

Birch Ward Update Feb 2025 – Cllr Toni Fagan

Revenue Budget for Herefordshire 2025/26

Detail	2024/25 Base Budget	Unfunded Pressures	Mitigations	Savings	2025/26 Proposed Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Community and Wellbeing	75,891	15,273	-	-	91,164
Children and Young People	59,536	4,898	(1,442)	(3,929)	59,063
Economy and Environment	38,403	4,012	-	-	42,415
Corporate Services	21,032	3,388	(1,568)	-	22,852
Sub Total	194,862	27,571	(3,010)	(3,929)	215,494
Central	17,902	(1,401)	-	-	16,501
TOTALS	212,764	26,170	(3,010)	(3,929)	231,995

Services council tax payers benefit from the most fall under the **Economy and Environment** category and include:

Libraries and Museums: Providing access to cultural and educational resources.

Electoral Services: Managing voter registration and elections.

Waste Management: Overseeing waste collection, recycling, and disposal.

Energy and Environmental Management: Implementing initiatives for sustainable energy use and environmental conservation

Customer Services: Offering support and information to residents.

Strategic and Neighbourhood Planning: Guiding development and land use policies.

Economic Development: Promoting local business growth and employment opportunities.

Environmental Health and Trading Standards: Ensuring public health and consumer protection.

Highways: Maintaining and improving roads and transportation infrastructure.

Housing Land Supply for Herefordshire Jan 2025 :

When assessed against the revised Standard Method as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, the current supply is 3.06 years. The Council will continue to monitor its Housing Delivery Action Plan to ensure delivery stays on track.

Work is progressing on addressing the phosphate issue with the phosphate credit system which has previously prevented sites with permission coming forward. There are applications being held up and awaiting decisions due to this issue, and once the phosphate issue is addressed, such applications will be able to progress.

The council will also be undertaking the steps to produce a new local plan in line with the requirements of the latest NPPF December 2024. A Local Development Scheme will be published in March 2025.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/27208/amr-2024-appendix-b-five-year-housing-land-supply-report-january-2025>

The **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** in England sets out rules and guidance for how housing and development should be planned. One key part of it is the **5-year housing land supply** requirement.

Local councils are required to plan for enough housing to meet the needs of their area. The **5-year housing land supply** means that councils must always have enough land available to deliver the number of homes needed over the next 5 years.

Why does it matter?

- **Housing Need:** The number of homes needed is based on a formula set by the government, which takes into account things like population growth and local demand.
- **Available Land:** Councils must identify specific sites (e.g., plots of land) where houses can realistically be built within 5 years. These sites need to be suitable, available, and likely to get built on time.

What happens if councils don't meet it?

If a council can't show a 5-year housing land supply, it means their local housing policies might be considered out of date. Developers can then argue for planning permission on other sites—even ones not originally planned for housing—because the council isn't keeping up with demand. This often leads to more approvals for housing developments.

It's a system designed to make sure councils keep planning ahead for enough homes. If they fail to meet the supply, developers get more freedom to build in areas the council may not have intended.

Parish Council support from 2025/26 revenue budget:

£500K Lengthsman scheme

£445K Drainage schemes

£250 Public Rights of Way