

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Annual return for the year ended 31st March 2025

Section 2 – THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS – supporting notes

Line 1 Balances brought forward.

The £257,754 total balances and reserves balances to the Box 7 of the previous year's return

Line 2 Precept

The 2024/25 Precept of £682,400 represented a £41,729 increase, this represents 3614.40 Band D equivalent Properties = £188.80

Line 3 Total other receipts

£188,656 total other receipts were received in 2024/25 a significant increase over the previous year. This is due to receipt of a National Lottery Heritage Fund award of £222,000, of which £111,000 which was received in 2024/25, and some small UKSPF grants.

Line 4 Staff Costs

An additional £20,146 was expended on staffing during 2024/25 in comparison to 2023/24 representing a 5.36% increase.

The wage award for 2024/25 was an increase of £1,290 pa for all staff on SC P 2-43 or 2.50% on staff on SCP 44 and above. During 2024/25 the Council employed a Project Manager for the Lottery Project.

There is a difference of £1 in box 4 for 31 March 2024 – this is due to the rounding up/down of the accounts system.

Line 6 All other payments

The £374,237 spend lower than the previous year. This is due the council not having so many high value projects in progress and also due to staff absences and reduced Councillor numbers which meant that the council was not able to undertake as many projects as in previous years.

Line 7 Balances carried forward.

The £358,326 year end balance shows a £100,529 increase. As explained in the statement at Line 3 above this is due to a National Lottery Heritage Fund award of which £111,000 was received in 2024/25.

Line 8 total value of cash and short-term investments

The £352,144 balances to the year end bank reconciliation, the £106,743 increase is linked to the receipt of grant monies as explained above.

Line 9 Asset Register

The 2023/24 Asset Register total stated (£842,031) was found to be incorrect on a review of the asset register. This has now been rectified and it needs to be noted that this has been “restated” on the 2025/26 Annual Accounting Statements (Section 2) (new total of £844,920 for 2023/24)

Overall Observation

Due to staff absences and reduced councillor numbers has meant that less projects have been progressed than anticipated. However, it should be noted that the cost implications of staff sickness did impact on the council budget due to temporary staff for several roles needing to be recruited throughout the latter part of the financial year.