

## Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: **Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone Parish Council**

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	701,509	704,069					Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward does not agree, query this
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	82,410	82,410	0	0.00%	NO		
3 Total Other Receipts	59,598	46,572	-13,026	21.86%	YES		See Note 1 below
4 Staff Costs	26,072	20,078	-5,994	22.99%	YES		See Note 2 below
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	113,377	238,446	125,069	110.31%	YES		See Note 3 below
7 Balances Carried Forward	704,068	574,526				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	704,068	574,526				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	92,984	104,396	11,412	12.27%	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

**BOX 10 VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED IF CHANGE CAN BE EXPLAINED BY BOX 5 (CAPITAL PLUS INTEREST PAYMENT)**

### Note 1 -

The decrease in Total Other Receipts (BOX 3) of £13,026 is primarily made up as follows:

- 1 - Reduced bank interest of **£5,743** from CCLA deposit fund due to higher CIL spend in 2024/25 compared to 2024/25
- 2 - Additional grants income of **£750** in 2025/26 compared to 2024/25 (from SPFA grant)
- 3 - Reduced VAT refund of **£8,026** in 2025/26 compared to 2024/25

Total change = -£5,743-£8,026+£750 = -£13,018

### Note 2 -

The decrease in Staff Costs (Box 4) of £5,994 is primarily made up as follows:

- 1 - Additional Payments made to **HMRC** in 2024/25 of £1,996 (disputed) and then refunded in 2025/26 amount refunded = £2,345 (Total difference - **£4,341**)
- 2 - Pay increase in 2025/26 equivalent to £582 (rate from £17.29 £/hr to £17.85 £/hr)
- 3 - **Reduced** hours worked in 2025/26 compared to 2024/25 of 125 hours. Equivalent to a reduction of **£2,231**.

Total change = -£4,341-£2,231+£582 = -£5,990

### Note 3 -

The increase of Other Payments (Box 6) of £125,069 is primarily made up as follows:

- 1 - **Increased CIL spend** in 2025/26 compared to 2024/25 of **£113,887** (including Streamside Path (£35K) and School building (£100K))
- 2 - Payment for **new toilet doors for the Public Conveniences** of **£5,010**
- 3 - **Increased costs of running Library** in 2025/26 compared to 2024/25 of **£6,129** (Somerset Council Rates - £2,794, Library Maintenance - £900, Increased staff costs - £2,435)

Total change = £113,887+£5,010+£6,129 = £125,026