

# Didcot Town Council

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## Guide to the Town Council element of your council tax for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027

**The extra cost to a band D household will be £149.87 - 5.5%.** In 2026/2027 Didcot Town Council will receive £149.87 for each band D household. This is an increase of £7.75 per band D property for the Town Council element of your Council Tax. The percentage increase of 7% is offset by the increased number of housing and tax-payers – an increase of 1.5% - to leave the actual increase of around 5.5%.

Didcot Town Council's part of your council tax bill is collected by South Oxfordshire District Council, and this leaflet explains how the figure is arrived at and where the money goes.

Income from the hire of the Town Council buildings and facilities helps to cover some of the running costs the Council incurs. Utility bills across all DTC buildings largely negates any operating surplus which remains a challenge in terms of keeping the buildings and facilities open to the public. It is a priority to ensure that all buildings and facilities are safe for our visitors and staff.

Two major projects have been ongoing over the past year - the work to create accessible pathways in Millennium Woods and applying for planning permission to revamp the paths at Ladygrove Park. It is hoped that both projects will be completed during 2026 and both have been funded by S106 developer contributions. The Edmonds Park Pavilion is open for hirers and the Town Council is working on improving the car park including the installation of EV chargers. The splash pad was very popular last summer and will be open from the end of May to September dependant on the weather. The splash pad remains free for all families. The Council continue to make decisions with the climate emergency in mind and the aim to reduce our carbon footprint by 2030. This is a summary of our budget for 2026/27.

### Budget Summary for 2026/2027

Expenditure	£
Finance and General Purposes Committee	681,021
Grant Aid	60,000
Civic Hall, Willowbrook Leisure Centre, Edmonds Park Pavilion	477,116
Environment & Climate Committee	618,051
Projects and PWLB repayments	353,088
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,189,276</b>
Less General Income expected	(474,310)
Less expected grant income – S106/CIL	(0)
<b>Equals: total expenditure to be collected via Council Tax (the precept)</b>	<b>1,714,966</b>

Dividing this precept figure by the tax base of 11,442.4 gives the Town Council's component of Council Tax for a Band D Property as £149.87 per year.

In more detail, the following describes how we have spent money in 2025/2026.

## The Finance and General Purposes Committee

Didcot Town Council draws its income from relatively few sources, and the Council Tax precept is by far the biggest source of revenue. The Council continually scrutinises expenditure and works to identify potential savings as well as other sources of income, particularly accessing relevant grants for some projects. Willowbrook Leisure Centre is now open for most of the week and is due to earn around £120,000 this year. The Civic Hall is also on course to bring in around £140,000 income but we are working hard to increase bookings. This income is almost entirely consumed by the cost of utilities in keeping these public buildings warm and safe to visit. We are working on a marketing strategy for all Town Council buildings.

A major single cost remains the £297,556 paid annually to service the loans of a total of £4.2 million to refurbish and extend the Civic Hall, Town Council offices and the new Community & Sports Pavilion at Edmonds Park. Another major project – the splash park was covered by specific DTC reserves and CIL monies. The Council is currently looking at refurbishing the car park at Edmonds Park as a final planning obligation along with EV chargers.

The Town Council runs the Fleet Meadow Community Building as a charitable trust (CIO). Bookings have been constant with this well-loved building and improvements to the fabric of the building continue. Our popular grant aid to voluntary organisations and groups will continue to operate and has a budget of £60,000 for the next financial year. The grant application form is on our website – [www.didcot.gov.uk](http://www.didcot.gov.uk)

### Since April 2025 Grant Aid has supported:

- Abingdon Bridge Charity
- Be Free Young Carers
- Citizens Advice
- Didcot Cricket Club
- Home Start South Oxfordshire
- Play2Give
- Sustainable Didcot
- Oxfordshire Play Day
- Free Christmas Dinner Project
- Oxfordshire Trail Association
- TRAIN
- Plus, more applications being considered

## The Environment and Climate Committee

The Environment and Climate Committee oversees the Council's outdoor services, caring for our parks, open spaces, sports areas, and recreational facilities owned or leased by Didcot Town Council. The Committee also supports opportunities for sport, leisure and outdoor activities across the town. They actively seek additional funding to improve local spaces. For example, the Council is currently exploring funding options to enhance play provision in Ladygrove Park.

During the past year, the Council progressed a number of improvements, including:

- Construction of new kick walls and climbing walls in Ladygrove and Edmonds Park
- Creation of raised planters in the Kynaston Road cemetery and at the Civic Hall

- Installation of a 'Letters to Loved Ones' post box
- Re-gravelling of the entrance to the cemetery
- Construction of new inclusive pathways to the Community Planting area at New Road allotments
- Public Art project, 'Garden of Remembering' in Edmonds Park
- Relocation of gym equipment to Ladygrove
- Gravelling of the entrance track to the Outside Services Depot
- Installation of new play equipment at Great Western Drive Park

## Our sites and day-to-day maintenance

The Council manages a wide range of green spaces and community sites, including:

- Edmonds Park
- Ladygrove Park
- Smallbone Recreation Park
- Marsh Recreation Ground
- Great Western Drive Park
- Loyd Recreation Park
- Stubbings Land
- Millennium Wood
- St Anne's Court Playground
- Kynaston Road Cemetery
- Ladygrove Lakes
- Allotment sites:
  - New Road
  - Broadway
  - Wantage Road
  - Cockcroft Road
  - Mereland Road
- Didcot Civic Hall and Remembrance Garden

Including smaller sites, the Council cares for over 100 acres of land. We also manage more than 420 allotment plots, and community planting beds, with a users' liaison group that reports regularly on problems and successes.

A dedicated team of full-time grounds staff, led by the Outdoor Services Manager, looks after Council owned and managed land and facilities. Their work includes:

- Tree care and annual planting
- Allotment maintenance
- Litter clearance
- Cutting grass and hedges
- Maintaining flower beds
- Play area equipment repairs and inspection
- Sports pitch maintenance
- Sport court maintenance
- Vehicle and machinery maintenance
- Overseeing burials
- Cemetery maintenance
- Maintenance of the War Memorial and Garden

## The Property & Facilities Committee

The Property and Facilities Committee looks after the growing range of buildings and community spaces owned and managed by Didcot Town Council. These venues play an important role in local life, supporting events, sports, services, and community groups.

Our portfolio includes:

- Didcot Civic Hall
- Willowbrook Leisure Centre
- Outside Services Depot at Edmonds Park
- Loyd Pavilion
- Edmonds Park Community Sports Pavilion
- The Civic Hall car park
- Management of the Fleet Meadow Community Hall (operated under a separate trust)

We are looking forward to the completion of a brand-new facility in north Ladygrove. This will be known as Northbrook Community Centre and will soon become part of our community buildings.

Throughout the year, the Committee approves upgrades and maintenance to ensure our buildings remain safe, welcoming and in good condition for everyone to enjoy.

In 2025, we were pleased to welcome RE:Solve and Didcot Community Badminton to Willowbrook Leisure Centre.

Key projects in 2025/2026 have been:

- Installation of new AV Hybrid facilities in the Civic Hall
- Enhancements to the town's Christmas lighting scheme
- Installation of waterless urinals at the Civic Hall and Willowbrook Leisure Centre (saving water and improving sustainability)
- Addition of Wi-Fi at Edmonds Park Pavilion
- Sports hall repairs and improvements at Willowbrook Leisure Centre
- Redecoration of the Ladygrove Room and corridor at the Civic Hall

**Our buildings are available to hire. To find out more, please visit our website [www.didcot.gov.uk](http://www.didcot.gov.uk).**

## Feedback

Didcot Town Council would like to hear your views and any comments you may have on the services provided or what you would like to see in the future. Comments may be emailed to [council@didcot.gov.uk](mailto:council@didcot.gov.uk), or in writing to Didcot Town Council, Town Council Offices, Britwell Road, Didcot, Oxon OX11 7HN, or hand them into the Council office on Britwell Road. In order to ensure you receive a response and so that we can verify you are a Didcot resident, please provide your name and address.

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**7.30PM ON MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026 at DIDCOT CIVIC HALL**  
**Every Didcot resident is invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served.**  
**Please forward your questions to the Town Council by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 –**  
**[council@didcot.gov.uk](mailto:council@didcot.gov.uk)**