

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority:  
County area (local councils and parish meetings only):

Syderstone Parish Council  
Norfolk

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<br>£ | 2025/26<br>£ | Variance<br>£ | Variance<br>% | Explanation<br>Required? | Automatic responses trigger below based on figures<br>input, DO NOT OVERWRITE THESE BOXES       | Explanation from smaller authority (must include narrative and supporting figures)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Balances Brought Forward                                       | 19,988       | 12,221       |               |               |                          | Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2 Precept or Rates and Levies                                    | 13,340       | 15,872       | 2,532         | 18.98%        | YES                      |                                                                                                 | The increase of £2,532 in the precept between 2024/25 and 2025/26 reflects a combination of increased operational costs, essential maintenance works, and earmarked community projects approved by the Council. Key contributing factors included: increased dog waste bin emptying costs (£120); Increased street lighting maintenance costs (£474) to include the replacement of one LED lantern; Increased grass cutting costs (£281); Replacement of swing seats within the play area (£393); Increase in the Clerk's hourly pay rate (£374); Acquisition of a gov.uk domain and parish council email addresses (£182); £200 earmarked towards the Book Swap kiosk; Purchase of a Bleed Kit (£100); Installation of a new noticeboard within the play area (£300); and £100 earmarked towards the village signs. These increases were considered necessary to maintain Council services and support community infrastructure during the 2025/26 financial year. |
| 3 Total Other Receipts                                           | 10,126       | 6,713        | -3,413        | 33.71%        | YES                      |                                                                                                 | The decrease of £3,413 in Other Receipts between 2024/25 and 2025/26 is primarily attributable to the receipt of a one-off £8,000 grant during 2024/25 which was not repeated in 2025/26. Other Receipts totalled £10,126 in 2024/25 compared to £6,713 in 2025/26. Whilst some income streams increased during 2025/26, including grants received (£6,047 compared to £1,413 in 2024/25) and newsletter receipts (£400 compared to £140 in 2024/25), this was offset by: the absence of the one-off £8,000 grant received in 2024/25 for the NDP; a reduction in bank interest received (£3247.52 compared to £402.38 in 2024/25); and reduced general administration receipts (£18.00 compared to £170.35 in 2024/25). Overall, this resulted in a net reduction of approximately £3,413 in Other Receipts for 2025/26.                                                                                                                                           |
| 4 Staff Costs                                                    | 4,238        | 4,637        | 399           | 9.41%         | NO                       |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment                                | 0            | 0            | 0             | 0.00%         | NO                       |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 6 All Other Payments                                             | 26,995       | 19,209       | -7,786        | 28.84%        | YES                      |                                                                                                 | All Other Payments* decreased by £7,786, from £26,995 in 2024/25 to £19,209 in 2025/26. The principal reason for the reduction was significantly lower expenditure on the Neighbourhood Development Plan, which reduced from £11,147.60 in 2024/25 to £602.40 in 2025/26 following completion of the main stages of the project. This reduction was partially offset by increased expenditure on: Playing field and play area works (£5,928.79 compared to £1,799.57 in 2024/25); Street lighting maintenance (£2,196.86 compared to £1,910.80); Grounds maintenance (£2,676.24 compared to £2,395.26); and Administration costs (£3,556.88 compared to £3,457.30). Smaller reductions were also seen in property maintenance, £137 expenditure, newsletter costs, hall hire and training expenditure.                                                                                                                                                              |
| 7 Balances Carried Forward                                       | 12,221       | 10,960       |               |               |                          | VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments                          | 12,221       | 10,960       |               |               |                          | VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and Assets | 97,556       | 103,982      | 6,426         | 6.59%         | 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