

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: **Higham with West Close Booth**

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	37,054	28,571				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	22,344	23,014	670	3.00%	NO		
3 Total Other Receipts	6,052	7,573	1,521	25.14%	YES		Unexpected Precept interest was received in the 2025/26 year of £344.20 Savings account bank interest was higher in the 2025/26 year by £70.54. Unexpected Donations of £1087.08 were received in the 2025/26 year. VAT recovered was higher in 2025/26 by £97.53. Grants received were reduced in the 2025/26 year by £78.13. Total variance of £1,521.22 2024/25 balance £6051.83 Add variance £1521.22 Balances to 2025/26 Total £7573.05
4 Staff Costs	5,428	5,716	288	5.31%	NO		
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	31,451	27,041	-4,409	14.02%	NO		
7 Balances Carried Forward	28,571	26,401				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	28,571	26,401				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	162,808	164,800	1,992	1.22%	NO		
10 Total Borrowings	0		0	0.00%	NO		

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable