

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: AUDLEM 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);
- New from 2020/21 onwards: variances of £100,000 or more require explanation regardless of the % variation year on year;

	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	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	118,027	99,812				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward does not agree, query this	the AGAR submitted for FY 23/24 contained errors. The income from the precept in 2023/24 was double-counted (£129,314 entered against an actual receipt of £64,657). Furthermore, the matter of the Council Finances have been under police investigation since 2022. At that time a figure of £62,697 was created as a bad debtor in the anticipation that funds would be recovered. The Council's real financial position at the start of the year 24/25 is considered to be its actual bank balance (£37,115) plus the bad debt provision made in 2022 (£62,697)
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	64,657	78,160	13,503	20.88%	YES		The Council faced significant turmoil in the summer of 2024 with all but 3 of 11 councillors resigning along with the Parish Clerk, resulting in the Council being inquorate until December of 2024 when elections delivered 7 new councillors - all new members had no previous experience with the Council. Budget setting was done on a general like-for-like basis of the previous year's budget with some standard inflationary assumptions. The new Council was concerned that the with their lack of corporate knowledge and with the tight deadlines to approve a precept that it would be prudent to include A £10k contingency budget line above the standard inflationary assumptions.
3 Total Other Receipts	22,455	7,033	-15,422	68.68%	YES		VAT receipts - down from £11,153 to £791 (net reduction £10,362); County Association transfer down from £5,555 to nil (net reduction £5,555).
4 Staff Costs	16,213	16,596	383	2.36%	NO		
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	10,464	10,464	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	22,706	47,759	25,053	110.34%	YES		Legal Fees - + £,6071; Insurance +£337, Field Valuation +£1,500, Legal Fees +£6,071 Professional Fees +5,605, Toilets Water/Waste +£1,404; Toilet Cleaning Contract + £1,638; VAT +£2,829; Field Mtce +£1,600; planning fees +£500, Sanitary supplies + £769.42; Miscellaneous +£5,722. TOTAL + £28,512.
7 Balances Carried Forward	155,756	110,186				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	37,115	47,489				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	263,809	263,809	0	0.00%	NO		
10 Total Borrowings	229,844	225,834	-4,010	1.74%	NO		

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable