Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: **Postwick with Witton Parish Council**

County area (local councils and parish meetings only):

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:** variances of £100,000 or more require explanation regardless of the % variation year on year;
- a breakdown of approved reserves on the next tab if the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than twice the annual precept/rates & levies value (Box 2).

	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation Required?	Explanation from smaller authority (must include narrative and supporting figures)
1 Balances Brought Forward	56,028	102,720				Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward does not agree, query this
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	13,846	19,034	5,188	37.47%	YES	The precept increased by £4,608.70 in 2025/26. This rise was driven by a significant increase in the number of Band D equivalent properties in the parish, resulting from the large housing development being built in phases. The tax base increased from 321 Band D equivalents in 2024/25 to 387 in 2025/26, an increase of 66 properties (20.6%). The Band D charge itself rose only from £59.30 to £61.15, an increase of £1.85 for the year (3.12%). The majority of the increase in Box 2 therefore reflects the expansion of the tax base, not an increase in the charge per household.
3 Total Other Receipts	107,032	108,949	1,917	1.79%	NO	
4 Staff Costs	5,088	6,599	1,511	29.70%	YES	Staff costs increased by £1,511 (29.7%). This increase is made up of the following changes to the Clerk's pay: £1,064 resulting from the Clerk's contracted hours increasing from 5 to 7 hours per week from 1 April 2025, paid at £14.60 per hour (NJC SCP 13, 2024/25 pay award). £105 resulting from the national NJC pay award, which increased the hourly rate for SCP 13 from £14.60 to £15.06 during 2025/26. £342 resulting from the Clerk's progression to NJC SCP 14 from 1 November 2025, increasing the hourly rate from £15.06 to £15.31 following completion of relevant qualifications.
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO	
6 All Other Payments	68,923	131,956	63,033	91.45%	YES	The increase is primarily due to the one-off capital expenditure on the new playground, which was fully funded by Section 106 receipts. During 2025/26 the Council spent £74,499.89 on the playground installation, comprising two S106-funded payments of £7,449.98 and £67,049.91. This project accounts for the majority of the year-on-year increase in Box 6. This was a single capital project, funded entirely from restricted S106 income, and does not represent an ongoing increase in expenditure.
7 Balances Carried Forward	102,986	92,328			YES	VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED **EXPLANATION REQUIRED ON RESERVES TAB AS TO WHY CARRY FORWARD RESERVES ARE GREATER THAN TWICE INCOME FROM LOCAL TAXATION/LEVIES**
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	102,896	92,328				VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and	748,019	824,051	76,032	10.16%	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

BOX 10 VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED IF CHANGE CAN BE EXPLAINED BY BOX 5 (CAPITAL PLUS INTEREST PAYMENT)