

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: [redacted] Wolverley and Cookley Parish Council

County area (local councils and parish meetings only): [redacted] Worcestershire

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;

	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	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	130,510	101,835				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	80,246	92,840	12,594	15.69%	YES		The number of properties in the Parish increased by 184 (10.2%) and then there was a 5% increase in the precept.
3 Total Other Receipts	5,146	1,352	-3,794	73.73%	YES		The VAT refund was not received by 31.03.24 (2023 - £4,720) and interest received in the year increased by £940.
4 Staff Costs	17,595	18,338	743	4.22%	NO		
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	96,472	79,163	-17,309	17.94%	YES		1 years street lighting was paid for in 2023/24 totalling £15,703 compared to 2 years in 2022/23 of £26,400. £38,941 was paid in 2023/24 for new street lights compared to £45,586 in 2022/23. £3,068 more was spent on Lengthman and bin emptying compared to 2022/23 whereas the amount spent on Maintenance of planters & gateways reduced by £1,694 year on year. £1,446 was spent on Village improvements in 2023/24 as compared to £4,299 in 2022/23 and £1,952 was spent on new gateways in 2022/23 compared to £Nil in 2023/24. £1,500 was spent on Quarry fees, £1,220 on Election expenses and £1,473 on legal expenses all compared to £Nil in the previous year. There were other smaller variances.
7 Balances Carried Forward	101,835	98,526				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	101,835	98,526				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	329,039	334,489	5,450	1.66%	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