

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority:

ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL

County area (local councils and parish meetings only):

ST ALBANS, HERTFORDSHIRE

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 w

	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 (<u>must include narrative and supporting figures</u>)
1 Balances Brought Forward	8,861	7,154		19.26%		Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	4,346	6,049	1,703	39.19%	1	YES	Precept had been reduced in prior years based on budget projections, with excess cost met from reserves. 2025/2026 was a re-alignment to meet requirement.
3 Total Other Receipts	207	156	-51	24.75%	1	YES	Explanation not required, difference less than £200 lower interest savings rate lead to less intertest income (£109.88 in '24/25, £70.57 in '25/26). Change of Clerk resulted in change of phone sharing arrangements with Harpenden Rural, losing income benefit of £27.
4 Staff Costs	3,228	3,397	169	5.24%	0	NO	
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	0	NO	
6 All Other Payments	2,026	1,554	-472	23.29%	1	YES	1) Biennial website costs did not fall this year, due again next year. 2) Move from postage mail to electronic email reduced postage fees. Previous year high due to posting Christmas card flyer. 3) Bus shelter maintenance costs decreased further this year with no repairs. 4) Insurance premium fell after moving provider. 5) Meeting costs rose fell, buit expected to rise again 6) No election costs this year. 7) Drop in new councillor/clerk training costs. 8) The council did not host any other councils this FY.
7 Balances Carried Forward	7,154	8,407				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	7,668	8,569				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and Assets	8,626	8,626	0	0.00%	0	NO	
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	0	NO	

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable