Explanation of variances – pro forma

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

County area (local councils and 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 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	49,903	50,453				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	21,663	21,663	0	0.00%	NO		
3 Total Other Receipts	533	2,614	2,081	390.43%	YES		This variance is due to a VAT reclaim of £2201.19 and interest earned of £412.51
4 Staff Costs	7,094	6,478	-616	8.68%	NO		
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO		
6 All Other Payments	14,552	14,689	137	0.94%	NO		
7 Balances Carried Forward	50,453	53,563				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	50,453	53,564				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED	
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	65,288	65,288	0	0.00%	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