

**Explanation of variances – pro forma**

Name of smaller authority: **BEDFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
 County area (local councils and): **BEDFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

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 £100,000 or more in Box 1 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	2,844	17,141					
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	5,800	5,100	500	8.93%	NO	Explanation of %, variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
3 Total Other Receipts	33,940	33,339	-601	-1.77%	YES		The main net differences between years 2024/25 and 2025/26 are VAT refunds (- £718 less), CIL grants (+ £1,000 extra), and the sale of a vehicle (+ £1,000) and also nothing for the tennis court refurbishment (- £16,543 less), both completed in 2024/25.
4 Staff Costs	1,875	2,026	151	8.05%	NO		
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	22,268	30,659	8,391	37.69%	YES		The main net differences between years 2024/25 and 2025/26 are the Tennis Court Refurbishment (+ £9,932 extra), Community Club Expenses (+ £6,074 extra), VAD purchase & GPAD expenses (+ £2,670 extra), ditch renovation (+ £274 extra) but nothing in 2025/26 for the Long Green track and the purchase of a vehicle (+ £1,000) and also nothing for the tennis court refurbishment (- £16,543 less). Various other annual expenses such as SALC, MSDC charges, etc and are under 10% overall.
7 Balances Carried Forward	17,141	14,395	-2,746	-16.02%	YES	VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	0	0	0	0.00%	NO	VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	35,000	46,789	11,789	33.68%	YES		The Parish Council in conjunction with the Community Club conducted a full review of all its assets and property. This meant a valuation increase of £46,789 overall.
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		

Rounding errors of up to £2 are tolerable

Variances of £200 or less are tolerable