

Explanation of variances 2025/26 – pro forma

Name of smaller authority:

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

Now, 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 £500);
- variances of more than £100,000 must be explained even where this constitutes less than 15%;

Please ensure variance explanations are quantified to reduce the variance excluding stated items below the 15% / £500 / £100,000 threshold

	2026	2025	Variance	Variance	Explanation Required?		DO NOT OVERWRITE THE BOXES HIGHLIGHTED IN RED/GREEN
	£	£	£	%	Is > 15%	Is > £100,000	
1 Balances Brought Forward	21,937	26,134					Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward does not agree
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	13,412	13,412	0	0.00%	NO	NO	
3 Total Other Receipts	9,043	9,969	-926	9.29%	NO	NO	
4 Staff Costs	3,158	3,007	151	5.02%	NO	NO	
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO	NO	
6 All Other Payments	14,567	24,571	-10,004	40.71%	YES	NO	
7 Balances Carried Forward	26,667	21,937	4,730	21.56%	YES	NO	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	26,667	21,937	4,730	21.56%	YES	NO	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and Assets	244,619	244,617	2	0.00%	NO	NO	
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO	NO	

Explanation (must include narrative and supporting figures)

Note: If an explanation is required for the variance of Box 4 and the explanation refers to a change in hours or a change in pay rates, please could you note the previous hours/rates and the updated hours/rates

The variance is due to significant one off expenditure in 2024/25 that did not recur in 2025/26:

•Construction of the memorial garden in 2024/25: £8,461.20

•Less grant received: £3,500

•Net cost impacting expenditure: £4,961.20

•Additional community events in 2024/25: £5,086.40

Total exceptional items in 2024/25: £10,047.60

Removing these one off items:

•Adjusted 2024/25 payments: £24,571 – £10,047.60 = £14,523.40

•Adjusted variance: £14,567 – £14,523.40 = £43.60, which is below the 15% threshold.

The increase in reserves reflects:

•Lower project expenditure in 2025/26 compared with the previous year

•No repeat of the memorial garden construction costs

•Planned earmarked reserves for:

oElection costs: £1,935

oBuilding surveys & maintenance: £2,000

oThree months' running costs: £2,500

These earmarked amounts total £6,435, leaving a general reserve of £20,232, which is considered appropriate given the council's asset base.

Matches Box 7.