

Explanation of variances 2025/26 – pro forma

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

Insert figures from Section 2 of the AGAR in all [Blue](#) highlighted boxes

Now, 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 £500);
- variances of more than £100,000 must be explained even where this constitutes less than 15%;

Please ensure variance explanations are quantified to reduce the variance excluding stated items below the 15% / £500 / £100,000 threshold

	2026	2025	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation Required?		DO NOT OVERWRITE THE BOXES HIGHLIGHTED IN RED/GREEN	Explanation (must include narrative and supporting figures) Note: If an explanation is required for the variance of Box 4 and the explanation refers to a change in hours or a change in pay rates, please could you note the previous hours/rates and the updated hours/rates
	£	£			Is > 15%	Is > £100,000		
1 Balances Brought Forward	46,531	49,653					Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	38,172	31,250	6,922	22.15%	YES	NO		The precept was increased by £6,922 to cover increased maintenance and operating costs, after the council took management of the Sports Pavilion back in hand on 31 October 2024.
3 Total Other Receipts	28,088	22,215	5,873	26.44%	YES	NO		In 2025-26 the council received additional income of £3,005 from pavilion and sports hire (compared to £42 the year before), £3,800 for using council land for a film base, and £2,352 following the closure of the Pavilion Association bank account. In 2025-26 the council received £801 extra in grants (£5,909 in 5 grants compared to £5,108 the year before). However, it earned £307 less in savings interest in 2025-26 (£1,721 compared to £1,414 the year before) and received £4,156 less in its VAT claim (£6,633 compared to £10,789 the year before).
4 Staff Costs	10,498	8,240	2,258	27.40%	YES	NO		The Clerk's working hours increased from 8 to 10 per week from August 2025 as a result of taking on the management of the Pavilion. The national pay award effective from 1 April saw the Clerk's hourly rate increase from £17.79 to £18.35 per hour. The Clerk was also enrolled in a pension scheme from August 2025, resulting in £638 in employer's pension contributions in 2025-26. Owing to the reduction in the National Insurance threshold, the council also paid £633 in employer's NI contributions in 2025-26 compared to none the year before.
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO	NO		
6 All Other Payments	32,712	48,347	-15,635	32.34%	YES	NO		In 2025-26 the council spent £6,808 on pavilion maintenance, compared to £174 the year before, and £1,028 on cleaning compared to £482 the year before. It also had a water bill of £2,094 compared to £618 the year before. Total difference was an additional £8,656. Annual expenditure was lower overall, however. Projects totalling £23,580 in 2024-25 were not repeated, including £13,260 on new playground equipment, £6,360 on new fencing and gates, and £3,960 on a new height barrier. Also, the council gave £850 less in grants in 2025-26, giving £550 in 2025-26 compared to £1,400 the year before.
7 Balances Carried Forward	69,581	46,531	23,050	49.54%	YES	NO		General reserves increased by £13,841, as income was significantly higher than budgeted/expected - see explanation for Box 3. Earmarked reserves increased by £9,209 comprising grant funds received for projects not yet completed (including £3,900 for pond biodiversity project), CIL funds received of £4,499 (minus CIL spend of £2,231), and the former pavilion association funds of £2,352 which have been earmarked for pavilion projects.
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	69,581	46,531	23,050	49.54%	YES	NO		
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and Assets			0	0.00%	NO	NO		
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO	NO		