,294,718.

This will be funded from anticipated income of around £964,377 from the Council’s businesses and income generating activities, £165,841 from the Council’s general reserve, and £1,164,500 from the precept levy on Wokingham Borough Council.

This equates to a charge of £106.69 for a band D property in Woodley, to deliver the Town Council’s services. This is a reduction of £3.06 per band D household from the 2023/24 precept level.

Income

Income from Woodford Park Leisure Centre, The Oakwood Centre and the community halls has been strong through the year and we are investing in these facilities to ensure they continue to provide high quality services for residents.



What the Council spends on your behalf

Parks, Play Areas & Green Spaces

The Town Council's main open space is Woodford Park & the Memorial Ground, which lies in the centre of Woodley. Woodford Park is the only area in Wokingham Borough to have Green Flag status, which it has maintained for the past 6 years. We also look after a number of smaller parks and open spaces around Woodley: Wheble Park, Malone Park, Rivermead Open Space, Loddon mead Open Space and Bulmershe Park, which is jointly managed with Earley Town Council.

Allotments

We lease the allotment site on Reading Road from Reading Borough Council, providing over 370 allotment plots for residents and local charities, as well as a number of managed beehives. Demand for plots has increased in recent years, and we currently have a waiting list of prospective tenants. We work with the Woodley Allotment Tenants Association to manage the site.

Grants

During the current financial year, Woodley Town Council has allocated funds to make the following grants:

- Community Grants – Up to £250, for community groups / organisations either based in or supporting residents of Woodley, to fund one-off costs such as specific projects or purchases.
- Individual Grants – Up to £100, for individuals under the age of 21 living in Woodley, excelling in sporting or cultural activities, to fund representation at county, regional, national or international events.
- Youth Grants – Up to £3,000 (although exceptions will be considered), for organisations, to assist and facilitate projects that reach, engage and support young people (those aged 21 and under) in Woodley.
- Annual Grants – No cap, for fully constituted 'not for profit' organisations either based in or supporting residents of Woodley, to fund annual running costs or specific projects.

Youth Support

Formed in September 2023, the Youth Support Services working group is tasked with reviewing the options for the future of the Town Council's youth service provision. Councillors have been busy meeting with representatives from various organisations and collating information about existing youth service provision in Woodley, with a view to making a recommendation to the Leisure Services Committee later in the Autumn.

Events

We run a number of civic events, including our Armistice Day event on the 11th November each year, Community Heroes Awards and our Annual Town Meeting. We also run events in response to national occasions, such as The Queen's passing and King Charles' Coronation in 2023. This year, we have a D-Day event on 6th June to commemorate its 80th anniversary.

Coronation & Chapel Halls

We provide meeting spaces for businesses, community groups, sports and wellbeing, education and training, social functions and entertainment at Coronation Hall and Chapel Hall. Discounted rates for hall and room hire are available for Woodley residents.

Oakwood Centre

We also provide meeting spaces for businesses, community groups, sports and wellbeing, education and training, social functions and entertainment at the Oakwood Centre. Discounted rates for hall and room hire are available for Woodley residents. The Oakwood Centre is also home to the Alan Cornish Theatre.

Woodford Park Leisure Centre

Located in the heart of Woodley, Woodford Park Leisure Centre is home to the Gym on the Park, a five-court sports hall, state of the art 3G sports pitch, outdoor tennis court, and an outdoor paddling pool. Rooms can also be hired for children's parties and events.

Capital Provision

The Council allocates capital funds each year for specific projects and investment in its buildings and facilities. In 2023/24 we replaced the sports hall heating system at Woodford Park Leisure Centre and the heating boilers in the Oakwood Centre. 2024/25 will see the refurbishment of the Oakwood Centre toilets, kitchens at our community halls, replacement community notice boards and ground reinforcement of the desire line pathway across the Memorial Ground.

Corporate & Democratic Services

Ensuring the Council is appropriately staffed and managed is essential to the delivery of our services to the public.

Town Councillors are elected every four years and the Council makes provision for this, along with any by-elections that may be required between the main elections.

Woodley Town Centre Partnership

Woodley Town Centre is managed by the Woodley Town Centre Partnership, which is a partnership between Woodley Town Council, Wokingham Borough Council and the Woodley Traders. The town hold regular markets, car boot sales, and a variety of other events and entertainment throughout the year. Woodley Town Centre is managed by the Town Centre Manager, Brian Fennelly.

Public Toilet

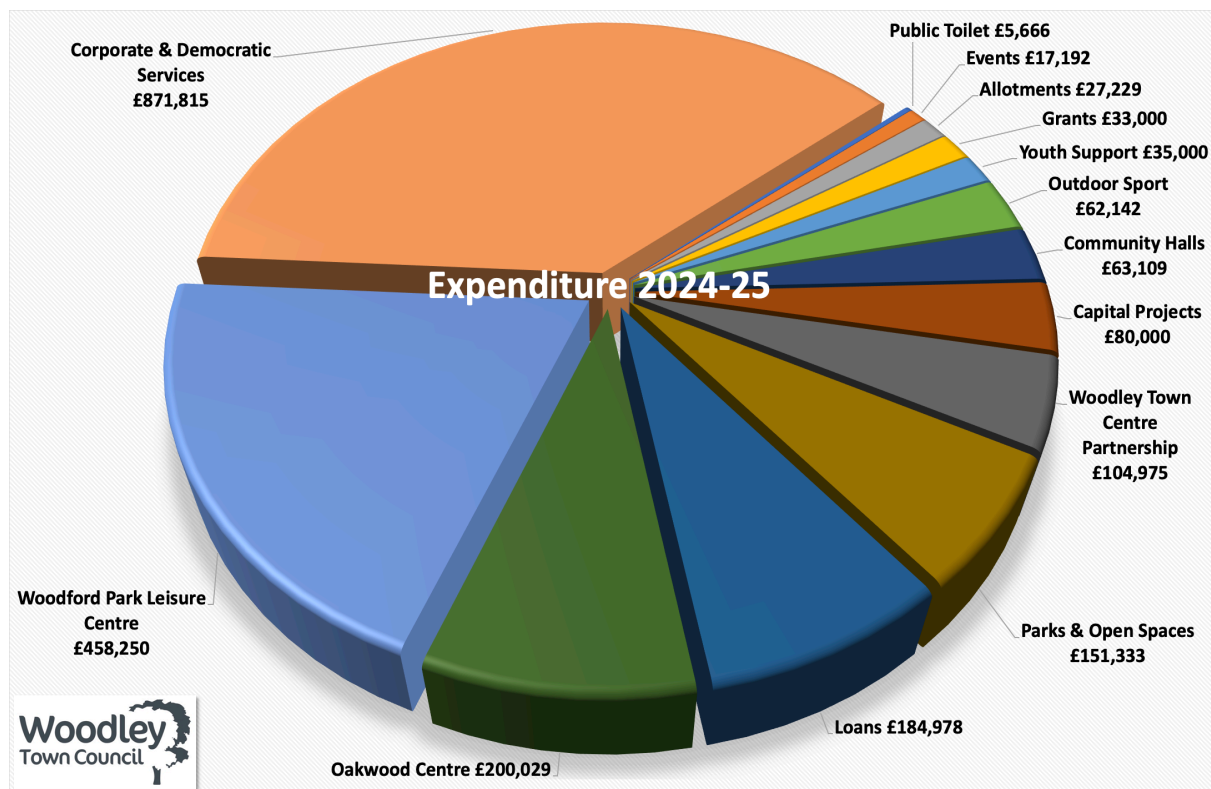
We provide and maintain the public toilet unit in the town centre.

Loans

The council has a number of loans to which have, over the years, enabled it to deliver significant capital projects such as the construction of the Oakwood Centre, refurbishment of Woodford Park Lake and improved facilities at the amenities team depot.

Outdoor Sports

We continue to provide a venue for a range of community outdoor sports including football, cricket, American Football, netball, tennis and bowls.



Committee Meetings

We have four main Committees:

- Full Council
- Strategy & Resources
- Planning & Community
- Leisure Services

We also have several sub-committees, which specialise on specific areas or projects. A list of committee dates can be found on our website.

We host an Annual Town Meeting each year, providing an opportunity for the residents of Woodley to put their questions and suggestions to the Council and work with us to continue to keep Woodley a thriving town and community.

Town Mayor

The Woodley Town Mayor represents the first citizen of Woodley and is elected each municipal year. The Mayor presides over meetings of the Town Council and provides a figurehead for the Council in the community, attending engagements, officiating at events and acting in an apolitical way on behalf of the Council. Each Mayor will choose a charity to support during their elected year.

Kevin Murray

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