

Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators

26 January 2026

BUDGET 2026/27

Head of Service:	Cagdas Canbolat, Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer)
Report Author	Oana Merla, Accountant
Wards affected:	College Ward; Town Ward; Woodcote and Langley Vale Ward;
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 – Recommended Budget for 2026/27

Summary

This report seeks approval for the 2026/27 budget and the recommended precepts on the constituent bodies.

Recommendation (s)

The Conservators are asked to:

- (1) Note the latest income and expenditure position for 2025/26.**
- (2) Approve the 2026/27 budget and the requested precepts, as set out in section 4 and Appendix 1 to this report.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 To inform the Conservators of the forecast outturn for 2025/26 and seek approval for the 2026/27 budget.

2 Background

- 2.1 As a basis for agreeing a budget and contribution levels for 2026/27, this report:
 - 2.1.1 informs the Conservators of the current year income and expenditure position and forecast outturn as of 31 March 2026.
 - 2.1.2 seeks approval of the recommended budget for 2026/27 as set out in Appendix 1.

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3 Forecast for 2025/26

- 3.1 The Conservators received a mid-year monitoring report at the meeting on 3 November 2025. Net expenditure for 2025/26 is now forecast at £490,383 which would result in a surplus of £10,372 against the budget of £500,755.
- 3.2 This is changed from the November 2025 position with the net surplus increased from £4,637 to £10,372, due to reduced expenditure on fuel by £5,735. A detailed update of forecast income and expenditure for 2025/26 is included in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 The working balance stood at £63,421 at 31 March 2025. The projected £10,372 surplus, and the addition of a £7,599 budgeted contribution to reserves, would increase the working balance to £81,392.

4 Budget estimates 2026/27

- 4.1 The recommended budget estimates for 2026/27 are attached at Appendix 1.
- 4.2 An initial draft budget was presented to the Conservators at the November 2025 meeting.
- 4.3 As supported by the Conservators in November, the proposed budget at Appendix 1 includes precept increases of 3% and is summarised in the following table:

	£'000
Grounds maintenance	88
Keeper's hut	11
Central and staffing expenses	423
Contribution to working balance reserve	2
Derby Traveller Caravan Site	6
Events and other income	(14)
Net expenditure	516
Contribution from EEBC/EDR/TB	(516)
Budget Surplus	0

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- 4.4 Net expenditure is forecast at £515,775, which is a 3% increase overall compared to the current year's budget.
- 4.5 There is a report for consideration on the same agenda regarding the re-introduction of grazing on Juniper Hill. The estimated ongoing revenue costs of this scheme are £5,700. A provisional allocation of £5,700 has been included in the 2026/27 draft budget to fund the scheme, should it be approved. If the scheme is not approved, then funds will be added to the budgeted contribution to the working balance.
- 4.6 Within management recharges, the budget does not include provision for one-off workstreams that are over and above the standard support provided to the Conservators. Should any additional workstreams be agreed in future, the budget implication will need to be considered at the time.
- 4.7 To fund the £515,775 budget, the following precepts are requested from constituent bodies apportioned as set out in section 7.1:
 - 4.7.1 Epsom & Ewell Borough Council (the Council) - £309,465
 - 4.7.2 The Jockey Club (the Company) - £154,730
 - 4.7.3 Training Grounds Management Board (the Levy Board) - £51,580

5 Repairs and Renewals Fund

- 5.1 The Conservators' Repairs & Renewals Fund has a projected balance of £25,287 at 31 March 2026. This is a reserve held to cover unexpected costs of replacing vehicles, equipment and building repairs. This forecast assumes no further drawdowns for the year and a budgeted contribution of £2,000 to the reserve for 2026/27.

6 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

- 6.1 Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1.1 None for the purposes of this report.

- 6.2 Crime & Disorder

- 6.2.1 None for the purposes of this report.

- 6.3 Safeguarding

- 6.3.1 None for the purposes of this report.

- 6.4 Dependencies

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6.4.1 None for the purposes of this report.

6.5 Other

6.5.1 The Conservators maintain a separate strategic risk register.

6.5.2 The Conservators hold a working balance and a Repairs and Renewals Fund reserve, to mitigate the risk of unexpected expenditure. Any withdrawals from the working balance will need to be carefully assessed, to ensure sufficient funds are retained in reserves to cover unexpected expenditure and maintain a stable level of contribution from preceptors.

7 Financial Implications

7.1 Precept contributions totalling £515,775 in 2026/27 are met by the Borough Council (60%), Epsom Racecourse (30%), and the Training Board (10%)

7.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** Financial implications are contained within the body of the report.

8 Legal Implications

8.1 There are no legal implications arising from the contents of this report.

8.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

9 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

9.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- Effective Council
- Green & Vibrant

9.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

9.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None for the purposes of this report.

9.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None.

9.5 **Partnerships:** The Jockey Club, TGMB and Epsom and Ewell Borough Council are represented by Members on the Conservators Committee.

9.6 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:** The impact of LGR on the operations of the Epsom & Walton Downs Conservators is still unknown. Once more information is available, it will be shared with Conservators.

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10 Background papers

10.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- [Mid-Year Budget Monitoring Report, 3 November 2025](#)

Other papers:

- None.