

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: **Mudford Parish Council**
County area (local councils and police): **Somerset**

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	100,068	102,688				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	58,100	46,467	-11,633	20.02%	YES		the council requested precept based on the agreed budget for January 2026, taking into account the general and estimated reserves and agreed that reserves will be used if required for unforeseen expenses (such as the judicial review) to lower the tax burden. Precept is council's main source of income. Variances in budget categories versus 2024-25 budget: Salaries - £500 (new clerk, lower salary), Administration: -£967 (zero budgeting), Subscriptions: +£474 (zero budgeting), Insurance: - £500 (compared to last year insurance cost), Training: +£1,045 (clerk's CLCA cost), Audits: +£150, Grounds Maintenance contract: +£2,500 (new contract considered, increased scope), Hedges and Trees: - £790 (zero budgeting), General Parish Maintenance: +£540, Grants: +£1,300 (new flood group), Parish Projects: -£4,400 (zero budgeting, no large projects anticipated at the time), Legal Challenge - Up mudford: -£10,000. Some other minor changes were applied to Play area inspections: -£65. Additions to reserves were reduced by -£300. No budget was allocated for defibrillators: -£200.
3 Total Other Receipts	13,427	25,399	11,972	89.16%	YES		In 2025-26 the council received two grants: £5,500 in total compared to no grants in 2024-25. Variance: +£5,500. The council also received a donation of £5,000 towards the cost of a judicial review. No donations were received in 2024-25 (although two other payments were received: variance of +£115) Variance: +£5,000. The council also received £7,800 in cemetery fees compared to £2,380 in 2024-25. Variance: +£5,420. Lower total payments resulted in reduced VAT return from £8,350 in 2024-25 to £5,527 in 2025-2026. Variance: -£2,823. The council also earned lower deposit interest: £2,663 in 2024-25 to £1,422. Variance: -£1,241. Total explained variance: £11,971.
4 Staff Costs	9,505	10,252	747	7.86%	NO		
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	59,402	48,066	-11,336	19.08%	YES		planning decision compared to £31,678 spent in 2024-25. Variance: -£12,435 Parish Projects: In 2025-26 the council spent £70 on Parish projects compared to £1,246 in 2024-25. Variance: -£1,176 Grants and donations: In 2025-26 the council spent £4,866 on Community Grants and donations (grants to the community flood group and the village hall and donations to Poppy Appeal, Dorset and Somerset Ambulance) compared to £1,885 in 2024-25. Variance: +£2,981 General Parish Maintenance: In 2025-26 the council spent £6,563 on General Parish Maintenance (this included a new situation where the council is required to pay for emptying of parish council's bins, repairs to the play area and skate park and new signage for skate park, play area and the cemetery) compared to £1,804 in 2024-25. Variance: +£4,759 Play area inspections: In 2025-26 the council spent £1,097 compared to £1,130 in 2024-25. Variance: -£32 Cemetery Maintenance: In 2025-26 the council spent £667 on Cemetery maintenance compared to £6,940 (routine cemetery maintenance and chapel roof repair - £5,860) in 2024-25. Variance: -£6,273 Hedges and Trees: In 2025-26 the council spent £1,885 on hedges and trees (arborist survey and tree works) compared to £3,009 in 2024-25 (hedges trimming and coppicing). Variance: -£1,124 Grounds Maintenance: In 2025-26 the council spent £5,947 compared to £4,950. Variance: +£997 Audits: In 2025-26 the council spent £673 on audits compared to £621 in 2024-25. Variance: +£52 Training: In 2025-26 the council spent £800 on training (due to costs associated with clerk's CLCA training) compared to £380 in 2024-25. Variance: +£420 Insurance: In 2025-26 the council spent £1,391 on insurance (different provider and higher replacement value of fixed assets included) compared to £921 in 2024-25. Variance: +£470 Subscriptions: In 2025-26 the council spent £854 in subscriptions compared to £666 in 2024-25. Variance: +£188 Admin: In 2025-26 the council spent £4,006 on admin costs (website, IT costs, clerks allowance and expenses, printing costs, village hall hire, etc) compared to £4,173 in 2024-2025. Variance: -£167 Total explained variance: £11,340
7 Balances Carried Forward	102,688	116,236				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	102,688	116,236				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and As	80,614	81,263	649	0.81%	NO		2024/25 figure reinstated from £80,564 to £80,614. Office equipment £651: Value reinstated since March 2025 approved Asset Register was £696.47 (invoices found). Bollards £376: Value reinstated since March 25 - added to the asset register £376.25 (invoice found). Highways gates £3,404: Value reinstated since March 2025 was £4000 (invoice found, previously added with VAT). Unknown Tommy figure £313.50: Value reinstated since March 2025 was £376 (invoice found - previously added with VAT). Telephone box £376.49: Value reinstated since March 25 £376.49 added (invoice found). In 2025-2026 only signs were purchased and added to the register: £649.40.
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable