

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);
- New from 2020/21 onwards: variances of £100,000 or more require explanation regardless of the % variation year on year;

	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	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	25,846	21,761				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	18,150	25,873	7,723	42.55%	YES		The precept was increased by £7,723 due to Somerset Council announcing a financial emergency and informing Parish Councils that from April 2024 all services would be cut. If Parish Councils still wanted the same services they would have to fund them themselves. However, due to Somerset Council not getting information to parish councils in time for parish council to implement changes with regards to costs and contracts, services were continued for 2024-25. The amount has been ringfenced to cover for services for 2025-26.
3 Total Other Receipts	1,266	2,232	966	76.30%	YES		CIL payment received for £834.02. Also, due to the increase in precept a saving account was opened and interest was £234 for the year.
4 Staff Costs	7,876	10,039	2,163	27.46%	YES		My hours were increased from 10 to 12 hours per week to cover the increase in work. I also opted in to a pension scheme with the parish council (Parish Council contribute 10% - I contribute 5%). My pay scale is increased by 1 point annually.
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	15,625	9,417	-6,208	39.73%	YES		Due to changes with the rangers scheme (Somerset Council stopped their scheme), we have a different system which is cheaper and we stopped the speed sensor. (2023-24 total cost £4,590 compared to 2024-25 £813. The recreation field maintenance was also cut from 3 cuts per month to 2. 2023-24 £3495 compared to £1960 in 2024-25.
7 Balances Carried Forward	21,761	30,410				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	21,761	30,410				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	10,300	11,300	1,000	9.71%	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