

## EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL – PRECEPT 2025-26



Earley Town Council's precept enables it to provide services and maintain its assets around the town. These include Maiden Erlegh Lake & Nature Reserve, Sol Joel Park, Meadow Park, three community centres, Radstock House Council Offices, Mays Lane Cemetery, Culver Lane Allotments, numerous bus shelters and over 30 notice boards. In addition, ETC organises various community events, provides advice and information by way of its website and social media page, and delivers a wide range of in person services such as the provision of waste bags, renewal of bus passes, certification of foreign pension forms, from its Helpshop located at the Council Offices.

During the last financial year, in addition to its regular service delivery work, Earley Town Council carried out some significant environmental improvement works, including desilting works at the lake in the Nature Reserve, and started a programme of biodiversity projects to improve natural habitats in various locations. It also embarked on a programme of maintenance and redecoration works at its community centres and offices and replaced the play space at Collins Drive with a brand new playground. Two significant town council projects were launched at Centrepoint Community Centre in 2024-25, the new Earley Youth Club providing weekly youth worker led sessions for youngsters to meet and socialise, and the monthly Earley Repair Café which fixes residents' broken or damaged items, saving them money and preventing still usable items from going to landfill.

In 2025-26 Earley Town Council will continue its buildings improvement programme with particular focus on energy efficiency and sustainability, ensuring that the running costs of its community assets are reduced both financially and environmentally and safeguarding them for the future. ETC shall also be focussing on improving the town's natural surroundings and improving the quality of sports facilities at Sol Joel Park, as well as growing our Youth Services provision and launching a new community facility, a Bike Workshop.

The cost pressures of recent years are likely to continue in 2025-26, utility charges remain high and employment costs are increasing. Further challenges could come from the devolution of some community assets following the impending government review of borough councils and principal authorities. Earley Town Council needs to remain resilient and able to respond positively to future challenges and councillors have therefore agreed that there will need to be a small increase in ETC's precept in 2025-26 to enable this. The result will be that an average Band D household will pay £88.06 a year towards the town council's precept as part of their council tax bill. This is an increase on last year of £4.19 per year per Band D household.

2025/26 Budget and Precept	Income	Expenditure
Community Facilities	£233,466	£90,121
Parks & Open Spaces	£16,735	£117,230
Highways & Street Furniture		£49,700
Vehicles & Equipment		£18,450
Helpshop & Administration		£1,113,799
Grants		£40,000
Invested Funds Income	£69,000	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£319,201</b>	<b>£1,429,350</b>
Income from precept	£1,058,105	
Additional funding from general reserve	£51,994	
<b>Final total</b>	<b>£1,429,300</b>	<b>£1,429,300</b>