

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: **Messing-cum-Inworth Parish Council**
County area (local councils and **Essex**

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	31,322	40,319				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	24,986	25,486	500	2.00%	NO		
3 Total Other Receipts	23,664	5,385	-18,279	77.24%	YES	Income for 2024/25 included over £10K S106 claim, an insurance claim for £1,776, a backlog of VAT reclaims totalling £4,125 and transfer of funds of £2,750 from a community group which wound up their operations. These were all sources of income that were not repeated in 2025/26.	
4 Staff Costs	20,745	16,584	-4,161	20.06%	YES	There were two clerks employed for a period in 2024/25 as part of a handover process and the previous clerk claimed overtime for extra hours worked. There has only been one clerk employed for all of 2025/26 and no overtime payments made.	
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	18,908	13,211	-5,697	30.13%	YES	A tree safety survey was carried out in 2024/25 and the recommended tree work was then carried out costing £3,000. There was more expenditure on the community orchard in 2024/25 as the damaged gate was replaced and safety bollards installed costing £2,026. These costs have not been repeated in 2025/26.	
7 Balances Carried Forward	40,319	41,396				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	40,319	41,396				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	80,320	80,722	402	0.50%	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