

Explanation of variances 2025/26 – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: Stanton under Bardon Parish Council

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?		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
	£	£	£	%	Is > 15%	Is > £100,000	
1 Balances Brought Forward	131,717	706,722					Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward does not agree
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	18,697	19,957	-1,260	6.31%	NO	NO	
3 Total Other Receipts	622,743	70,754	551,989	780.15%	YES	YES	During 2024/25, investment movements totalling £570,714 were made from high risk long term investments into lower risk short term investments. No such movements occurred in 2025/26. During 24/25, due to these investments being moved into a short term investments, it generated an income of £11,036. compared with 25/26, where returns on these investments generated a full year return of £24,624.
4 Staff Costs	24,084	36,182	-12,098	33.44%	YES	NO	The variance of £12,099 is explained as follows: 1) HMRC payments increased from £5,809 in 2024/25 to £8,303 in 2025/26, a difference of £2,494. This reflects an increase in staffing hours, with the Clerk's contracted hours rising from 20 to 25 hours per week from January 2025, and the addition of a new member of staff from April 2025 working 5 hours per week. 2) Pension costs increased from £946 in 2024/25 to £2,011 in 2025/26, a difference of £1,065. This is due to the pension scheme being introduced in October 2024, resulting in a part-year cost in 2024/25 and a full-year cost in 2025/26. 3) A caretaker was employed from April 2025 (5 hours per week), costing £2,639 in 2025/26. In comparison, a litter picker was employed until May 2024 at a cost of £271, resulting in an increase of £2,368. Clerk salary costs increased from £17,124 in 2024/25 to £23,228 in 2025/26, a difference of £6,104. This reflects both the increase in contracted hours and a full year at the higher hours in 2025/26. Total explained variance: £12,031
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO	NO	
6 All Other Payments	42,352	55,659	-13,307	23.91%	YES	NO	During 2025/26, the Council incurred additional expenditure on improvements to the village hall, including £10,209 for the purchase of a projector and screen, and £2,195 for floor sanding and revarnishing. These did not occur during financial year 24-25.
7 Balances Carried Forward	706,721	705,592	1,129	0.16%	NO	NO	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	706,721	705,592	1,129	0.16%	NO	NO	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and Assets	230,390	249,473	-19,083	7.65%	NO	NO	
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO	NO	