

Draft Budget 2027/28.

- a) Herefordshire Association of Local Councils – membership.
 - b) IT budget heading – may be updated.
 - c) Clerk's Home Working Allowance.
 - d) Suggested increase in Precept.
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- a) Training and Support – Herefordshire Association of Local Councils. Aymestrey membership £493 paid in 2024-25 for 2025-26. Not agreed to in 2026-27. Two free evening training sessions in Hereford for councillors if invoice is paid on time, then £50 (may have increased) for each session.

An alternative might be [Norfolk Parish Training and Support](#) which offers online training. Subscriptions run from 1st April to 31st March. Cost is 1% of the total value of your council's precept. i.e. approx. between £150 and £170 depending on precept. Training sessions include induction for councillors - £64 for a subscriber, £80 for non-subscriber.

From GovAssist AI - A parish council might join its county association for practical support, representation and training. NALC describes county associations as the first point of call for parish and town councils, offering advice, guidance, training and a collective voice on legal, financial, governance and community issues. They also link councils into national representation through NALC. (nalc.gov.uk)

Reasons to join:

- access to advice and model guidance;
- training for councillors and clerks;
- networking with neighbouring councils;
- advocacy and a stronger voice with principal authorities;
- support on governance, HR, finance and procedural matters. (nalc.gov.uk)

Reasons a council might not join:

- the subscription cost may feel hard to justify for a very small council;
- it may already have strong in-house expertise and use other sources of advice;
- it may prefer to stay independent and buy training or advice only when needed;
- in some areas, the council may not see enough value in the local offer or may already have other arrangements with the principal authority. This last point is an inference from the way county associations position their services, rather than a stated rule. (nalc.gov.uk)

For a small parish council, the main question is usually whether the membership fee is outweighed by the time saved, the risk reduced, and the access to support if something difficult arises. (nalc.gov.uk)

- c) Home Working Allowance. HMRC provides a tax-free allowance of £6 per week or £26 per month (rate agreed in April 2020) in order that employers can pay home workers without keeping records. A clerk with multiple councils may treat each employer separately so each one can pay £26 per month. Source: *Society of Local Council Clerks*.
- d) Balancing a rise in Precept and funds potentially available in General Reserves, initial suggestion for increase in Precept is 5%, taking it from £15,477 to £16,250.85. Difference is £773.85. 5% increase equates to estimated £4.24 increase per annum for a Band D property (using this year's Tax Base). If it were raised by 10% a Band D property would pay £8.47 more per annum.

Maggie Brown. Clerk.

22 October 2026