

Agenda item 7

For approval – Financial update April to June 2026 – 1st quarter financial year 2026/27

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Summary:

This report provides an update on the finances of the Town Council for the period 1 April to 30 June 2026. It includes the Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet reports to 30 June 2026, a list of spending on items over £500 (April – June 2026) and any specific items to bring to Cllrs' attention.

The first-quarter financial position indicates that both expenses and income are broadly in line with budget expectations. Any additional costs identified so far may be offset by underspends elsewhere. Consequently, FTC is forecast to end the year at March 2026 on budget although we are only three months, 25% into the financial year.

I am happy to answer any questions at the meeting but if you require any specific information that may require research, please let me know beforehand at:

swilliams@frometowncouncil.gov.uk

Enclosed:

[Appendix 7.1 – Income & Expenses Actual v Budget April to June 2026](#)

[Appendix 7.2 – Balance Sheet to end June 2026](#)

[Appendix 7.3 – List of payments over £500 – April – June 2026](#)

(All payments over £100 are published on the Finance page of our website:

<https://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/council/frome-town-council/finance/>)

The first quarter 'hit the ground running' and early changes to the budget have already been requested and agreed through council or committees such as; additional staff hours in Marketing & Communications, for the Town Centre Co-ordinator, for the Finance team, and a new role for the weekly Markets which is returning to be managed by FTC. Also added are Climate Action projects to be funded by the Sustainability EMR 341 and Plastic Free Periods workshops to be held in schools, funded by a donation from Peter Macfadyen. It has also been agreed to support the Utility Box Public Art & Community Street Art Programmes costing £28k, with £13k from General Reserves.

Our General Reserves were predicted to return to the minimum prudent reserve of £678k by year end March 2027 and the net outcome of the above changes reduces the figure by just £13k. This is currently anticipated to be offset by underspends elsewhere in the budget,

primarily in salaries with not having yet appointed a replacement for the Economic Development role.

Minor comments on some lines in the Income & Expense report are shown in the table below:

Account code:	Comment:
300-2116 – INCOME Climate Action Donations	£7k received from Peter Macfadyen for Plastic Free Periods projects, and £5k received from a private donor for the Wildlife Parade
300-7921 - Climate Action Donation projects	Covered by donations above
600-2110 - INCOME Markets (incl BX) frm Apr26	Unbudgeted income as Markets returned to FTC after budget set
600-7987 - Town Centre CCTV from Apr26	Full year paid, balance reserved for repairs if needed
700-2201 - INCOME Skate Park fundraising	Report coming to Sept Council
700-2202 - INCOME Skate Park PWLB loan	Report coming to Sept Council
700-7958 - Depot costs from 2026 onwards	Roof repairs in plan
700-7997 - Community Woodland	Vehicle gate installed and Hemlock removal prior to seeding are additional unbudgeted costs
800-2120 - INCOME Events	The Peoples Emergency Briefing, Junior Parkrun both paid out again. £600 from circus/Showfield hire.
900-7010 - Legal & professional fees	£6k Bailiffs for travellers at Mary Bailly
900-7976 - Insurance & bank charges	Insurance paid for year
900-7978 - Subs & adverts	SALC paid for the year £4k
901-2000 - INCOME Precept	50% from Somerset Council in April, balance due Sept26

There are no other comments to make at this early stage of the financial year.

Other options considered	N/A
Key considerations for the Council	To be assured that Income & Expenditure are inline with that proposed by the annual budget
Consultation and feedback	Cllrs are invited to make enquiries both prior to and at this meeting
Links to Council Plan and Medium-Term Financial Plan	This report links to the Work Programme and Budget reports presented to Council in January 2026
Financial and Risk Implications	Publishing the Income & Expenditure and Balance Sheet reports along with the lists of payments over £100 on the website and over £500 circulated with this report, provides transparency on FTC's financial position.

Legal / HR Implications	These reports are required by FTC's Financial Regulations.
Equalities Implications	N/A
Community Safety Implications	N/A
Climate Change and Sustainability Implications	N/A
Health and Safety Implications	N/A
Constitutional Requirements	FTC's Financial Regulations
Background Papers	Work Programme & Budget for 2026/27
Report Sign-Off	Peter Wheelhouse, Town Clerk, 19/08/2026

Recommendations

1. Approve the Income & Expenditure report to 1 April to 30 June 2026
2. Approve the Balance Sheet report to 1 April to 30 June 2026
3. Note the payments over £500 report 1 April to 30 June 2026