

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: **Lower Peover Parish Council**

County area (local councils and parish meetings only): **Cheshire**

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	11,643	15,325				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward does not agree, query this	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	12,050	13,250	1,200	9.96%	NO		
3 Total Other Receipts	3,418	2,731	-687	20.10%	YES		Grants and donations in 2025-26 were lower
4 Staff Costs	6,336	5,145	-1,191	18.80%	YES		Clerk salary payment delayed in March 2024 so 5 payments were made that year
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	5,451	11,528	6,077	111.48%	YES		More outlay on Parish Plan projects (£3512) relating to the remediation of Barrows Brow pond, phone box repurposing and replacing the destroyed bench at Smithy Green. The grounds maintenance area was increased with attendant extra costs (£675), office expenses were higher including the need to replace the PC laptop with a widows 11 compatible device (£575), grants for community events including D-day commemeorations were higher (£500). VAT was higher in 2025-26 (£830)
7 Balances Carried Forward	15,324	14,633				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	15,325	14,632				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	13,185	12,528	-657	4.98%	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