

Explanation of variances – pro forma

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

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	432,167	434,490				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	400,000	423,915	23,915	5.98%	NO		
3 Total Other Receipts	159,541	55,295	-104,246	65.34%	YES		In 2026-27 Christmas Festival income increased by £1047 Neighbourhood fund income reduced by £1006 Bank Interest reduced by £5540 Toilet income reduced by £136 Stock in come increased by £120 Cemetery Income increased by £2795 Misc income increased by £453 Insurance claims reduced by £551 Allotment income increased by £442 Markets income increased by £1016 Grants income reduced by £102,859 (one off grant for £103K for solar project received in previous year) Training income reduced by £27
4 Staff Costs	141,052	152,117	11,065	7.84%	NO		
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	3,616	3,471	-145	4.01%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	412,550	269,779	-142,771	34.61%	YES		Compared to 2024-25: Staff non-salary costs reduced by £308 Councillor expenses increased by £326 Administration costs increased by £13,342 (Main changes = £6.4 k for new IT equipment and support, £3.38k on HR and H&S support and £3.68k for elections, other cost changes were insignificant) Grants and events costs reduced by £13,462 (£11.8k heads up grant no longer given out, spending on event infrastructure reduced) Recreation costs reduced by £12,162 (£22k spent on play equipment in 24-25, only £12k in 25-26. No spending on recreation ground toilets, or lamp column painting in 25-26) Swimming Pool costs reduced by £106,870 (in 24-25 solar panels were installed at a cost of £103441. Repair costs in 25-26 were down by £1.8k) Toilet costs reduced by £3831 due to reprocurment of the cleaning contract. Street lighting costs reduced by £21,822 because the column replacement programme was completed but electrical connections have not been completed or invoiced) Cemetery Costs increased by £367 due to increases in gravedigging costs, business rates and repairs) Allotment costs reduced by £208 due to reduced maintenance required Market Costs increased by £1922 due to investment in new infrastructure Miscellaneous costs reduced by £64
7 Balances Carried Forward	434,490	488,333				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	452,030	487,914				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	1,736,645	1,758,332	21,687	1.25%	NO		
10 Total Borrowings	10,500	7,500	-3,000	28.57%	YES		Balance has reduced because £3000 was repaid in 25-26

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable