

Dorset Council

2025/26 Budget Estimates

Adopted by Council
23 June 2025
Minute 108/2025



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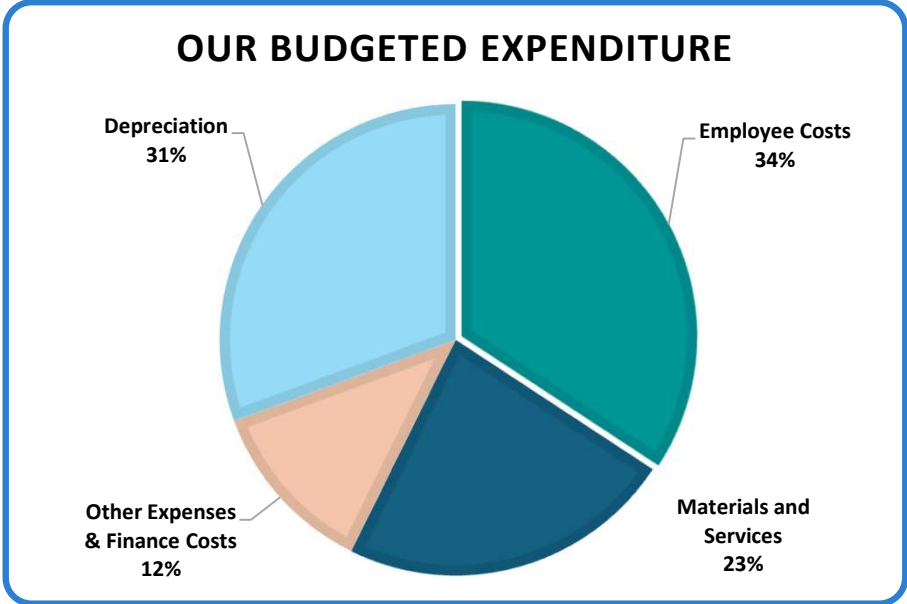
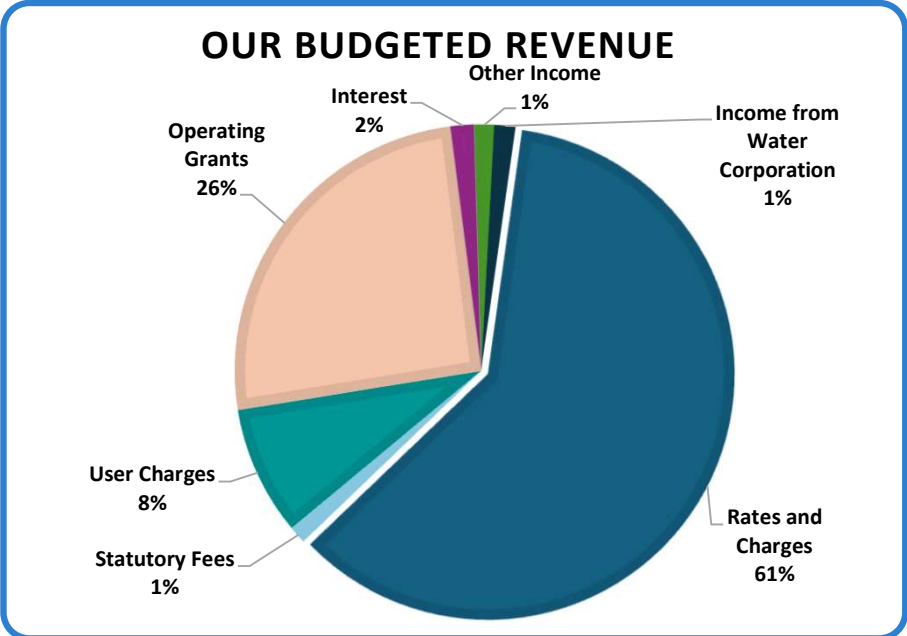
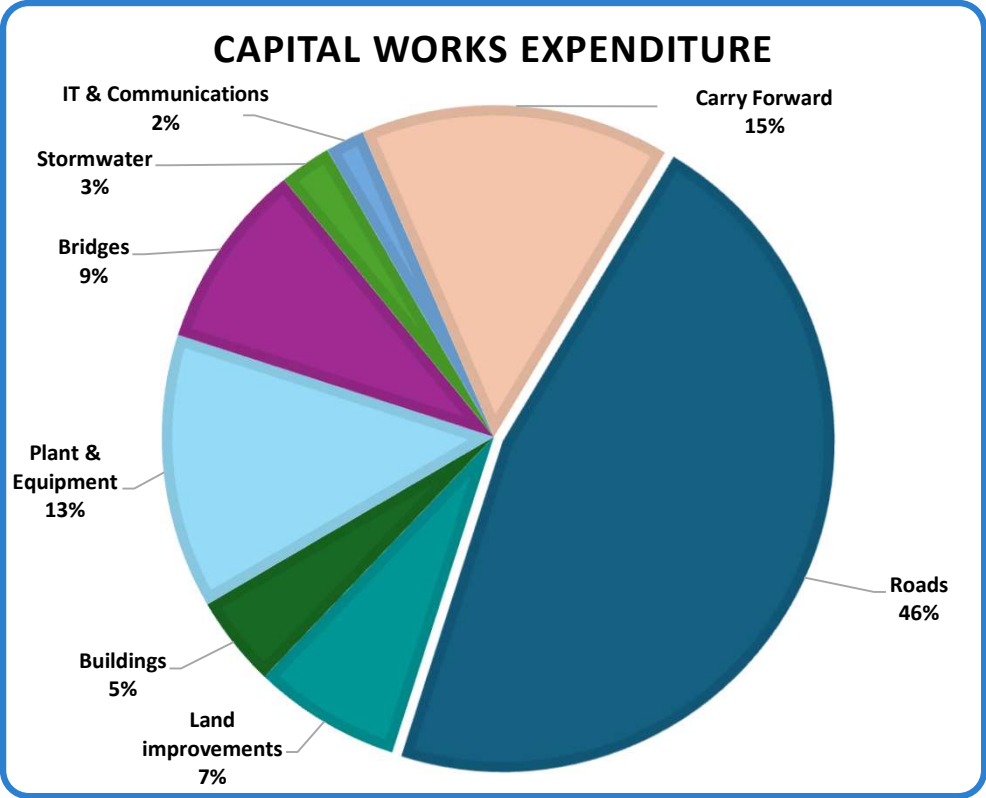
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Mermaids Beach, Bridport

Summary of Budget Estimates



Underlying Surplus Calculation

	Note	2025/26 Budget \$'000	2024/25 Forecast Actuals \$'000	2024/25 Revised Budget \$'000
Total Operating Income		18,354	17,716	17,546
Expenses (excl depreciation)		13,666	12,729	12,852
Depreciation		6,028	5,702	5,564
Total Expenses		19,694	18,431	18,416
Underlying Surplus/(Deficit)		(1,340)	(715)	(870)
Underlying Surplus as a % of Underlying Income		(7.3%)	(4.0%)	(5.0%)

Council's operating budget for the 2025/26 financial year estimates an underlying deficit of \$1,340,000. This represents a decrease of approximately \$0.6 million from forecast actuals and an increase of \$0.5 million on revised budget estimates for the 2024/25 financial year.

The expected cash to be generated from the 2025/26 operational budget is \$4.7 million, compared to \$5.0 million in the 2024/25 financial year.

The cash generated from operating activities is one of the most important figures for Council as it indicates the amount of cash that is available from everyday operations to fund future capital and infrastructure works within the Municipality.

The estimated \$4.7 million to be generated in the 2025/26 financial year is slightly less than the \$5.5 million (net of external funding) required for Council's proposed capital renewal program due to the acceleration of essential renewal works from future work plans. This has been accounted for in Council's Long-Term Financial plan and it is expected that future operating cash flows will sufficiently cover the required capital renewal spend in future years.

An additional \$3.4 million to be received in capital grant funding will further assist Council to complete the proposed \$12.6 million Capital Works Program in the 2025/26 financial year.

Analysis of Budget Estimates

The key drivers for 2025/26 budget estimates are:

Income

Rates and charges have increased by \$637,000 on forecast actuals as a result of a 4.9% increase to Council's general rate revenue base (with some additional income expected from organic growth), an increase to the minimum general rate and an increase in rates received from properties used for forestry purposes.

Other income has decreased by \$113,000 on forecast actuals due to the impact of a number of one-off transactions in the 2024/25 financial year (e.g. insurance reimbursements) that have inflated forecasted results.

User charges have increased by \$104,000 on forecast actuals primarily due to an increase in income expected from camping fees, which includes \$42,000 expected from camping sites at Derby, to be forwarded on to the Blue Derby Foundation (net of any costs to Council).

Interest income has decreased by \$69,000 on forecast actuals as a result of expected decreases in interest rates during the 2025/26 financial year.

Operating grants and contributions have decreased by \$34,000 on forecast actuals as a result of the receipt of one-off funding from the Tasmanian Relief and Recovery arrangements to assist with storm recovery in the 2024/25 financial year.

Council's fees and charges are set in accordance with section 205 of the Local Government Act 1993 and have increased, on average, by 3.5%.

Expenditure

Materials and services have increased by \$427,000 on forecast actuals due to a continued focus on proactive road maintenance and operational works in the 2025/26 financial year.

Depreciation has increased by \$326,000 on forecast actuals as a result of asset revaluations/indexation changes, revised useful life estimates and the addition of new assets from Council's capital works program.

Employee Costs have increased by \$323,000 on forecast actuals due to the expected increase to wages as per Council's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement, an increase in workers compensation insurance and annualising any new or reclassified roles that were recruited during the 2024/25 financial year.

Other expenses have increased by \$155,000 predominantly as a result of expected increases in state levies, licences and taxes and professional development for the 2025/26 financial year.

Statement of Profit and Loss

	Notes	2025/26 Budget \$'000	2024/25 Forecast Actuals \$'000	Actual Variance % Movement	2024/25 Revised Budget \$'000	Budget Variance % Movement
Operating Income						
Rates and Charges	1	11,157	10,520	6.1%	10,512	6.1%
Statutory Fees	2	208	195	6.7%	196	6.1%
User Charges	3	1,552	1,448	7.2%	1,483	4.7%
Grants and Contributions	4	4,669	4,702	(0.7%)	4,562	2.3%
Interest	5	280	349	(19.8%)	300	(6.7%)
Other Income	6	236	349	(32.4%)	260	(9.2%)
Income from Water Corporation	7	252	233	8.2%	233	8.2%
Total Operating Income		18,354	17,796	3.1%	17,546	4.6%
Capital Income						
Capital Grants	4	3,632	3,468	4.7%	3,904	(7.0%)
Gain/(loss) on disposal of assets	8	-	(80)	(100.0%)	(2)	(100.0%)
Total Capital Income		3,632	3,388	7.2%	3,902	(6.9%)
Total income from continuing operations		21,986	21,184	3.8%	21,448	2.5%
Expenses						
Employee costs	9	6,746	6,423	5.0%	6,511	3.6%
Materials and services	10	4,539	4,112	10.4%	4,225	7.4%
Finance costs	11	98	66	48.5%	72	36.1%
Other expenses	12	2,283	2,128	7.3%	2,044	11.7%
Depreciation	13	6,028	5,702	5.7%	5,564	8.3%
Total Expenses		19,694	18,431	6.9%	18,416	6.9%
Surplus/(Deficit)		2,292	2,753	(16.8%)	3,032	(24.4%)
less: Capital Grants	4	(3,632)	(3,468)	(4.7%)	(3,904)	7.0%
less: Storm event operational funding		-	(332)	(100.0%)	-	0.0%
add: Storm event operational expenditure		-	262	(100.0%)	-	0.0%
Underlying Surplus/(Deficit)		(1,340)	(785)	70.8%	(872)	53.7%

Notes | Income

NOTE 1 | Rates and Charges

	2025/26 Budget \$'000	2024/25 Forecast Actuals \$'000	Variance % Movement	2024/25 Revised Budget \$'000	Budget Variance % Movement
General rate	8,544	8,053	6.1%	8,040	6.3%
Waste management	2,172	2,044	6.3%	2,059	5.5%
Fire service levy	441	423	4.3%	413	6.8%
Total Rates and Charges	11,157	10,520	6.1%	10,512	6.1%

Rates and charges are expected to increase by \$637,000, which is an increase of 6.1% on forecast actuals for the 2024/25 financial year and 2024/25 budget estimates.

Council have considered the following factors when determining the increase for rates and charges:

- Council's Strategic Plan, Financial Management Strategy & Long Term Financial Plan;
- Asset Management Plans and Council's capital renewals program;
- Estimates for recurrent grant funding, such as the Financial Assistance Grants program; and
- National CPI YTD March Quarter (2.4%), Hobart CPI YTD March Quarter (1.4%) and LGAT Council Cost Index 2023/24 (3.13%).

General rate

Income received from general rates is expected to increase by \$491,000, which represents an overall increase of 6.1% on forecast actuals for the 2024/25 financial year and an increase of 6.3% on 2024/25 budget estimates. This increase comprises a:

- 4.9% increase to Council's forecast general rate revenue for 2024/25;
- 0.1% increase through organic growth achieved through supplementary valuations;
- 0.4% from an increase to the minimum general rate; and
- 0.7% from increasing the varied general rate for forestry properties.

Waste management

Income received from waste management is expected to increase by \$128,000 which represents an increase of 6.3% on forecast actuals for the 2024/25 financial year and an increase of 5.5% on 2024/25 budget estimates.

Fire Service Levy

The Fire Service Contribution is set by the State Fire Commission. For the 2025/26 financial year, the minimum charge determined by the State Fire Commission is \$50.00 (2023/24 FY: \$49.00). The total income to be collected on behalf of the State Government is approximately \$441,000.

NOTE 2 | Statutory Fees

	2025/26 Budget \$'000	2024/25 Forecast Actuals \$'000	Variance % Movement	2024/25 Revised Budget \$'000	Budget Variance % Movement
Land information certificates	71	66	7.6%	62	14.5%
Town planning fees	99	95	4.2%	112	(11.6%)
Animal control	35	32	9.4%	19	84.2%
Regulatory services	3	2	50.0%	3	0.0%
Total Statutory Fees	208	195	6.7%	196	6.1%

Statutory fees relate to the delivery of Planning and Regulatory services within Council including town planning fees, land information certificate searches, dog registrations, licences and permits. Income for the 2025/26 financial year is expected to increase by \$13,000, which represents an increase of 6.7% on forecast actuals for the 2023/24 financial year and a 6.1% increase on 2024/25 budget estimates. Similar service leaves are predicted for the 2025/26 financial year.



NOTE 3 | User Charges

	2025/26 Budget \$'000	2024/25 Forecast Actuals \$'000	Variance % Movement	2024/25 Revised Budget \$'000	Budget Variance % Movement
Caravan and camping fees	1,178	1,113	5.8%	1,064	10.7%
Rental and lease income	81	69	17.4%	67	20.9%
Building services	96	95	1.1%	68	41.2%
Cemetery fees	46	40	15.0%	62	(25.8%)
Waste disposal fees	94	79	19.0%	175	(46.3%)
Swimming pools	57	52	9.6%	47	21.3%
Total User Charges	1,552	1,448	7.2%	1,483	4.7%

User charges relate mainly to the recovery of service delivery through the charging of fees for Council services. These services include cemetery fees, hall hire, caravan parks and entrance to Waste Transfer Stations within the Municipality. Fees and charges are set in accordance with section 205 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Council are expecting income received from user charges to increase by \$104,000 in the 2025/26 financial year. This represents an increase of 7.2% on forecast actuals for the 2024/25 financial year and an increase of 4.7% on 2024/25 budget estimates.

Caravan and camping fees

Income expected from caravan and camping fees has increased by \$65,000 on forecast actuals for the 2024/25 financial year and \$114,000 on 2024/25 budget estimates. This includes a budget allocation of \$42,000 for income received from camping at Derby which will be passed on to the Blue Derby Foundation (BDF), net of any costs to Council, throughout the year (corresponding expense included in other expenses). Budget estimates for caravan and camping fees received from the Bridport Seaside Caravan Park have increased in line with increases to Council's fees and charges and expected occupancy for the 2025/26 financial year. A budget allocation of \$3,500 has also been included for camping fees at Branhholm Centenary Park.

Waste disposal fees

Income expected from waste disposal fees has decreased by \$81,000 on 2024/25 budget estimates as a result of lower than expected income received from the disposal of green waste following the introduction of this fee in the 2024/25 financial year.

NOTE 4 | Grants and Contributions

	2025/26 Budget \$'000	2024/25 Forecast Actuals \$'000	Variance % Movement	2024/25 Revised Budget \$'000	Budget Variance % Movement
Federally funded	7,705	7,395	4.2%	8,150	(5.5%)
State funded	440	485	(9.3%)	575	(23.5%)
Other	-	129	(100.0%)	-	0.0%
Contributions	156	161	(3.1%)	125	24.8%
Total Grants and Contributions	8,301	8,170	1.6%	8,850	(6.2%)

Council expect income received from grants and contributions to increase by \$131,000 in the 2025/26 financial year. This represents an increase of 1.6% on forecast actuals for the 2024/25 financial year and a decrease of 6.2% on 2024/25 budget estimates. Expected grants and contributions for the 2025/26 financial year are made up of \$4.67 million in operating grants and \$3.63 million in capital grants.

Government grants include all monies received from the Australian and Tasmanian Governments for the purpose of funding Council services and specific capital projects. Capital grants are budgeted based on the expected completion percentage for each project. For example if 80% of a capital project is expected to be completed during the financial year, 80% of the grant funding allocated to the project is included in the budget estimates.

NOTE 4 | Grants and Contributions (cont.)

	2025/26 Budget \$'000	2024/25 Forecast Actuals \$'000	Variance % Movement	2024/25 Revised Budget \$'000	Budget Variance % Movement
<i>Operating grants and contributions</i>					
Financial Assistance Grants - General	1,718	1,628	5.5%	1,628	5.5%
Financial Assistance Grants - Road & Bridge	2,675	2,549	4.9%	2,549	4.9%
Heavy Vehicle Motor Tax	140	140	0.0%	140	0.0%
Bridport Structure Planning	-	-	0.0%	120	(100.0%)
MTB Trails - Break O'Day Council	30	29	3.4%	30	0.0%
MTB Trails - Blue Derby Foundation	93	90	3.3%	90	3.3%
MTB Trails - Other	10	-	100.0%	-	100.0%
Other operating grants	-	10	(100.0%)	-	0.0%
Tasmanian Relief and Recovery Funding	-	242	0.0%	-	0.0%
Contributions - Other	-	9	(100.0%)	-	0.0%
Donations received	3	5	(40.0%)	5	(40.0%)
Total Operating Grants and Contributions	4,669	4,702	(0.7%)	4,562	2.3%

Operating grants are expected to decrease by \$34,000 in the 2025/26 financial year, representing an decrease of 0.7% on forecast actuals for the 2024/25 financial year and an increase of 2.3% on 2024/25 budget estimates.

NOTE 4 | Grants and Contributions (cont.)

	2025/26 Budget \$'000	2024/25 Forecast Actuals \$'000	Variance % Movement	2024/25 Revised Budget \$'000	Budget Variance % Movement
Capital grants and contributions					
Gillespies Rd safety improvements	-	300	(100.0%)	300	(100.0%)
Old Waterhouse Rd safety improvements	-	232	(100.0%)	232	(100.0%)
Rail Trail - Scottsdale to Lilydale	-	-	100.0%	294	(100.0%)
Dorset Netball Facility Upgrades	250	-	100.0%	-	100.0%
Dorset Resource Recovery Project	-	2	100.0%	44	(100.0%)
Scottsdale Railway Precinct Redevelopment	-	-	100.0%	-	0.0%
Pedestrian Crossings - Urban Roads	-	20	100.0%	71	(100.0%)
Golconda Road - Stage 7 & 8	1,860	833	100.0%	720	158.3%
Dorset Playground Project	-	70	100.0%	200	(100.0%)
Election Promise - Winnaleah & Scottsdale Playgrounds	-	2	100.0%	-	0.0%
Better Fishing Program - Cleaning Stations	-	-		16	(100.0%)
Tasmanian Relief and Recovery Funding	300	-	(100.0%)	174	72.4%
Mobile Emergency Response Trailer	-	9		-	0.0%
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program:					
- Phase 3	-	150	(100.0%)	150	(100.0%)
- Phase 4 Part A	-	451	(100.0%)	451	(100.0%)
- Phase 4 Part B	-	260	(100.0%)	260	(100.0%)
Roads to Recovery	1,202	992	21.2%	992	21.2%
Capital contributions	20	147	(86.4%)	-	100.0%
Total Capital Grants and Contributions	3,632	3,468	4.7%	3,904	(7.0%)

Capital grants and contributions (cont.)

Capital grants are expected to increase by \$164,000 in the 2025/26 financial year, representing an increase of 4.7% on forecast actuals for the 2023/24 financial year and a decrease of 7.0% on 2023/24 budget estimates.

NOTE 5 | Interest

	2025/26 Budget \$'000	2024/25 Forecast Actuals \$'000	Variance % Movement	2024/25 Revised Budget \$'000	Budget Variance % Movement
Interest income	250	319	(21.6%)	270	(7.4%)
Interest on rates	30	30	0.0%	30	0.0%
Total Interest	280	349	(19.8%)	300	(6.7%)

Interest income is expected to decrease by \$69,000 in the 2024/25 financial year, which represents an decrease of 19.8% on forecast actuals for the 2024/25 financial year and a decrease of 6.7% on 2024/25 budget estimates.



NOTE 6 | Other Income

	2025/26 Budget \$'000	2024/25 Forecast Actuals \$'000	Variance % Movement	2024/25 Revised Budget \$'000	Budget Variance % Movement
Reimbursements	83	195	(57.4%)	102	(18.6%)
Private works	10	30	(66.7%)	10	0.0%
Tourism income	13	12	8.3%	10	30.0%
Sundry income	130	112	16.1%	138	(5.8%)
Total Other Income	236	349	(32.4%)	260	(9.2%)

Other income is received from a variety of sources including retail sales at the Scottsdale Visitor Information Centre and Aquatic Centre, reimbursements from external parties and income from the sale of scrap metal collected from Waste Transfer Stations within the Municipality.

Other income is expected to decrease by \$113,000 in the 2025/26 financial year, which represents a decrease of 32.4% on forecast actuals for the 2024/25 financial year and a decrease of 9.2% on 2024/25 budget estimates.

NOTE 7 | Income from Water Corporation

	2025/26 Budget \$'000	2024/25 Forecast Actuals \$'000	Variance % Movement	2024/25 Revised Budget \$'000	Budget Variance % Movement
Dividends	252	233	8.2%	233	8.2%
Total Income from Water Corporation	252	233	8.2%	233	8.2%

TasWater are expected to pay both ordinary and special dividends to owners (subject to underlying financial performance) during the 2025/26 financial year.

Based on information from TasWater's 2025-2029 Corporate Plan, it is estimated that dividends for the 2025/26 financial year will total \$252,000 and Council's ownership share at 30 June 2026 will be 0.97%. This represents an increase of 8.2% on forecast actuals and the budget allocation for the 2024/25 financial year.

NOTE 8 | Gain/(loss) on disposal of assets

	2025/26 Budget \$'000	2024/25 Forecast Actuals \$'000	Variance % Movement	2024/25 Revised Budget \$'000	Budget Variance % Movement
Proceeds of Sale	-	555	(100.0%)	192	100.00%
<i>Written down value of assets disposed:</i>					
Land and Buildings	-	(52)	0.0%	-	0.0%
Plant, machinery and equipment	-	(259)	100.0%	(29)	(100.0%)
Other assets	-	(72)	100.0%	(165)	(100.0%)
Infrastructure assets	-	(252)	0.0%	-	0.0%
Total gain/(loss) on disposal of assets	-	(80)	(100.0%)	(2)	(100.0%)

Gain/(loss) on disposal of assets is expected to decrease by \$80,000 in the 2025/26 financial year, representing a decrease of 100.0% on forecast actuals and budget estimates for the 2024/25 financial year.

Notes | Expenses

NOTE 9 | Employee Costs

	2025/26 Budget \$'000	2024/25 Forecast Actuals \$'000	Variance % Movement	2024/25 Revised Budget \$'000	Budget Variance % Movement
Wages and salaries	7,076	6,640	6.6%	6,864	3.1%
Superannuation	833	763	9.2%	775	7.5%
Payroll tax	354	361	(1.9%)	344	2.9%
Workers compensation	212	193	9.8%	212	0.0%
Fringe benefits tax	50	42	19.0%	50	0.0%
Less amounts capitalised	(1,779)	(1,576)	12.9%	(1,734)	2.6%
Total Employee Costs	6,746	6,423	5.0%	6,511	3.6%

Employee costs are expected to increase by \$323,000 in the 2025/26 financial year, which is an increase of 5.0% on forecast actuals for the 2024/25 financial year and a 3.6% increase on 2024/25 budget estimates. The key drivers of this increase include:

- Estimated increase of 4.0% to wages as per Council's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (currently under negotiation);
- Legislated 0.5% increase to the Superannuation Guarantee Contribution (SGC);
- 9.8% increase in workers compensation insurance; and
- Annualising any new or reclassified roles that were recruited during the 2024/25 financial year.

NOTE 10 | Materials and Services

	2025/26 Budget \$'000	2024/25 Forecast Actuals \$'000	Variance % Movement	2024/25 Revised Budget \$'000	Budget Variance % Movement
Materials	593	667	(11.1%)	636	(6.8%)
Utilities	567	521	8.8%	530	7.0%
Plant, machinery and equipment	524	580	(9.7%)	505	3.8%
Office administration	72	54	33.3%	68	5.9%
Contracts	2,218	1,611	37.7%	1,813	22.3%
Professional services	260	373	(30.3%)	370	(29.7%)
Management contracts	305	306	(0.3%)	303	0.7%
Total Material and Services	4,539	4,112	10.4%	4,225	7.4%

Materials and services are expected to increase by \$427,000 in the 2025/26 financial year, which represents an increase of 10.4% on forecast actuals for the 2024/25 financial year and a 7.4% increase on 2024/25 budget estimates.

Contracts expense has seen the largest movement, with an increase of \$607,000 on forecast actuals and \$405,000 on budget estimates for the 2024/25 financial year. This increase is largely the result of the following budget additions for the 2025/26 financial year:

- \$132,000 required for urgent repairs to Koomeela Road, West Scottsdale and Boddingtons Road, Bridport;
- An additional \$80,000 required for Blue Derby trail maintenance;
- \$62,000 for planning consultants to assist with service delivery;
- \$31,000 for required amendments to the Planning Scheme; and
- \$18,000 in additional legal fees to assist with meeting the Ministerial Directives as set out in the Board of Inquiry report.

NOTE 11 | Finance Costs

	2025/26 Budget \$'000	2024/25 Forecast Actuals \$'000	Variance % Movement	2024/25 Revised Budget \$'000	Budget Variance % Movement
Interest payments - Bank Loans	75	61	23.0%	72	4.2%
Interest payments - Finance Leases	17	-	100.0%	-	100.0%
Unwinding of Discounts for provisions	6	5	100.0%	-	100.0%
Total Finance Costs	98	66	48.5%	72	36.1%

Finance costs are expected to increase by \$32,000 in the 2025/26 financial year, due to additional borrowings expected to be drawn down, the inclusion of interest payments related to the Bridport Foreshore lease agreement and the unwinding of discounts for other provisions. This represents an increase of 48.5% on forecast actuals and an increase of 36.1% on the budget estimates for the 2024/25 financial year.

NOTE 12 | Other Expenses

	2025/26 Budget \$'000	2024/25 Forecast Actuals \$'000	Variance % Movement	2024/25 Revised Budget \$'000	Budget Variance % Movement
State levies, licences and taxes	724	659	9.9%	603	20.1%
Insurance	248	227	9.3%	250	(0.8%)
Councillor allowances	208	221	(5.9%)	223	(6.7%)
Commissions	9	9	0.0%	8	12.5%
IT maintenance	191	162	17.9%	157	21.7%
Communications	56	55	1.8%	71	(21.1%)
Subscriptions and memberships	146	133	9.8%	118	23.7%
Professional development	92	61	50.8%	82	12.2%
Cost of goods sold	45	45	0.0%	47	(4.3%)
Election expenses	5	7	(28.6%)	-	100.0%
Community grants and donations	194	170	14.1%	192	1.0%
Advertising	51	44	15.9%	27	88.9%
Marketing	3	2	50.0%	21	(85.7%)
External audit fees	54	49	10.2%	52	3.8%
Internal audit fees	20	-	100.0%	20	0.0%
Bank fees and charges	37	42	(11.9%)	33	12.1%
Postage	28	27	3.7%	24	16.7%
Lease payments	6	7	(14.3%)	18	(66.7%)
Other sundry expenses	166	208	(20.2%)	98	69.4%
Total Other Expenses	2,283	2,128	7.3%	2,044	11.7%

NOTE 12 | Other Expenses (cont.)

Other Expenses are expected to increase by \$155,000 in the 2025/26 financial year predominantly as a result of increases in state levies, licences and taxes and professional development. This represents an increase of 7.3% on forecast actuals and an increase of 11.7% on the budget estimates for the 2024/25 financial year.

Other sundry expenses

The allocated \$166,000 for other sundry expenses is made up of the following:

- Fees payable in relation to remaining water rights held for sale for the Scottsdale Irrigation Scheme;
- Freight and delivery charges
- Forwarding income received from Derby camping facilities (net of associated fees) to the Blue Derby Foundation; and
- Miscellaneous expenses such as parking, website hosting, meeting costs, catering etc.

Community grants and donations

Every year Councils provides funding and resources to members of the Dorset community for educational development and projects, programs or events that will improve the wellbeing of the people living in Dorset.

Council have included the following community funding in this year's budget estimates:

- Scholarships for Dorset residents enrolled in all levels of education, including:
 - *University scholarship awarded to one recipient each year with a value of \$3,000 per year for up to 3 years;*
 - *Agri-Business scholarship valued at \$2,500;*
 - *Apprenticeship/traineeship scholarship valued at \$1,000; and*
 - *High school student scholarship for five recipients valued at \$500 each.*
- \$55,000 for Council's community grant funding program, include matching funding, small, and discretionary grants, with up to \$25,000 from funds received from the Re-Use Centre at the Scottsdale Waste Transfer Station.
- Mayor discretionary fund of \$10,000
- Dorset Bright Futures Program contribution of \$22,500 and \$10,000 to support other youth programs within the Municipality.

NOTE 12 | Other Expenses (cont.)

- Sponsorship funding for various Community Events including:

Spud Fest \$5,000;

Scallop Fiesta \$6,000;

Scottsdale Show \$5,000;

Jolly Lette Memorial Endurance Ride \$750;

Bridport Triathlon \$2,000;

Australia Golf Day Event \$500;

North East Arts and Crafts Festival \$3,000;

Rail Trail Run and Ride \$2,200;

Ringarooma Garden Walk \$750;

Dorset People and Business Awards \$2,000;

Dorset Seniors Week \$2,000;

- A contribution of \$10,000 each to both the Winnaleah and Ringarooma Swimming Pools to assist with annual running costs.

- A contribution of \$16,000 to assist with the provision of State Emergency Services within the Municipality inline with the MoU.

- A contribution of \$16,000 to assist with the provision of State Emergency Services within the Municipality inline with the MoU.

- A contribution of \$6,400 towards the operation of the Bridport Information Centre.

NOTE 13 | Depreciation

	2025/26 Budget \$'000	2024/25 Forecast Actuals \$'000	Variance % Movement	2024/25 Revised Budget \$'000	Budget Variance % Movement
Roads	3,200	2,975	7.6%	2,866	11.7%
Bridges	653	611	6.9%	629	3.7%
Plant, machinery and equipment	696	720	(3.3%)	670	15.8%
Buildings	457	448	2.0%	441	8.0%
Stormwater	257	320	(19.7%)	248	3.6%
Land improvements	563	460	22.4%	543	10.3%
Computer and technology	158	137	15.3%	152	(3.7%)
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	22	13	69.2%	16	200.0%
Right of Use Assets	22	18	22.2%	-	100.0%
Total Depreciation	6,028	5,702	5.7%	5,564	8.3%

Council's depreciation expenditure is expected to increase by \$326,000 in the 2025/26 financial year. This represents an increase of 5.7% on forecast actuals for the 2024/25 financial year and a 8.3% increase on the 2024/25 budget estimates.

This increase is largely the result of increased replacement costs for road assets as a result of the revaluation of this asset class in the 2024/25 financial year and additions from the 2024/25 capital works programs.

Borrowings

Council are proposing to draw down new borrowings of \$0.5 million during the 2025/26 financial year.

The below table details Council's original loan amounts, however, note as at 30 June 2026 due to loan repayments, the balance is expected to total \$2.8 million.

	2025/26 Budget \$'000	2024/25 Budget \$'000
Local Government Loan Program	3,200	3,200
Other borrowings	2,500	2,000
Total Borrowings	5,700	5,200



Calculation of Rates and Charges

Rating Structure

Council has a rating structure consisting of three components. This structure complies with the Act and comprises the following components:

1. **General Rate** - calculated as a rate in the dollar on the Assessed Annual Value (AAV) of the rateable property, with a minimum amount payable;
2. **Waste Management and Waste Collection** - service charges in respect of prescribed services where provided; and
3. **Fire Levy** - calculated as a rate in the dollar on the AAV charged to recover amounts payable for the fire levy, with a minimum amount payable. The fire levy is recovered on behalf of the State Government.

General Rate

It is recommended that the general rate revenue base increase by 4.9% which is slightly higher than the 3.5% increase originally committed to in Council's 2025-2034 Long Term Financial Plan.

The general rate cents in the dollar on the AAV will be 5.2990 for the 2025/26 financial year (2024/25: 5.3180 cents in the dollar).

The Maximum Rate Increase Cap for the general rate will remain at 15% to continue to incrementally introduce the impacts of the 2024 Fresh Valuation. It is recommended that Council increase the Maximum Rate Increase Cap for Forestry properties to 20%.

It is also recommended that Council maintains the varied general rate for properties used for short term accommodation (STA) of 10.598 cents in the dollar on the AAV for the 2024/25 financial year (2024/25: 11.2328 cents in the dollar) as the valuations for STA continue to generally be lower than comparable commercial properties.

Waste Management

The standard waste management charge (per property) will increase by \$8.00 to \$169.00 for the 2025/26 financial year (2024/25: \$161.00).

Recommended Rates and Charges

The following rates and charges are recommended for the 2025/26 financial year:

	2025/26	2024/25
	\$	\$
General Rate		
General rate cents in the dollar of AAV	5.299	5.3180
General Rate Minimum Charge	543.00	518.00
Varied General Rate (cents in the dollar on AAV) Properties used for Short Stay Visitor Accommodation	10.598	10.6360
Varied General Rate (cents in the dollar on AAV) Properties used for Primary Production - Forestry	7.745	6.1920
Varied General Rate (cents in the dollar on AAV) Wind Farm	7.785	7.4210
Waste Management		
Standard Waste Management Charge (per property)	169.00	161.00
Kerbside Garbage Collection		
Small (80 Litre) MGB	150.00	143.00
Medium (120 Litre) MGB	176.00	168.00
Large (240 Litre) MGB	344.00	327.00
Kerbside Recycling Service	167.00	160.00
Fire Service Levy		
Scottsdale and Bridport Volunteer Brigade Districts	0.2586	0.2344
General Land District	0.2706	0.2631
Fire Service Levy Minimum Charge	50.00	49.00

Instalment Payments of Rates and Charges

It is recommended that Council maintain the four instalments in 2025/26 and continue to charge daily interest on any outstanding amounts.

The following table indicates the instalment dates for the 2025/26 financial year.

	Due Date	Date Interest Applied
Instalment 1	30 September 2025	15 October 2025
Instalment 2	30 November 2025	15 December 2025
Instalment 3	31 January 2026	15 February 2026
Instalment 4	31 March 2026	15 April 2026

Dorset Council

2025/26 Capital Expenditure Budget



2025/26 Capital Expenditure Budget | Summary

A Capital Works Program totalling \$12.6 million is recommended. The 2024/25 capital budget was \$10.0 million (including budget variations), however \$1.9 million of this budget is expected to be carried forward into the 2025/26 financial year.

Total Capital Expenditure Budget

	Renewal \$'000	New & Upgrade \$'000	Overhead Wages Allocation \$'000	Total Budget \$'000
Bridges	481	546	127	1,154
Roads	4,916	293	645	5,854
Stormwater	-	284	34	318
Buildings	353	147	61	561
Land Improvements	88	720	99	907
Plant and Equipment	1,417	91	185	1,693
IT and Communications	47	168	26	241
Carry Forward Projects	799	894	211	1,904
Total	8,101	3,143	1,388	12,632

Funding the Budget

	Total Budget \$'000	External Funding \$'000	Council Funding \$'000
Bridges	1,154	-	1,154
Roads	5,854	2,161	3,693
Stormwater	318	-	318
Buildings	561	60	501
Land Improvements	907	538	369
Plant and Equipment	1,693	283	1,410
IT and Communications	241	-	241
Carry Forward Projects	1,904	311	1,593
Total	12,632	3,353	9,279

Further capital projects that are approved subject to the receipt of external funding total \$0.4 million. Of this amount, \$0.3 million is to be received via external grant funding and \$0.1 million will be funded by Council.

Capital Expenditure approved subject to funding

	Total Budget \$'000	External Funding \$'000	Council Funding \$'000
Plant and Equipment	10	5	5
Roads	230	184	46
IT and Communications	119	114	5
Total	359	303	56

If all external funding is received the Capital Works Program will total \$13.0 million for the 2025/26 financial year, of which Council will fund a total of \$9.3 million.

2025/26 Capital Expenditure Budget | Highlights

Roads

Council's total capital expenditure for roads amounts to \$5,854,000.

Key projects include:

- Annual resheeting and reseal program;
- Golconda Road safety upgrade and renewal; and
- Ferny Hill Road landslip repair (storm damage).

Plant and Equipment

Council's total capital expenditure for plant and equipment amounts to \$1,693,000. Major purchases include:

- Flocon truck replacement;
- 13 tonne excavator replacement; and
- Fleet vehicle replacements.

Land Improvements

Council's total capital expenditure for land improvements amounts to \$907,000.

Key projects include:

- Netball court upgrades Scottsdale, Bridport & Derby (Stage 1);
- Scottsdale Sports Precinct Master Planning; and
- Scottsdale Aquatic Centre covered pool feasibility study.

Buildings

Council's total capital expenditure for buildings amounts to \$561,000. Key projects include:

- Electrical switchboard upgrade at Bridport Seaside Caravan Park (Stage 1);
- Amenities/shower renewal at Scottsdale Aquatic Centre; and
- Renewal of the Branhholm Hall kitchen (co-contribution to be received from the Pines Committee).

Bridges and Stormwater

Council's total capital expenditure for bridges and stormwater amounts to \$1,472,000. Key projects include:

- Storm damage repairs on Bridge 1508 Garibaldi Road, Pioneer;
- Upgrade Bridge 1569 Jensen's Road, North Scottsdale;
- Renewal of timber bridges 1589 Sledge Track, West Scottsdale and 1594 Greeta Rd, Nabowla; and
- Stormwater network design and installation for locations in Scottsdale, Branhholm & Winnaleah.

IT and Communications

Council's total capital expenditure for IT and communications amounts to \$241,000. Key projects and purchases include:

- Cyber security upgrades (HTTPS Authority Implementation);
- PC and laptop replacements; and
- GIS App development.

Carry forward projects:

Council's total carry forward amounts to \$1,904,000. Key projects to be completed include:

- Purchase of Volvo Hooklift Truck;
- Scottsdale Railway Station restoration; and
- Updates to playgrounds at the Lions Adventure Playground, Bridport & the Scottsdale Children's Reserve.