

Notes/ recommendations from the Finance Cttee meeting of 29th September 2025

Investment – CCLA – CCLA remain AAA rated and still appropriate for council funds.

Budget 2025 – 2026 update – see L and E and Landlords cttee notes/ recommendations.

Budget setting 2026 – 2027 – dates are in diary for finance cttee to initially consider the budget.

External Audit Report for 2024/2025 – To receive response from External Auditor.

External audit has been provided to all councillors. There are ‘No matters to note’ and no action plan is required for council to progress. All to confirm.

External Audit 2025/26 – To note additional requirements including Assertion 10. Domain name to be owned by STC – It is presently in STC name through LCN – cttee to consider having in STC name via Cloudy IT who are the council software providers.

To consider quote from Rialtas for accounts software system to be web based.

The accounting system is presently not available on the council laptops. To improve efficiency and flexibility of use it is recommended that the quote to enable the system to be web based be approved – cost £404.05.

Pay award 2025 – 2026 - To recommend approval implementation of the Pay Award for 2025-2026.

Pay award – 2025.2026 To adopt as per Employment Cttee recommendation and note the backdate to 1st April 2025.

*Pension re-enrolment – To note action required - Third anniversary of previous re-enrolment date: 17 November 2025. Re-declaration deadline: 16 April 2026 (see Employment group).
To note.*

Credit Card / Pre payment Card.

Presently online purchases are paid for on personal card and claimed back through council.

If a pre-payment card was provided the VAT on purchases would be able to be reclaimed.

Recommend a pre-payment card with a pre-paid sum of £1,000 be provided for council use.

Grant Monies Received - £1k from ESC Tour of Britain grant scheme which is to be used on a cycle maintenance kit which will be provided for use in the cycle store at the rear of the town hall.

Possible grant funding available;

Sustainable Development Fund – Land E and C/Trust to consider National Environmental Impact Fund – L and E and C/Trust to consider ESC Sizewell Tourism Fund – L and E to consider the guidelines/ outcomes required. ESC Visitor Economy Scheme – L and E to consider the guidelines/ outcomes required.

2 Donation requests received;

Sole Bay Men’s Shed - toward total project cost of £75k. It is recommended that the town council donate £1000 to this project.

Feed All children Project for Southwold School. Council provided £1000 in 2024 for this project.

Costs have been provided for term 1 of £1568 to feed all those not otherwise eligible to free school meals.

It is recommended that a donation of £1568 be provided to cover all the costs for the first term.

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