

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: **Upton Parish Council**

County area (local councils and **Northamptonshire**

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	134,841	125,966				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	62,978	118,298	55,320	87.84%	YES		The £55.3k variance is due to rapid expansion in Upton and breaks down as: £23.2k Green spaces (£9.7k increase in existing and £13.5k new areas); £10.8k Asset Transfers ; £10.2k additional projects, grants and events ; £4.4k May 2025 Election ; £10.0k rebuild general reserves, partially offset by -£3.3k cost savings .
3 Total Other Receipts	3,839	42,239	38,400	1000.26%	YES		£33.8k of this variance is due to the receipt of Section 106 funding, (£25.0k for the Hidden Graves Project, £6.1k for Buttercup Meadow knee rail and £2.7k for the Cricket Club fence). In addition, grant income of £1.6k (OPF&CC contribution towards a bespoke VAS pole), a higher VAT refund than prior year £1.1k , and a £0.8k recharge to the Cricket Club for insurance costs , which was not received in the prior year. Further increases arose from various refunds and rebates (Flotek, Rollasons, Amazon, Canva) £1.3k , partially offset by lower goodwill and interest payments from banks and developers compared to prior year -£0.2k .
4 Staff Costs	44,636	43,902	-734	1.64%	NO		
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	31,056	94,281	63,225	203.58%	YES		£40.5k of this variance is due to three S106 funded projects (£30.0k Hidden Graves Project, £7.3k Buttercup Meadow knee rail, and £3.2k the cricket club fence), secondly, £9.8k of CIL-funded works (£3.7k height restrictor bar, £3.2k bench, £1.3k new litter bins and £1.7k noticeboard). There are also £4.4k of election costs , £9.2k for additional grass cutting, tree works, footpath and fencing repairs (reflecting a full year of maintaining Buttercup Meadow), £3.8k for tarmac pot-hole repairs to the memorial car park access road, £1.0k for defibrillator battery replacements , and £0.3k for other fee, admin and maintenance uplifts . These increases are partially offset by non-recurring prior-year costs of £3.3k for legal fees relating to the cricket club lease and £2.5k for the Hidden Graves topographical GPR survey .
7 Balances Carried Forward	125,966	148,320				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	125,966	148,320				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	48,218	59,968	11,750	24.37%	YES		The variance of £11.8k relates to new asset additions , with no disposals during the period. The additions are: five large planters at St Crispin Cemetery (£3.6k), two new litter bins on Weedon Road and Upton Lane (£1.1k), a Butterfly & Bees bench (£2.6k), a height restrictor bar at Old Kent Road (£3.1k), and a new noticeboard on Upton Square (£1.4k).
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable