

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority:
County area (local councils and parish meetings only):

Insert figures from Section 2 of the AGAR in all Blue highlighted boxes

Next, please provide full explanations, including numerical values, for the following that will be flagged in the green boxes where relevant:

- variances of more than 15% between totals for individual boxes (except variances of less than £200);
- variances of £100,000 or more require explanation regardless of the % variation year on year;
- **New from 2025/26 onwards:** variances of £500,000 or more in Box 3 require explanation regardless of the % variation year on year for smaller authorities with income and/or expenditure exceeding £6,500,000

	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation Required?	Automatic responses trigger below based on figures input, DO NOT OVERWRITE THESE BOXES	Explanation from smaller authority (must include narrative and supporting figures)
1 Balances Brought Forward	48,032	57,808				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	39,530	26,034	-13,496	34.14%	YES		24_25 waws an exceptional year for the council - there was no clerk / RFO in place at the time of setting the precept. The precept was over set and so in 25_26 it was dropped drastically to offset it and 'return' precept to the parish with a reduced rate. At the same time teh council moved to AdvantEdge software and thoroughly itemised the budget to be sure to be more accurate.
3 Total Other Receipts	21,443	28,911	7,468	34.83%	YES		The differences between 25_25 and 25_26 are: 1. bank interest - negligible 2. allotment rents - negligible 3. Grants: 24_25: SAM2 grant £3175 NHP: £9925 Xmas lights £100 Grants 25_26 CIL ORG grant: £6203 4. CIL payments: 24_25 2,817.91 CIL 25_26 £52.78 5. VAT rebate: 24_25 - £0 (submitted late) VAT rebate 25_26 (included 24_26 and Q1,2,3 25_26 £10267 6. NCC Partnership scheme - noyt invoiced 23_24 so a double payment in 24_25 - £3342 25_26 only 1 year (but an increased charge) £2122 7. Land rental to NCC - not invoiced in 24_25 / 23/24 so in 25_26 3 x payments receievd £8415
4 Staff Costs	7,197	12,864	5,667	78.74%	YES		24_25 saw a clerk leave and no salary paid for several months. 25_26 saw a return to nioraml celrk servcie for the whole year, teh job was re-evaliated to an accuarte SCP point to include finance and pension was paid and wfh. There was no pension in 25_26 becasue salary was below the threshold. in 25_26 staff costs wer ealso broken down in more detail ti better track spending and also to make transparent the hours required (eg over time and holiday) 24_25 staff cost break down: salary: £5755 across Carla, Michelle (back pay only) and Annalisa. NI - £142, PAYE £1,298.80 25_26 salary £7423: over time: £209.86 Holiday paid in lieu: £507.25 WFH:130 Pension: 1808.61 NI : £ 641.39 PAYE £2143.
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	44,000	30,663	-13,337	30.31%	YES		In 24_25 there was two areas where the spend was significantly greater than 25_26. 1. Neighbourhood plan project £9925 vs £1,274.00 2. Grants - £6757 vs £2000
7 Balances Carried Forward	57,808	69,226				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments						VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable