

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	95,905	85,248				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	90,000	110,200	20,200	22.44%	YES		The 22.44% increase was due to a rise in the precept resulting from inflation, an increase in PAYE contributionans as well as the following monetary commitments the Council resolved to meet during the fiancial year 2025/2026: an additional £1000 to pay for skips to help clear neglected allotment plots, £6000 to go towards the 'cemetery access improvements' project, £10,000 to support the Wells Tourist Information Centre, £2000 for the Wells Housing Implementation Group for antiapted legal expenses, and another £1276 to the skate parks previous budget of £224 to install a fence around the area making a total of £20276
3 Total Other Receipts	22,715	112,445	89,730	395.03%	YES		The increase is due to a 50% rise in both allotment and horse paddock rents, the receipt of Section 106 funding for improvement projects, a rise in income from cemetery fees as well as paymment from NCC for grass cutting: allotment rents variance + £1315, horse paddock rents variance + £281, Section 106 funding for allotments + £6886.65, Section 106 funding for green spaces and play equipment + £80323.49, cemetery fee variance + £1945, grass cutting variance + £52.68 making a total of £90803.82. This was then counterbalanced by a decrease in revenue for the Flood Wardens by £200 on the previous year, £232.59 and £147.66 in interest and dividends and miscellaneous sources consecutively as well as a loss of £493.20 from VAT, resulting in an overall difference of £89730.37.
4 Staff Costs	54,339	41,491	-12,847	23.64%	YES		In spite of increases in salary, the minium wage and PAYE contibutions the variance is due to the previous Clerk's retirement on October 2025 resulting in the following decrease in salary, pension, and PAYE payments: clerk's salary and Nationa Insurance contibutions - £9908.93, pension payments - £3198.11
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	69,033	70,117	1,084	1.57%	NO		
7 Balances Carried Forward	85,248	196,285				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	85,248	196,285				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