

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: **ALLER PARISH COUNCIL**

County area (local councils and parish meetings only): SOMERSET

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;

	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	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	48,684	52,175					
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	9,250	11,470	2,220	24.00%	YES		2022/23 total operational budget was £12285 vs 2023/24 of £15967 - +£3682 The council was mindful of the level of reserves it was holding and following allocation of ringfenced reserves plans to implement a gradual increase in precept over 4-5 years to raise it to the level of operational budget required, using the reserves to cover the shortfall in the meantime.
3 Total Other Receipts	5,336	6,168	832	15.60%	YES		Differences in 2023/24: *+£1650 grant income (footpath project); +£226 bank interest; +£257 allotment income; +£19.25 wayleave payment -£850 vat refund; -£470 cemetery income = +£832
4 Staff Costs	3,028	3,939	911	30.10%	YES		+£208 - NALC pay increase of £1 per hour for 208 hours per annum *+£564 - Increase in Clerk hour from 1/8/23 to undertake burial clerk role Remaining difference from 22/23 & 23/24 due to change in contract when recruiting current clerk vs previous clerk.
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	8,067	17,032	8,965	111.13%	YES		Significant differences in costs 22/23 vs 23/24 Increases: Scribe account software +£961.20; Aesthetics +£804; recreation ground & footpath improvement project +£6658; Allotment additional payment +£257.5; New bins +£3291 (+£11971) Decreases in costs: Insurance -£941; Admin -£99; Lengthsman -£193; General maintenance -£1719 (-£2952) = +9019
7 Balances Carried Forward	52,175	48,843				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	52,175	48,843				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	84,015	98,763	14,748	17.55%	YES		Land value of +£12,000 added (previously unaccounted asset) Purchase of co-mingle bins +£2743
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable